

COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2016

The City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Maile Wilson; Councilmembers: Ron Adams; Paul Cozzens; Terri Hartley; Craig Isom.

EXCUSED: Councilman Fred Rowley.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Rick Holman; City Attorney Paul Bittmenn; City Engineer Kit Wareham; City Recorder, Renon Savage; Finance Director Jason Norris; Police Chief Robert D. Allinson; Police Lt. Darin Adams; Police Lt. Keith Millett; Fire Chief Mike Phillips; Economic Development Director Danny Stewart; Public Works Director Ryan Marshall; HR Specialist Natasha Hirschi; Executive Assistant Kathy Dahl; Water Worker Allen Davis; Water Superintendent Robbie Mitchell; Leisure Services/Events Director Bryan Dangerfield.

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Baker, Jeremiah Davis, Kevin Davis, Rick Bairett, Luke Mitchell, Jed Townsend, Carol Allinson, Alan Callihan, Janet Callihan, Lacey Mitchell, Douglas Carr, Gwen Carr, Heath Oveson, Brad Green, Jessica Robinson, Ryan Robinson, Blake Cozzens, Natalie Roach, Richard K. Chamberlain.

CALL TO ORDER: Reverend Jim Vasquez of Sonrise Christian Church gave the invocation; the pledge was led by Scout Troop 342.

AGENDA ORDER APPROVAL: Councilmember Isom moved to approve the agenda order for Council, RDA & MBA meetings; second by Councilmember Hartley; vote unanimous.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA – MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS; STAFF COMMENTS: ■Hartley – I saw the sign at the south end of Cedar, it looks very nice. ■Mayor – there were concerns with items being removed from the cemetery and flags. We are aware, we had volunteers and when we notice the problems we got it taken care of. We will have better signs next year. ■ Employee of the Month, Rhean Carlson, Accounts Payable Clerk – EAC Kathy Dahl – Rhean Carlson is the Employee of the month. Rhean has been the Accounts Payable Clerk since March 2015. She is the sole accounts payable person who ensures all invoices submitted to the City, after review of budget managers, are paid timely to vendors. Keeping the City current on thousands of invoices requests annually is an incredible task. She is very thorough in her work, accuracy is very important to her. Rhean is very helpful to all vendors who have inquiries about their invoices. She seems to understand the persons needs on the other end of the phone and does what she can to help. She does very well with all tasks she is assigned. Over the past year she has developed a great rapport with the city staff. She is a positive influence in the office and demonstrates that quality when working with the

managers and clerical staff. She is very kind. I've never observed her "having a bad day". She comes work eager to do her job and is pleasant doing it. I appreciate her attitude each day. Rhean was presented with a certificate and gift cards. ■ Community Survey on Policing. SUU Political Science & Criminal Justice Departments – Lt. Adams – I appreciate this board as we took on the adventure. To adequately and effectively police our communities, it requires the creation and sustaining of partnerships and relationships as we work collectively to ensure the highest level of public safety. We began a discussion nearly two years ago about the desire and the value of completing a community survey to measure community perceptions of our performance, while simultaneously seeking feedback in a collaborative approach to improvement. In fact, President Obama convened a panel of experts in the criminal justice arena over one year ago to create a task force on 21st century policing. The task force came up with six pillars, necessary to effectively police our communities, build community and public trust, and work in community partnerships to face the public safety and law enforcement challenges of the 21st century. Pillar Four is titled, "Community Policing & Crime Reduction" and includes within the recommendations that "law enforcement agencies should track the level of trust in police by their communities just as they measure changes in crime. Annual community surveys...can measure how policing in that community affects public trust." We are committed to engage with our citizenry in a concerted effort to improve crime reduction, public trust and confidence, and enhance public safety. A collaborative and mutually beneficial approach has been taken as we partnered with representatives from the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice at Southern Utah University. I would like to introduce and express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Rick Bairrett, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Laney Smith, Lecturer of Criminal Justice, without whom this project would not have achieved success. I will turn the time over to Dr. Bairrett to introduce the superstar students, who worked tirelessly with Dr. Bairrett and Mrs. Smith to produce the survey.

Rick Bairrett, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Methodology. Luke Mitchell and Jed Townsend did the leg work and will do the presentation as part of their course grade. Laney and I will chime in if needed. We encourage you to ask any questions for clarifying, but hold substantivize until the end. Jed Townsend & Luke Mitchell – went over Exhibit "A". Mayor – we received good information. Thank you for your work and the information. Chief Allinson – one of the things I need to take ownership, I have had our work stand for itself. I see a more social media presence and getting involved that way. Isom – they are doing a good job.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: ■ Alan Calliham of the Elks Lodge. I would like to remind you of the Flag Day Celebration Tuesday at Veterans Park. We will have a photographer, podium, mic, speakers, shades, 200 American Flags, 300 Brownies to give. We will gather and let people explore the park and then present flags, invocation will be given by Pastor Pete Akins of the True Life Center; Mike Nelson, Elks National Veterans Coordinator will present flags to Mayor Wilson and City Council Member. The Mayor will lead the Pledge of Allegiance and she can speak if she wishes. Craig Isom will have some comments and give the benediction. ■ Carol Allinson – I would like to know how many of you on the council have someone buried at the Cemetery and if you have been

there since yesterday to see the pile of trash. I know the Mayor said there was a miscommunication and I think it borders on criminal. Carols read a statement; it is attached as Exhibit "B". I understand that these meetings are broadcast on the internet, if the person who has my wreath is watching, I want them to love and appreciate it. ■Doug Carr – there has been a lot on social media about free passes. I don't think anyone in a government position at any level should get perks. Not that they are not appreciated, they work hard, but the position they took to desire go serve the public or a paying job they knew what they were doing. My understanding is that in some place in time people held responsible positions and intimidated employees to let them have a free pass that is not right, it is abuse of position and disgrace. Perks are like bad habits, they tend to grow. It is corrupt politics. There was an issue about dogs and the budget was not getting any sounding. My point of view is the budget is a complex issue. We hired a group of competent people to make those decisions and they dedicate their time and review for decisions. If it up to the people, they don't know the concepts. One more issue, the Stone Castle situation, it is still a big mess, when will it be cleaned up.

CONSENT AGENDA(1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED MAY 18, & 25, 2016;
(2) APPROVAL OF BILLS DATED JUNE 6, 2016 ; (3) APPROVE A LAND
TRADE WITH COAL CREEK IRRIGATION COMPANY FOR THE COAL
CREEK ROAD AND COAL CREEK CHANNEL RIGHTS-OF-WAY. COAL
CREEK IRRIGATION COMPANY/KIT WAREHAM (4) VICINITY PLAN FOR
CRESCENT HILLS PHASE 1 SUBDIVISION. MIKE CORONADO/KIT
WAREHAM; (45 APPROVE A WATER FEE CREDIT OF \$400 PER FIELD FOR
7 FIELDS FOR IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR TWO MONTHS :

Councilmember Hartley moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 through 5 as written above; second by Councilmember Adams; vote unanimous.

CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE PERSONNEL POLICY.

NATASHA HIRSCHI: Natasha – the only change from last week was a misspelled word that Terri brought forth.

Isom, can we go through the changes being made, seems to me to the most part are clean up.

Natasha – Chapter 4 adds events to Leisure Service, and eliminates the Events Coordinator, remove an item no longer there. 4.3.2 classified elected officials as full-time for retirement purposes, that is mandated by URS and it is only for retirement benefits. 6 change words; 6.6.2, misspelling; 6.10.1 change residency requirement to require all department heads to live in Cedar City; Chapter 8 allows a lump sum payment for retirees rather than health insurance, it is a 3 year benefit that must be taken advantage this year; 8.10.1 allow volunteers and elected officials to receive passes to Aquatic Center, Golf Course and Cross Hollows, this has been in before, but hadt sunsetted. Elected officials is new. Also it used to say retirees could get a pass for 5 years, it now says they have to work 10 years to receive that benefit; 8.10.2 regular part-time, part time and seasonal employees to get 50% off passes, everyone still have to pay for carts, etc, only admission and green fee. Chapter 12 is clean up in drug testing. Isom – passes are employee only? Natasha - Correct, anyone that comes with them has to pay.

Cozzens – paragraph 8.10.1 I don't think should pass, it should be tabled for a full council.

Cozzens made a motion that we table that section until we have a full council; The motion died for lack of a second.

Barry Short – I am a resident and speaking specifically to 8.10.1 of this proposal and stand to oppose the inclusion of this section. It is fiscally irresponsible; Mayor expressed dismay that people are more interested in this than a budget. The budget shows Aquatic Center \$1,050,000, half subsidized from general funds of the City. In an environment facility losing money giving away is fiscally irresponsible. Not said enough, taxation is theft, taking of rightfully owned property under coercive threat. Unfortunately we work in a world with that threat but we have reasonable expectations that the representative ignores, and that is theft. I oppose that this be granted to Council members, it is terrible, unwelcome thing. They don't vote for setting to give themselves raises without an election. It is trivial value, it is dangerous precedent to have officials increase pay during their term. Mayor – it was not that I was not interested; I just wanted people involved in the budget. We have held meetings for months on the budget.

Dale Brinkerhoff -- only point is to mention the fact that the O&M at the Golf Course and Aquatic Center are high, it is easier to spread the burden to patrons than give free passes. I understand the predicament taking things away. It is fair if everyone pays their share. In encourage you to eliminate the perks.

Susan Baker – I agree what is said by Mr. Short and Brinkerhoff. I am a citizen and I don't use the swimming pool but if I do use it I have to pay, and I am paying for the pool and I voted against it. We pay for the Golf Course and those that use it should pay for it.

Natalie Roach – I agree.

Brad Green – I said plenty on Facebook. I agree with Barry Short. As far as 8.10.1, I value the volunteer fireman; if what my grandmother tells me is correct, my grandfather Orwin Green started the volunteer fire department. Volunteer has meaning. The community has a civic duty to extend every benefit possible to those men voluntarily and not through taxation. I am against 8.10.1 and 8.10.2. I looked over the budget, there is a lot I agree with and a lot I don't, but the amount we lose at the Golf Course and Aquatic Center and new addition of the RAP Tax it comes out of my brothers pockets. It is inappropriate for a municipality to own facilities like that, but they exist. Other things in the employee amendments, Tom Jett made a comment about an exception for department heads to live in the City if the market conditions do not allow them to sell their homes that is not in, but should be added. It is ambiguous; there is no proposed punishment for violating that. I also found a typo 8.10.1 it says a aquatic center pass, it should be an. 12.1.1 changed the verbiage for illegal drugs, it moved trafficking, it is allowed by the change in the policy. Paul – there is another section that prohibits from illegal conduct. Brad – using is illegal as well. I appreciate the discussion. I appreciated the engagement

from Terri and Mayor Wilson, it takes significant honor to debate on a social network. One more comment, there was a comment that came up that similarly to how it is irresponsible for public officials to vote on new perks or payroll for themselves, it is also on the personnel policy if the person is involved, councilman Adams wife is an employee. Adams – I represent 150 city employees, not just my wife. Brad Green – I still think it is a conflict of interest. I am in favor of Paul's motion.

Officer Kirk Lovell – I want to speak in behalf of myself and other employees. I lived in the area 30 years and in that time I have never golfed, now I have golfed 4 or 5 times, each time I have purchased things there and brought someone else with me. I will spend more on the driving range. Every time I use the Aquatic Center I bring my family, I look at it as a coupon, if the benefit were gone the money I have spent at the Golf Course will be gone as well as the amount I spend at the Aquatic Center. Other officers feel the same. I applaud everyone that wants to strengthen the budget, it is tough to make decisions. I watch the department budget, I have seen employees leave and make more money. This is a small thing that is a big thing for morale and doesn't cost the City anything. I am for keeping the benefits as they are.

Roger Thomas – speaking to benefits, I don't begrudge them going to the employees, but I would ask the Council if you vote for it, vote for the next cycle, not for this term.

Brandon Nowland, I work with the Police Department, I have been here too much lately. I agree with what Officer Kirk Lovell said. When I go to the Golf Course someone else goes with me. When I go to Aquatic Center it is with my family. I understand taking the job and the pay, but those benefits are like a discount and I will go more often. My kids enjoy the pool, I will not go myself. It is a morale booster; if I went golfing and had to pay I wouldn't go often. We contribute in many other ways. I am in favor with the benefits staying.

Alan Davis – I also agree with the Police Officers stated, it is a morale booster. Numerous things I would like to say, one in all businesses the businesses gives their employees discounts, if it is plumbing supply they give discounts to their employees. Brian Head gives their employees a season pass to ski. Construction people allow employees to borrow equipment on weekends; it is a perk of working for who you work for. The City with our health insurance you want us to be healthy and do things to try and stay healthy, swimming, golfing, etc. Companies give their employees gym passes to cut down on health costs. It is so minimal of what the cost to the city. I think this package for employees; I have been here 38 years and there benefit was here before I started. All municipalities do this; St. George allows the entire family to go swimming. It is minimal for the employees for morale and you know what that is now.

Gwen Carr – I am so upset seeing all City employees being treated like this. We came here thinking it was just the City Council getting perks, we want the City employees to get the perks, we need these people. We were talking the City Council getting perks. We voted for the council, we think the employees should get what they are getting. I don't swim and don't use the Aquatic Center, but I am glad we have it for the residents to use.

Susan Baker – question for Councilman Adams, I thought he said he represents 120 employees. I thought you represented the taxpayers? Adams – I do, but I also represent the employees and staff. Susan – I think you represent the citizens that elect you. Adams – we make policies for city employees and staff as well. Susan – I think this was an odd way to say this. Adams – I appreciate the employees, the passes for employees have been here before me. I have never used the passes nor has my wife. Susan – I say you represent the citizens. Adams – the employees are citizens just like you, they all pay taxes and I have a responsibility to them as well. I am involved in the city business and setting the budgets. I can't see how you say I don't represent the employees. Susan – the way you said it is you only represent the employees. Adams – I have been lambasted on Facebook and it is false. I am glad some of you are here instead of using Facebook. I love to see input but we seldom get any. Cozzens – that is because no one knows about it, it is a great medium to get the word out.

Natalie Roach – I have a question, how was this brought about if the perks were in place, what are you voting on? Cozzens – 8.10.1 says regular city employees, Fire volunteers, and VIPS I am good with that and with the employees. When budgets are tight the city offers a perk that we could not offer financially. We have the overhead, some will argue it costs money, but we show appreciation. Two issues I don't support and the biggest one is the elected officials while in office, that is despicable, people are sick of feeding the public trough. I have seen it in our national elections, the fury with the national election. People take advantage of financial benefits. I am starting my 5th year. We have been very stingy with fee waivers for the Heritage Center, that is \$350,000 deficit a year, we have a lot of groups come in with great reasons and want a fee waiver and we have to tell people no. It is not my right to waive those fees. I don't know a single instance where we have granted a fee waiver. How can I look you in the eye when you ask for a fee waiver and tell you no but vote myself a fee pass? This is about doing the right thing. The perception with the public is at an all-time low from the top federal all the way down. People pay taxes and they are sacred funds and we should not take advantage with that. The other issue is a benefit after retirement, you work 10 years get a benefit for 5 years.

Isom – I don't think anyone feels the need for a special pass and we didn't ask for it. HR was trying to simplify a process easily to implement. What has happened instead of meeting and saying let's get rid of the elected official pass, but let's support the employees that make this a great place to live. We have trashed them globally on Facebook and they keep the city a well-oiled machine and they make it a great place to live, work and play, and it is a very small benefit. The Golf Course is about break even and when they golf they take people with them and they pay for everything but the pass, so it is a revenue producer. The Aquatic Center if an employee takes their family we are getting admittances we would not get. Our employees because under paid and underappreciated need the continuation.

Councilmember Isom moved to approve all changes to the policy but the elected officials in 8.10.1 and be done with it. We need to appreciate the most important asset.

Cozzens – the correspondence going about that it was going to pass was my impression. Isom – you took that without asking. Cozzens – I have seen this for 5 years we vote on things they don't have a clue. I saw people that disagreed respectfully, but did not see anyone trash employees. Isom – the fact that people are ready to pull the rug out from employees and their feeling of community to me is trashing.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hartley.

Cozzens – I want to amend and vote on items individually. Adams – what else do you want to take out? Cozzens – I mentioned them. Isom – I will not change my motion.

The vote on the motion is as follows:

Ron Adams	-	AYE
Paul Cozzens	-	NAY
Terri Hartley	-	AYE
Craig Isom	-	AYE

Hartley – I don't have opposition of social media, but was opposed to the motion portrayed that all but one councilman was opposed and the others were asking and how despicable it was. I love the Mayor putting things on social media and enjoy having people give input. We need to try and be more respectful and make sure we are talking about the same thing. Cozzens – I did make the post and asked how you feel about 5 councilmen voting for themselves to have free passes. I said Fred Rowley will be out of town and I hope I am not the only nay vote. I think it is an important issue and pleased elected officials are not a part of it.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2016-17 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET. JASON NORRIS: Norris – this is the last leg of the budget trip, months of work. We went over the changes last week. Isom – I sat down with Jason one on one for about an hour.

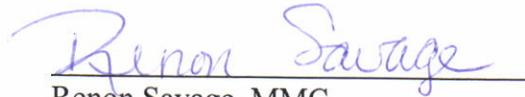
Councilmember Isom moved to approve the resolution adopting the 2016-17 fiscal year budget; second by Councilmember Cozzens; vote as follows:

AYE:	<u>4</u>
NAY:	<u>0</u>
ABSTAINED:	<u>0</u>

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE CERTIFIED TAX RATE. JASON NORRIS: Jason – every year the council has to approve the certified tax rate, the rate for property taxes. The County assess value of property and come out with a certified tax rate. The rate changes year to year, but does not represent a change or increase in the tax as far as us asking for more money, to do that we have to go through a series of meetings for Truth in Taxation. We don't have the rate yet; as soon as we get the county figures put in they will come up with the certified tax rate that I will bring to you.

Paul – we will keep it on the agenda until we get it from the County. We hope to have it by the end of June.

ADJOURN: Councilmember Isom moved to adjourn and move into the RDA meeting at 6:56 p.m.; second by Councilmember Adams; vote unanimous.



Renon Savage, MMC
City Recorder

CEDAR CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SURVEY ON COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNITY
SAFETY PERCEPTIONS

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Rick Bairett, PhD

Laney Smith, MPA

Luke Mitchell

Jed Townsend

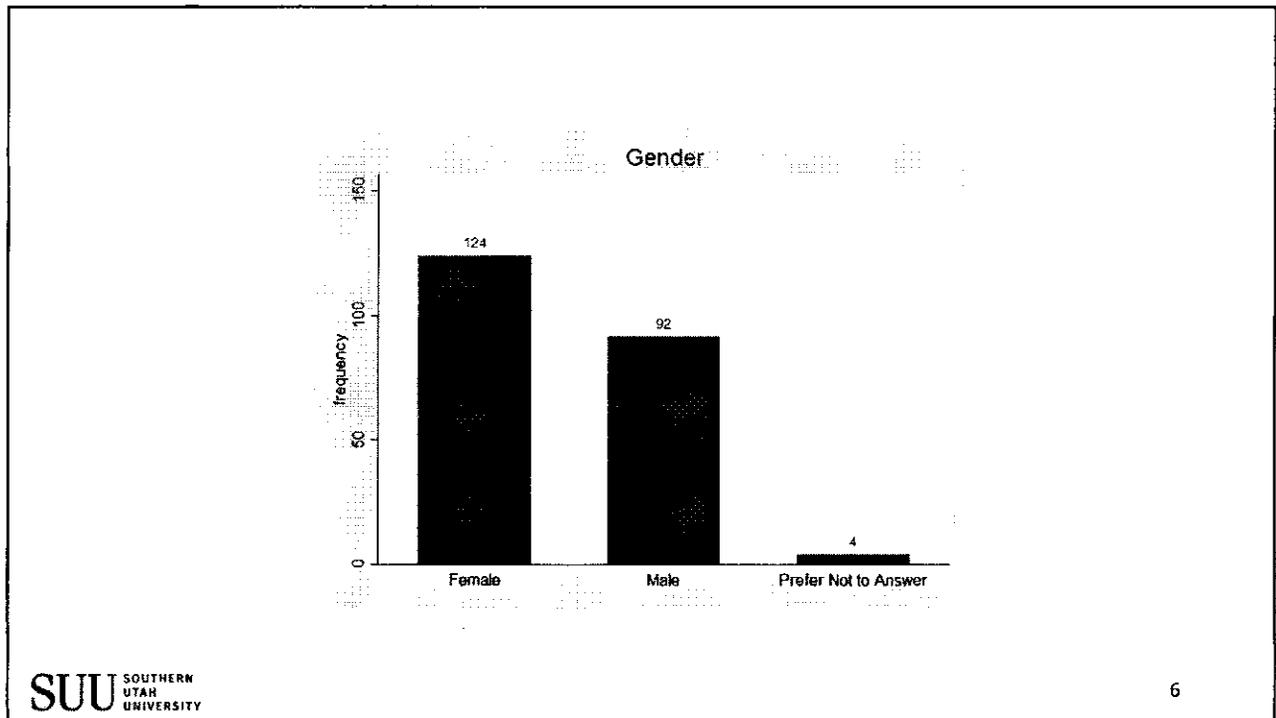
INTRODUCTION

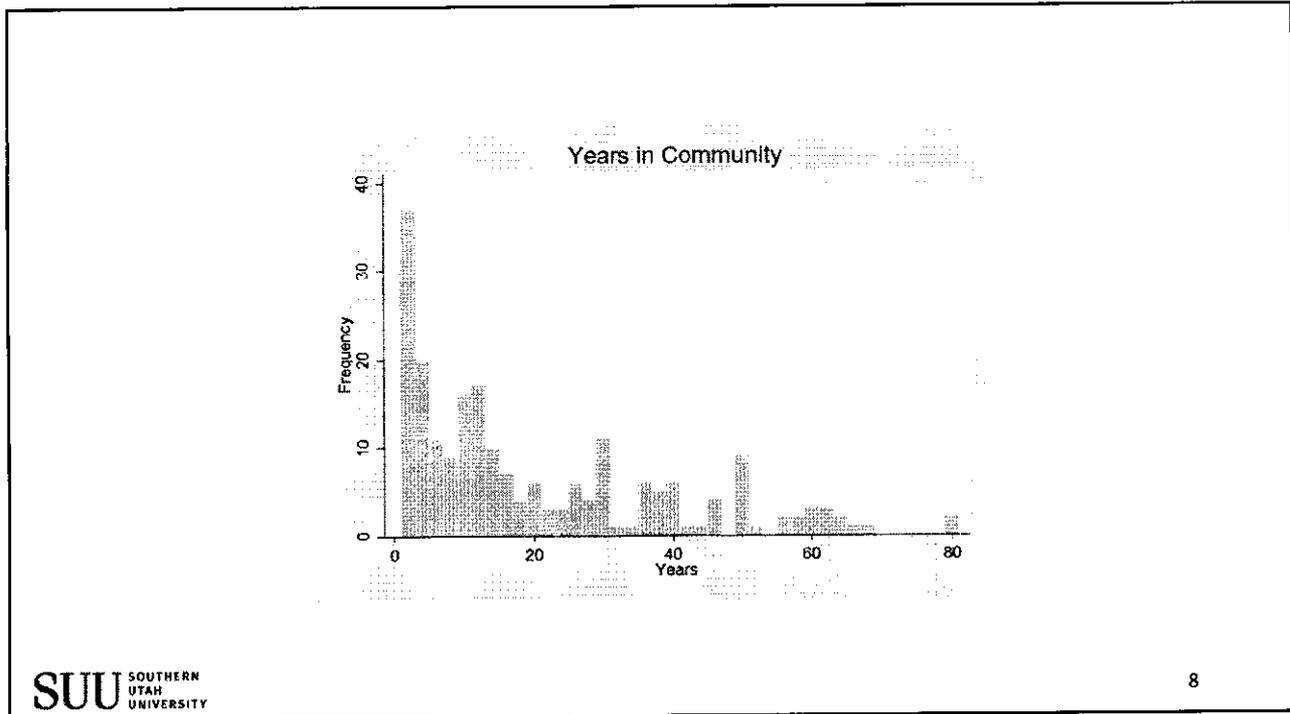
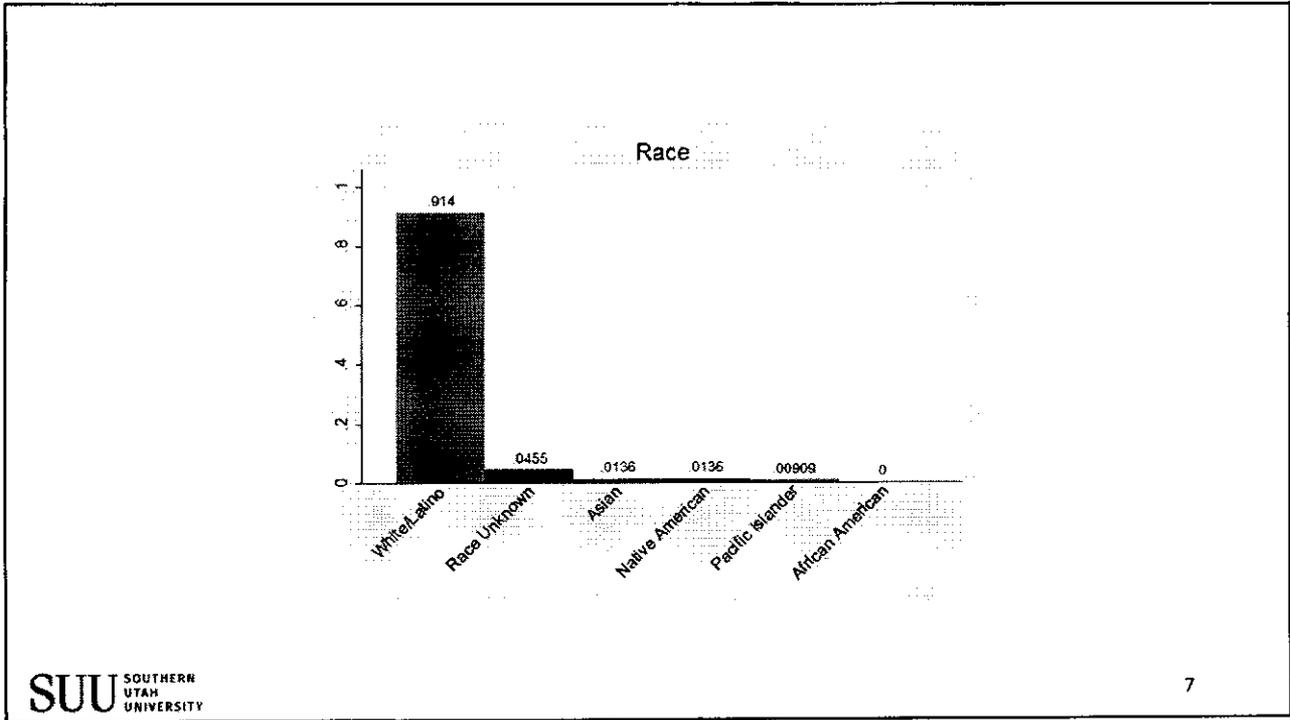
- Community involvement efforts
- Community safety
- Procedural justice
- Department performance
- Residents' satisfaction with CCPD interactions

INTRODUCTION

- 1,674 surveys randomly sampled from 10,637 households of Cedar City.
- 220 surveys were completed and returned, for a 13.1% response rate.
- Residents invited to participate were 18 years of age or older.

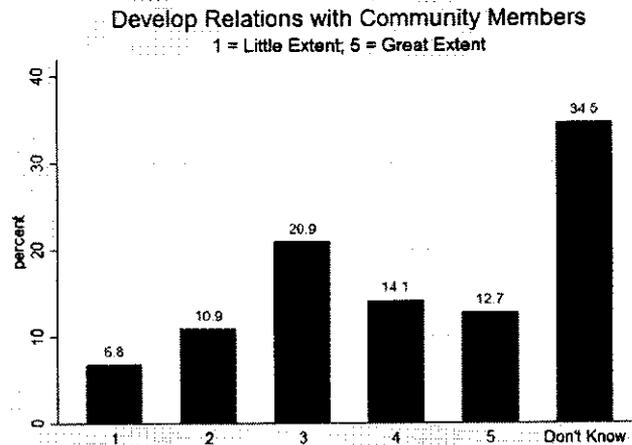
DEMOGRAPHICS



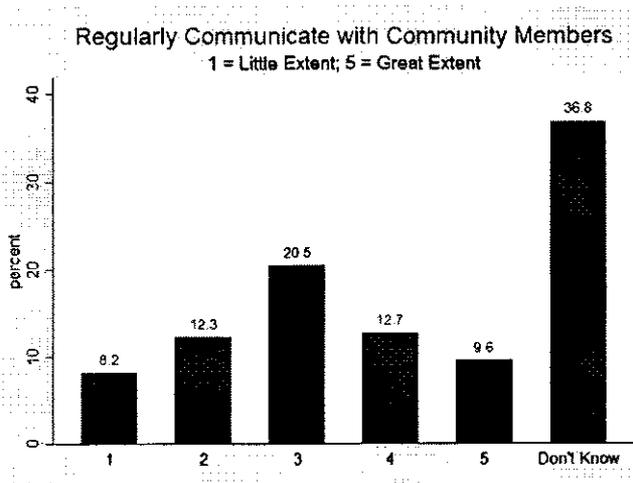


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

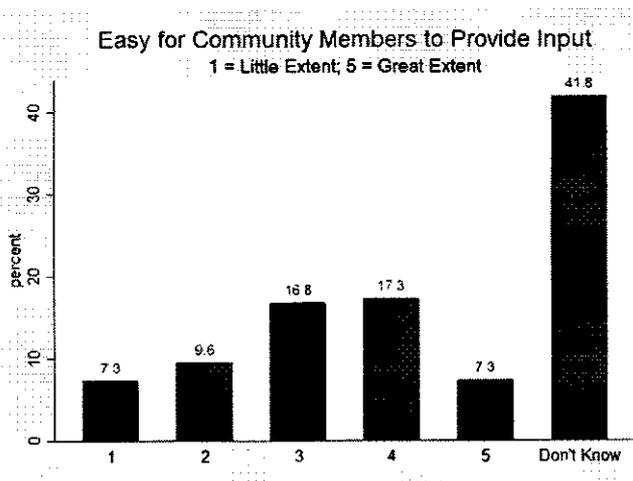
Q1. To what extent does the CCPD develop relationships with community members (e.g. residents, organizations and groups, neighborhood watch)?



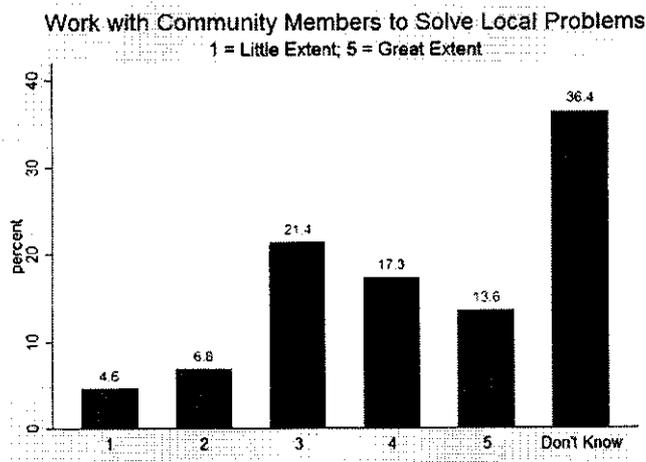
Q2. To what extent does the CCPD regularly communicate with community members (e.g., websites, e-mails or public meetings)?



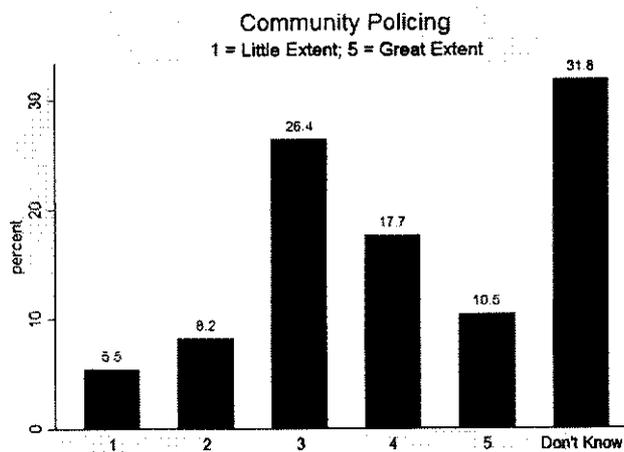
Q3. To what extent does the CCPD make it easy for community members to provide input (e.g., comments, suggestions, and concerns)?



Q4.To what extent does the CCPD work together with community members to solve local problems?



Q5.Community policing involves officers in your law enforcement agency working with the community to address the causes of crime in an effort to reduce the problems themselves through a wide range of activities. Based on this definition, to what extent do you think the CCPD practices community policing?



Community Involvement Discussion

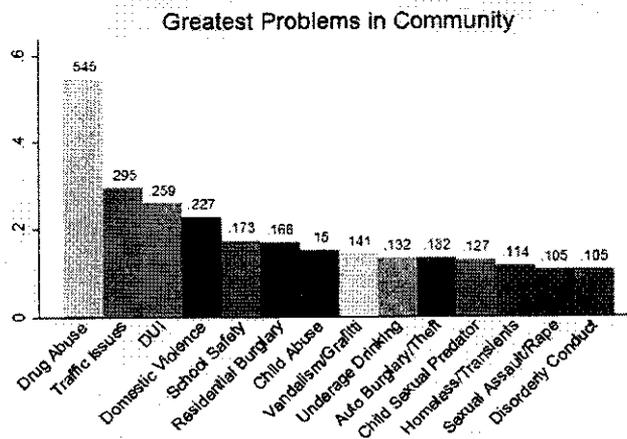
- There are relatively low percentages of responses greater than 3 (neutral).
- The CCPD should benefit from improving community involvement.
- Make residents more aware of existing or future community involvement efforts.

Q6. Would you like to tell us anything else about how the CCPD could improve community involvement?

- "Mention outreach or events in the monthly city newsletter."
- "It would be great to have local 'get-togethers' where the police and community share food, fun, and ideas, maybe at the local park."
- Many respondents mentioned how the CCPD is "doing a great job."

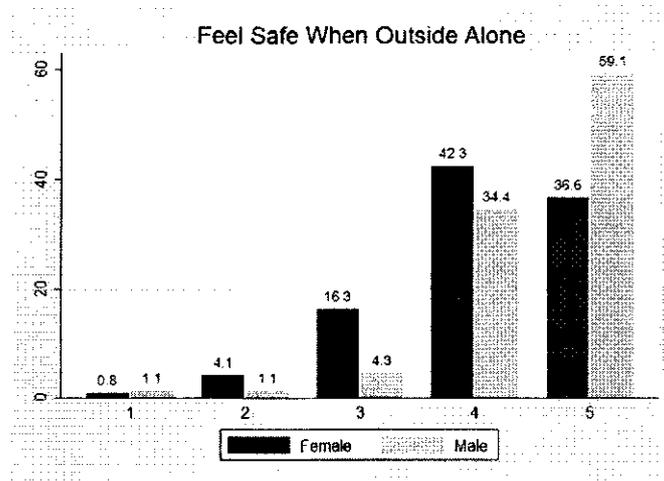
SAFETY

Q7. Please select the three issues you think are the greatest problems within your community.



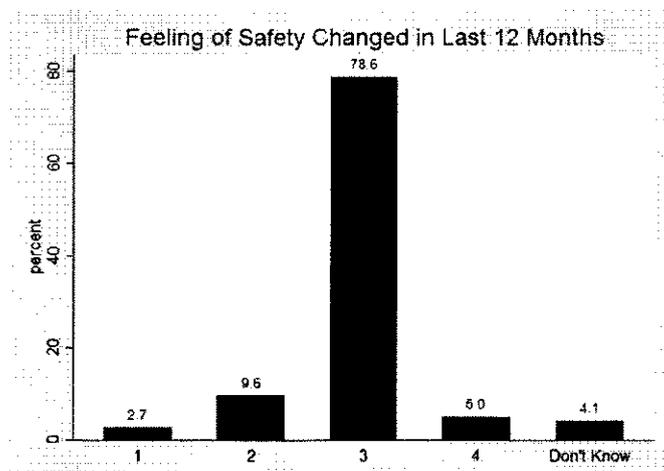
Graph reflects problems selected by at least 10% of respondents.

Q8. To what extent do you feel safe in Cedar City when you are outside alone?



Bar heights reflect separate percentages of female and male respondents.

Q9. Over the last 12 months have your feelings of safety in Cedar City increased, decreased, or stayed the same?



1 = Decreased a lot, 3 = Stayed the same, and 5 = Increased a lot

Q10. Would you like to tell us anything else about crime related safety concerns in Cedar City?

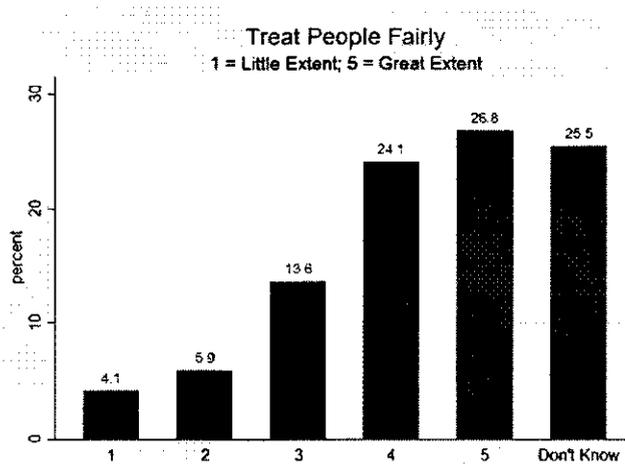
- Drugs and alcohol
- Texting & talking on cell phones while driving
- Domestic violence/child abuse

Safety Discussion

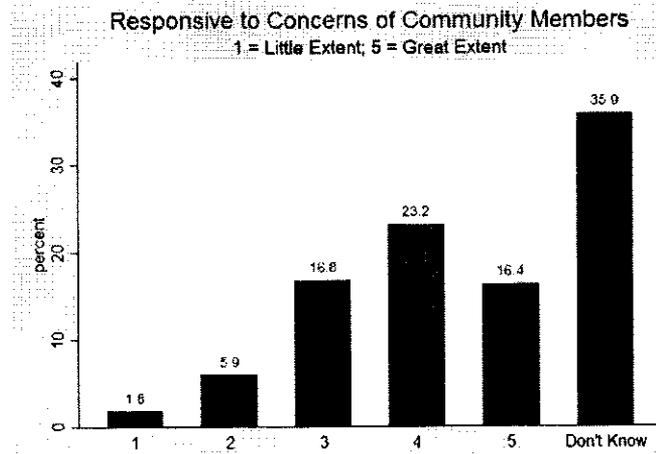
- Respondents report specific concerns about safety, but generally feel safe when alone in Cedar City.
- 12% of respondents report a decrease in feelings of safety over the last 12 months, versus 5% reporting an increase.

PROCEDURAL JUSTICE

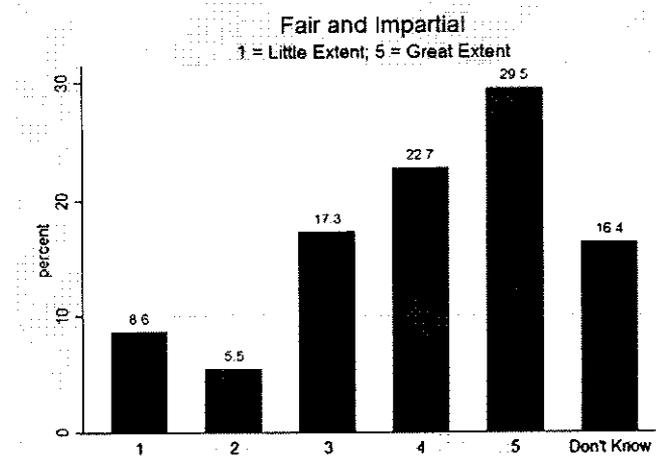
Q11. To what extent do officers in the Cedar City Police Department (CCPD) treat people fairly?



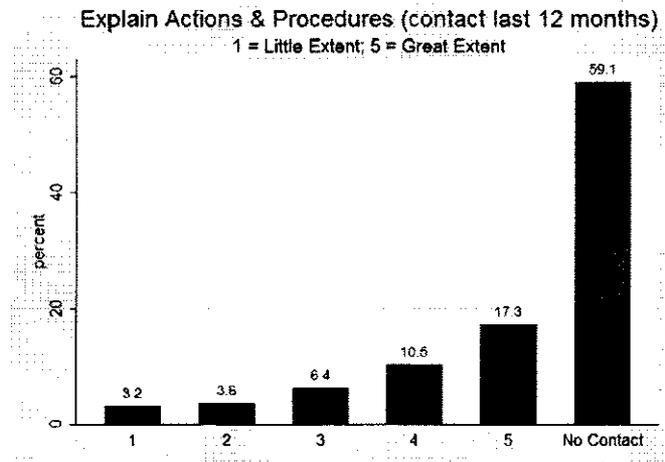
Q12. To what extent is the CCPD responsive to the concerns of community members?



Q13. To what extent do you trust the CCPD to be fair and impartial?



Q14. If you had contact with an officer from the CCPD during the past 12 months, to what extent did the officer sufficiently explain his or her actions and procedures?

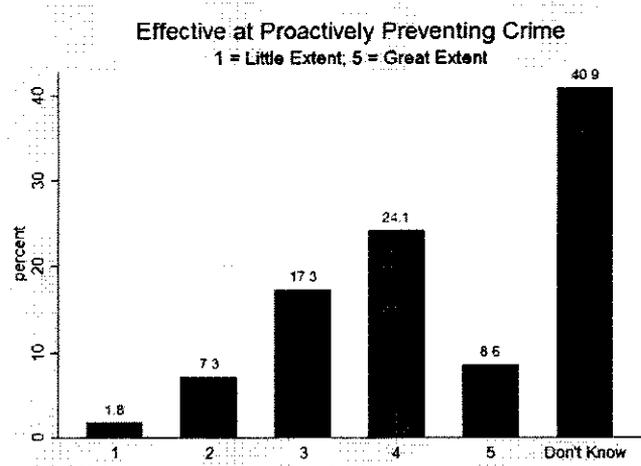


Procedural Justice Discussion

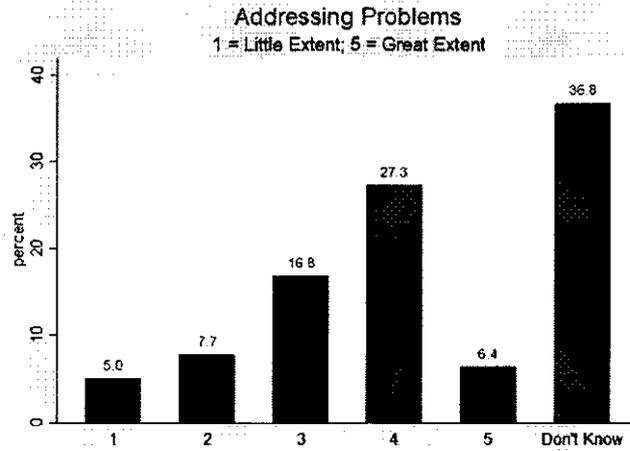
- 14% of respondents are less than neutral (ratings less than 3) in assessing the CCPD being fair and impartial.
- Based on these data, correcting perceptions of unfairness/partial treatment would seem to be the procedural justice area to focus on first.

PERFORMANCE

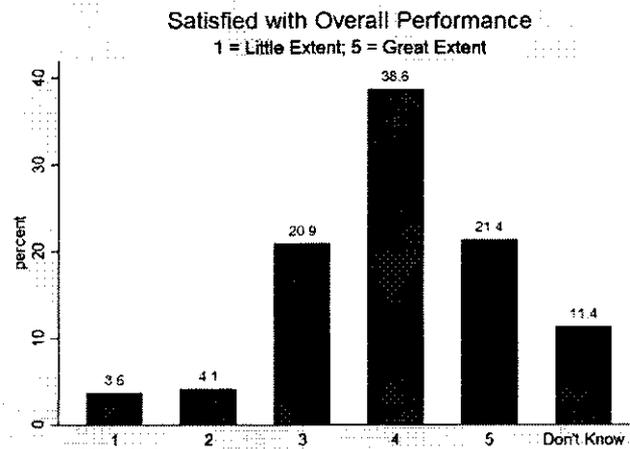
Q15. To what extent is the CCPD effective at proactively preventing crime?



Q16. To what extent is the CCPD addressing the problems that really concern you?



Q17. To what extent are you satisfied with the overall performance of the CCPD?

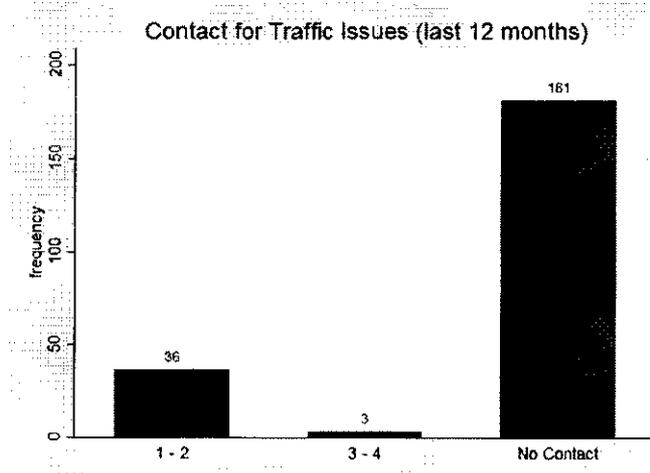


Performance Discussion

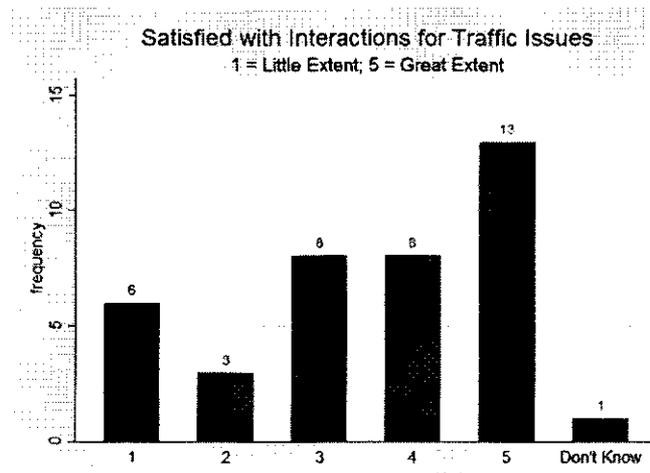
- Respondents who have a perception generally appear to be positive about CCPD performance.
- The lowest scoring area is “addressing the problems that really concern you.”
- Nearly 37% of respondents reported no perception of how well the CCPD is addressing problems that really concern them (“Don’t Know”).

CONTACT AND SATISFACTION

Q18. How many times in the past 12 months have you had contact with the CCPD for traffic issues (e.g., citation, warning, or vehicle crash)?

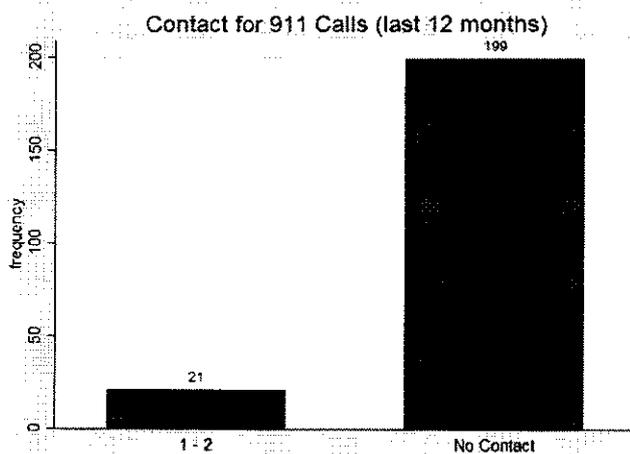


Q19. To what extent are you satisfied with your interactions the CCPD for traffic issues?

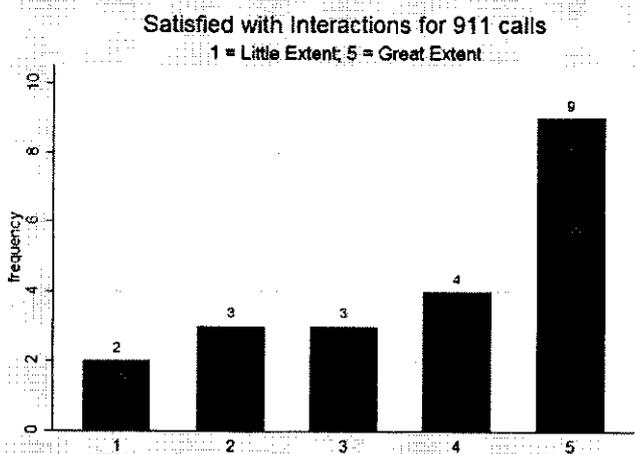


Breakdown of the 39 respondents reporting contact in Q18.

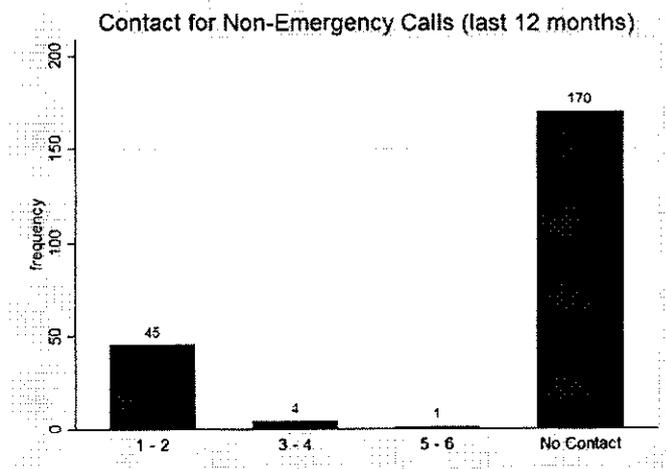
Q20. How many times in the past 12 months have you had contact with the CCPD for 911 calls?



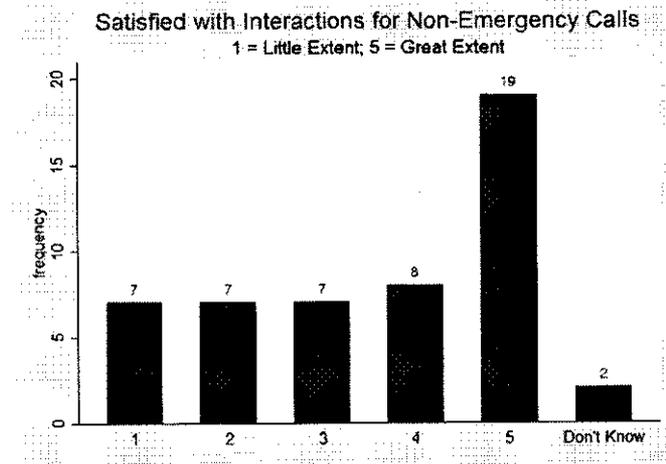
Q21. To what extent are you satisfied with your interaction(s) with the CCPD for 911 emergency calls?



Q22. How many times in the past 12 months have you had contact with the CCPD for non-emergency calls (e.g., to report a crime or suspicious activity)?

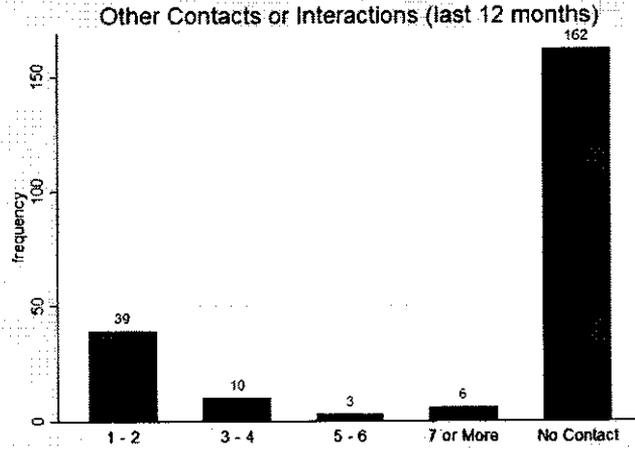


Q23. To what extent are you satisfied with your interaction(s) with the CCPD for non-emergency calls?

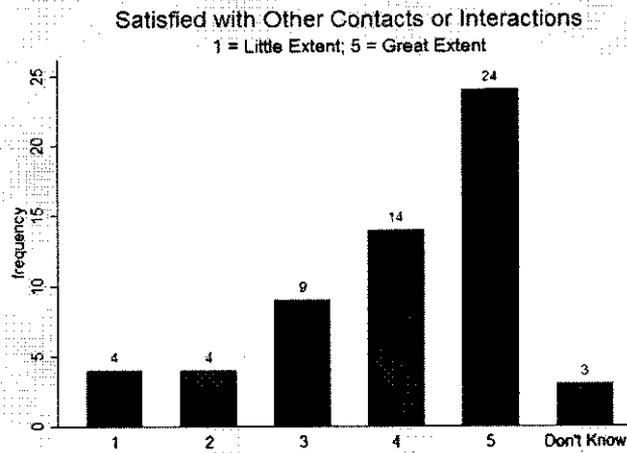


Breakdown of the 50 respondents reporting contact in Q22.

Q24. How many times in the past 12 months have you had contact with the CCPD for other contacts or interactions (e.g., attend a community meeting or talk to an officer on patrol)?



Q25. To what extent are you satisfied with your interaction(s) with the CCPD for other contacts or interactions?



Breakdown of the 58 respondents reporting contact in Q24.

Contact and Satisfaction Discussion

- In general, the majority of these respondents had no contact with CCPD for issues regarding traffic or emergencies.
- More people seemed to be satisfied with their interactions with CCPD than those who were not.

QUESTIONS?

— What were they thinking?

Our Cedar City cemetery workers took it upon themselves to indiscriminately remove memorial flowers they deemed were in their way for summer mowing, including artificial wreaths and shepherd hooks. They threw everything, real and artificial, into piles at the side of their building for families to come dig through. This is the first time, in the eight years I've had someone buried there, that I've had this happen to my son's grave and I've got to say I think it's criminal. And it's happened to hundreds of families just like mine.

First of all, we have a cemetery where headstones are every shape and size, so edge trimming has to be done around almost every one of them. So why now would it be too difficult now to edge trim? You can't get away from it - our cemetery requires it!

— Second, I was told by the previous cemetery manager that shepherd hooks were fine, would never be bothered, and I had a big one at the immediate side of Bobby's marker for years before it finally rotted at the ground and was removed. So why now is everything different, with no warning to families? And why so indiscriminate? Anyone looking at the cemetery will see shepherd hooks of all sizes and dimensions still out there!!! So why did some have to go but others didn't? And WHERE DID THEY GO?? Not a one was in the huge pile of trash! WHO HAS THEM NOW?

Third, why did every American flag and many of the solar lights get taken? And WHERE DID THEY GO?? They were noticeably absent from the huge trash pile this afternoon - WHO PICKED UP ALL THE FLAGS OFF OF THE GROUND AND OUT OF THE GARBAGE? WHO HAS ALL OF THEM NOW?

— Fourth, why did artificial "stake vase" arrangements have to be pulled up? They are also very easily trimmed around. They usually sit there for months!. Instead, hundreds upon hundreds of them were tossed like garbage to the side of the building. I can understand why real arrangements have to be removed, but why the artificial ones?

— Fifth, my son's grave had a large handmade grapevine wreath hanging from a two-sided shepherd's hook, up off the ground, and both are now gone, I'm sure just ripped out and discarded like everything else. I couldn't

find either of them in the heap, but I can't blame someone who came looking to think to themselves, "Well this is just garbage now, I think it still looks OK, I'll take it for my own use." I was told by the "newer" cemetery manager they removed anything they couldn't put somewhere on the marker - so take a look at our marker!!! They could have hung the wreath over one of two vases, or they could have just laid it on the bench seat!

Last year I had to take photos and complain to the mayor and city administrator in order to get my son's burial site cleaned up of weeds, and to have a giant hole filled where they had driven something in front of his marker. The grass at the edge of his marker at that time was over 9" tall and everything around it was browning up and dying. It was one week before Memorial Day, when the cemetery is supposed to look its very best. I talked to the "newer" cemetery manager four weeks in a row before elevating my problem. So from last year to this year, we have complete neglect to over-zealous cleansing?

Look at the photo of my son's marker and please tell me "How was that wreath in the way?" And to whomever decided to take ownership of it after it was deemed trash, I hope you're happy knowing where it came from.



ALLINSON



ROBERT LOWELL

NOV. 9, 1977
APR. 1, 2008

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