

### Keene Public Safety Ideas and Research

A review of costs in Manzanita and La Pine indicates hiring, training, insuring and equipping a city police force would be prohibitively expensive and unnecessary given the modest number of actual crime calls Oceanside generates according to Till. Co. Sheriff's records.

One alternative would be to pay the Sheriff's department a fee for dedicated deputies. Rockaway Beach currently does this. They pay an hourly rate (at union scale plus 10%) for two deputies who limit their patrols to the city limits. The hourly rates, including benefits and the 10% markup, are \$47.72 to \$57.82 per hour and paid on a 40-hour week basis. Annualized, that would range from \$97,177 to \$120,265 per office per officer. This also seems prohibitive. (I didn't even ask who bears capital expenses, such as the patrol cars.)

A third option is to continue reliance on county patrols. Bay City does this without paying any special compensation to the county. I explored this with Chief Kelly. He informed me their practice is to divide the county into three zones for daily patrols by individual officers. Their route is not pre-set, but is essentially determined by the calls they receive and answer within their respective zones. I obtained a log of Oceanside calls for 8/2020 to 8/2021 from the sheriff. It indicates that Oceanside calls generally range 10-20 per month (more in summer), and fewer than a handful per month involve actual crimes. This option seems adequate.

The issue of visitor misconduct is relevant here. Misbehavior on the beach is a state part/county sheriff issue, but summer and holidays see an increased incidence of village issues involving fireworks, noise, loose and undisciplined pets and problematic parking. To some extent, this is a police issue – but the county has also constructed a misconduct response system based on neighbor complaints. (Oceanside would take over such regulation if incorporated.) All STRs must post a contact number for neighbors to call in the event of problems. These are usually a management company or, in some cases, the homeowner. Once contacted (even if via a message), county rules require a 20-minute response and a hotline to call if that does not happen. In theory, the county investigates and logs such response failures for consideration and sanctions when the STR owner seeks to renew their license.

In practice this falls short because the hotline is essentially staffed by Director Absher and her STR assistant – which is not realistic. Sarah also informs me that the system has no teeth because the Tillamook Municipal Judge almost never, actually imposes sanctions, even if the county prosecutes the complaints. As a city, Oceanside could replicate and supplement a program like this using private security patrols funded by TLT taxes. We would also set the strictness policy for our own Municipal Judge to enforce. I would advocate a standing committee of residents and STR owners to determine the details of such a system, building on what the county has done. I did raise this idea with Sheriff Kelly, and he saw no problem from their operational or jurisdictional standpoint. There are many security guards following operational guidelines in the county with protocols on when a matter merits calling in county officers.

I have not yet explored the costs for supplemental security, but there are several companies in the county we could talk to for a feasibility assessment and bids. It seems certain hiring such supplemental help on a seasonal basis would be much less expensive than the first two options.