

# Squad 99 Police Blotter

Duluth Police  
Department

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## Lake Superior Plaza East

*An update...*

Over the past couple of months businesses, tourists and residents of downtown have been noticing a change at the intersection of Lake Avenue and Superior Street. The change was slow at first and then seemed to explode overnight. There were issues with panhandling, alcohol consumption and many things that go along with the drinking.

Part of my job as your Community Officer is to look at issues and develop a plan to solve the issue on a long-term basis. With that being said, issues like this unfortunately take longer to solve than they did to arise.

At the core of this issue is panhandling, alcohol and the park near the Lakewalk access. All three in very close proximity created an environment that fostered issues and illegal activity. As I write this article I am hoping that you have noticed a positive change in the area recently. We have worked tirelessly with Parks Maintenance, Clean and Safe, City Electricians, Minnesota Power and local businesses to change the environment at the park.

Parks Maintenance was in the park earlier last week trimming trees and shrubbery to eliminate the feeling of being able to hide in the corner of the park. The Clean and Safe Team has stepped up their efforts in the park ensuring that it is kept clean and presentable for citizens and tourists alike. There is new lighting on order to repair the dilapidated lighting fixtures in the park. Management at local liquor stores have been amazing to work with and is definitely doing their part to minimize issues.

## Fun Facts from September

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Miles Walked- 26.28

Miles on Bike- 36

Training (hours)- 32

Business Contacts- 49

Parking Enforcement  
Contacts- 6

Meetings (hours)- 8

Self-Initiated Field Activity  
and Community  
Engagement Events- 9

Citations- 7

Arrests- 1

We have also added an additional camera to surveil the park and goings-on there. All of that coupled with enforcement efforts from Patrol Officer and Community Officers has created improvements in the area. This was a true team effort and we are heading in the right direction!

This situation serves as a great reminder that if you feel the need to help people that are less fortunate please make donations to the CHUM, Loaves and Fishes, Damiano, Union Gospel Mission or similar organizations. Panhandling is a huge contributing factor to the issues we are facing as a community and Police Department at this intersection.

In the end, thank you. I appreciate the area businesses and tourists being patient and understanding that it takes time to solve the issues.

*Some recent pictures.....*

