

# Squad 99 Police Blotter

Duluth Police Department

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## The Work of a Downtown Community Officer

Let me start by saying I am honored to serve our downtown community. I have had many great experiences and have met many new people over the past year. One thing that is always one of the first questions I get is "What area do you work?". There is a simple yet fluid answer to that question. My "Beat" extends from 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to 4th Avenue East and then from the #2 Alley (Alley between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets) down into Canal Park where my "beat" ends at the lift bridge.

I have many duties within that area which primarily include being the liaison for the police department to the Greater Downtown Council, Canal Park Business Association, Clean and Safe Team, Duluth Police Department's Parking Division and other community partners to reduce the amount of calls for service and increase safety in the downtown business district and Canal Park area.

In general, my job is to be the conduit between the Businesses and Employees of downtown Duluth, The Duluth Police Department's Parking Enforcement Unit, Patrol Officers, City and County Attorney's Offices and Court systems.

## Keeping Downtown Safe- A Community Approach

We are a community downtown. All of us; the people who work here, the people who live here and the people that play here. We all have ownership in this community and need to do our part when we see things that damage the perception of safety and the quality of life. This is our community! So many people will ask "what can I do?".

This article is meant to give you a basic understanding of how the Police Department learns of crime trends or a pattern of unsafe behaviors. We truly do rely on you, the citizens,

## *Fun Facts from August*



Miles Walked – 96

Miles Biked- 20

Business Contacts - 125

Parking Enforcement  
Contacts - 11

Meetings (hours) – 12

Self-Initiated Field Activity  
and Community  
Engagement Events - 19

Citations – 7

Arrests- 2

to let us know when and where things are happening.

If you see something say something. This may sound simple, but that's because it is. If you see things in your community that do not seem right, say something. Maybe it's a phone call to Clean and Safe or a call to 911. Maybe it's an email to me relaying information on things you are seeing. There are many entities in the downtown area that exist to provide a safe Duluth for all. Clean and Safe, The Police Department, Parks and Recreation are just a few!! Often times there can be a disconnect between the community and these organizations, so if you see something, say something. We cannot fix issues if we do not know they exist!

Calling 911 and what really happens. Many times citizens will see something that looks like it might be illegal, unsafe or suspicious, but at the same time do not think it is serious enough to call 911. In many communities there are "non-emergency" numbers to call and report incidents. We do not have a such a thing here and 911 is used to report everything from a traffic hazard to a serious crime. If you call 911 and it is not a Police Department or Fire Department issue, we will gladly guide you in the right direction to work with a different entity and resolve your issue. Also, please call when you see things happening, not hours or days later. We would like the best opportunity to address behaviors and situations when they are happening. It allows us to more effectively address to the behaviors and create change.

A huge part of calling 911 is documentation. It was said in a report writing class I took in college, "if you don't document it, it didn't happen". I cannot stress the importance documenting incidents with an accurate time, location and account of what happened. Be a good witness, do not get involved in situations. Be prepared to get asked a lot of questions by the Call Taker in the 911 center. They will ask what is happening, where it is happening, descriptions of people involved and so on. The more detail you can provide, the better. The 911 Call Taker is doing their best to ask a lot of questions in a short amount of time and get the most detail possible. Their job is to "paint a picture" for the responding units so they know what they are getting into and can formulate a plan while on the way. This is not only for Police, but the Fire Department and Gold Cross Ambulance as well.

After the calling 911 and speaking with a Patrol Officer, hopefully the issue has been addressed. The work does not end there! Let's say there is an ongoing issue at a particular address and Patrol Officers respond there 3 times in one week. We have great civilian staff who run reports every week looking for repeat calls for service at addresses. Those addresses are sent to Community Officers, like myself, for review. We look over the calls, see if a pattern exists and if so, attempt to come up with a long term problem solving plan. Again working towards our goal of providing a safe Duluth for all.

If there are times that you would like to let me know of an issue that is ongoing, but not happening at the time, please email or call me! I'd love to stop by and discuss the issues and look at some creative ways to hopefully solve the issue you are facing. The entire Police Department and I are here for you, please do not ever hesitate to call us. You deserve the highest level of service from our agency!