THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

**DATE ISSUED:** May 19, 2009 REPORT NO. 10-075

**ATTENTION:** Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of May 26, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Informational Report from the San Diego Police Department Regarding Summer Beach Operational Plans.

## SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

## BACKGROUND

Each year, visitors vacationing from around the world visit San Diego's beaches and bays, with the majority visiting between the start of Spring Break in March through the Labor Day holiday in September.

## GOALS and OBJECTIVES

The goal of the San Diego Police Department is to ensure a peaceful, orderly environment for all persons who come to the beach and bay areas; facilitate the smooth flow of traffic in and around the area; and to rapidly and efficiently solve problems. Police personnel will enforce applicable State laws and City ordinances.

Enforcement is designed to hold the offender accountable and to encourage compliance. In order to meet these objectives officers will maintain a high profile, high enforcement posture. However, officers always have discretion to warn or issue a citation.

## STAFFING

The majority of the beaches and bays are located within Northern Division. Ocean Beach is located within Western Division.

Northern Division recommended daily staffing (Beginning in May)

| Unit | Hours | Officers |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Watch | 0500 - 1500 or 0600 - 1600 | 15+ |
| SDPD Boat | 0900-1900 | 1 |
| Day Beach Team | 1100 - 2100 | 8 |
| 2nd Watch | 1400 - 2400 | 17+ |
| SDPD Boat | 1400 - 2400 | 1 |
| "C" Squad | 1700 - 0300 | 4-8 |
| Night Beach Team | 1700 - 0300 | 8 |
| 3rd Watch | 2100 - 0700 | 11+ |
| * Western Division Beach Team | 1400 – 2400 or 1700 - 0300 | 6 |

## Holiday Enhanced Staffing for Memorial Day (May 28 - 31 FSSM) and Labor Day (September 3 - 6 FSSM)

Staffing will be enhanced starting on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday for both Memorial Day and Labor Day to address activity along the beaches and bays.

Staffing will be enhanced during the evening hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for both Memorial Day and Labor Day to address activity in the Entertainment District along Garnet Avenue and Mission Blvd.

This staffing plan proved successful last year and is anticipated to work well over the Memorial Day Holiday weekend this year. The enhanced staffing numbers will be adjusted depending on weather conditions and crowd estimates.

## July 4th Holiday Plans (July 2-5, FSSM)

The 4th of July holiday is the largest and busiest event of the year for not only the beach community, but the City of San Diego as well. Crowd estimates of more than one million people will fill the beaches, bays and parks. Historically, crowds have begun to gather as early as the night before the holiday. People gather to picnic, party and view area firework shows. At the end of the firework displays, everyone who gathered in the area will attempt to leave at the same time, with the majority of them leaving by vehicle.

To best facilitate our goals and objectives as stated above, the Incident Command System will be utilized over the July 4th holiday. The Unified Command Center will be located at the De Anza Resort. Six secondary Command Posts (Belmont Park, Reed Street, Ski Beach/Crown Point, Fiesta Island, Sail Bay and La Jolla Shores) located throughout the beaches and bays and a separate command Post in Ocean Beach will support Beach Command. Beach Command will monitor police activity occurring within the jurisdiction of each area and coordinate a multi-division response to incidents requiring extensive police resources. The basic objective of each

Command Post is to provide a centralized location where operations can be coordinated from and deter criminal activity by providing a substantial police presence.

Staffing will be enhanced for the July 4th holiday starting on Friday, July 2nd and continuing through Monday, July 5th. Enhanced staffing will be deployed at each of the divisions. The enhanced staffing will begin early in the morning and continue throughout the day, utilizing a tier approach. Enhanced staffing will also be utilized, during the evening hours in the entertainment district along Garnet Avenue and Mission Blvd. This staffing plan proved successful last year. The enhanced staffing numbers will be adjusted depending on weather conditions and crowd estimates.

**Participating in the coordinated response are personnel from the following San Diego Police Units:**

- Northern Beach Teams and Patrol
- Western Beach Team and Patrol
- Air Support (ABLE)
- Traffic Motors
- Traffic SETC's
- Cameras & ABLE Downlink
- Critical Incident Management Unit
- Gang Suppression Teams
- Vice
- RSVP's

Personnel will be deployed both in uniform and in plain clothes. They will be on foot, bicycles, ATV's, cars, boats, and in the air.

**Participating in the coordinated response are personnel from the following City and County agencies.**

- San Diego City Lifeguards.
- Fire Department (Fire & Medical)
- Parks & Recreation Department (Park Rangers, Park Staff & Park Managers)
- San Diego City Attorney
- Fire Marshal
- Alcohol Beverage Control
- U. S. Coast Guard

## OUTREACH

Each year the public education has been progressively better. Today the public has a much better understanding of the beach rules. News releases will be sent to all local media and Los Angeles radio, television and print media. News releases to major colleges in California, Arizona, Oregon, Texas and Nevada will be sent prior to all the major holidays. Included in the news releases and interviews will be reminders regarding beach rules, traffic issues and the information about the alcohol ban.

## CONCLUSION

All of these combined efforts and resources have proven successful in providing a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone who visits our beautiful beaches and bays.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police