



Tybee Island Police Department
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Date: 07/10/2023

To: Chief Tiffany Hayes

From: Assistant Chief Bertram Whitley

Subj: AFTER ACTION REVIEW "TURNT ISLAND" AND JULY 4TH OPERATION

The purpose of this After Action Review (AAR) is to identify immediate and long term corrective action for future responses to un-permitted and permitted events on Tybee Island. Each operation on Tybee Island presents different challenges and responses. This ARR will be considered when planning for other large scale operations.

1. **IMPROVE**. Scheduling for Officer's has proved to be a challenge as it is unknown when subjects attending un-permitted events will begin coming to the island or when traffic will begin causing a problem for responding Officer's. Another noted area of improvement is determining whether or not to staff (2) individuals in the jail for booking purposes as (1) Officer can become quickly overwhelmed. A third area of improvement noted by Officer's pertained to staffing our Patrol Zones for the entirety of the non-permitted event. For the final day of the operation (July 4 Fireworks), patrol zones were minimized from the (3) Zone operation to individual Areas of Responsibility (AOR) only.
 - (a) **Topic**. Officer Scheduling for un-permitted events.
 - (1) **Discussion**. Officer Scheduling for non-permitted events has become difficult. It is difficult to ascertain when bulk traffic will be coming onto the island. When scheduling Officer's for duty during large operations, it is paramount to schedule Officer's as early as possible in the day so that they have an opportunity to beat heavy, congested traffic coming onto the island. This forces Officer's to have to work 14-18 hour shifts for several days in a row, with no breaks in between.
 - (2) **Recommendation**. It will be recommended that Officer's be housed on the island during these operations so that they are able to have the vital rest that they need to operate safely, when they report for duty. This will eliminate the need for Officer's to come in early, to beat the traffic surge onto the island.
 - (b) **Topic**. Jail Scheduling.
 - (1) **Discussion**. During peak hours, the jail can become inundated with prisoners for booking. This has the ability to overwhelm the (1) Officer assigned to work in the jail and book prisoners. The booking Officer is responsible for completing all paperwork, organizing inmate property, fingerprinting, and preparing the inmate for transport to the County Jail. Note that there are Sheriff's Deputies assigned to assist in the jail when needed and also provide transport to CCDC.
 - (2) **Recommendation**. It will be recommended that if there is a need for another booking Officer, that this Officer be first assigned to work on the street. When the need arises, this Officer can be brought into the jail to assist the primary jailer for the operation. It will also be recommended that another booking computer be added to the jail in the event a second jailer is necessary.
 - (c) **Topic**. Patrol Zones
 - (1) **Discussion**. Patrol Zones were utilized from 6/30/2023 -- 7/03/2023. Patrol Zones were used on these dates to assist with calls for service in the city and in specific areas with specific boundaries. These zones were not

utilized on July 4, 2023. These Zones were not utilized on the 4th due to a focus on traffic congestion and traffic intersection enforcement. The 4th of July presents different challenges from the days prior. While there were no problems with Officer's getting to calls for service in an appropriate time, TIPD Officer's all agreed that the organization of the Zones during the previous days made it safer for them and allowed them to respond to calls for service in their Zones.

- (2) Recommendation. It will be recommended that TIPD Operate all large scale operations with Patrol Zones or some semblance thereof.
2. SUSTAIN. The areas of this operation that TIPD Personnel wish to sustain include: Patrol Zones, Command Center located centrally on the island at the YMCA Cafeteria, meal preparations provided by the food trucks, lighting for the 15th Street parking lot, fencing around the South Annex, use of an Emergency Lane (EM), holiday traffic protocols on the South end of the island, assistance from State Agencies and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.
- (a) Topic. Patrol Zones
 - (1) Discussion. Patrol Zones proved effective during the first four days of the operation. Officer's had no problems navigating their Zones and all responded accordingly to calls. This assisted greatly in being able to track all Officer's during a potentially chaotic event. If the need arose, an Officer could leave their Zone to assist another Zone, and then return.
 - (2) Recommendation. Patrol Zones will continue to be utilized.
 - (b) Topic. Command Center
 - (1) Discussion. The Command Center, located at the Tybee Island YMCA and centrally on the island was utilized from 6/30/2023 through 7/04/2023. This proved effected as it was located centrally, housed shift briefings, fed public safety, and provided a safe area for much needed breaks. Food trucks were stationed at the Command Center and offered breakfast, lunch and dinner to public safety. This was a success in being able to feed 100-130 people on a daily basis.
 - (2) Recommendation. It will be recommended that the Command Center be housed at the YMCA Cafeteria for all future, large scale operations.
 - (c) Topic. Emergency Lane
 - (1) Discussion. The emergency lane has proven effective to move public safety to all borders of the island and aids in response times during heavy traffic congestion. The emergency lane is also utilized for towing vehicles and proves effective when removing vehicles from the roadway. Towed vehicles are then transported to the Tybee Island Police Department.
 - (2) Recommendation. The EM has proven effective and will continue to be utilized during high volume operations.
 - (d) Topic. Emergency Lighting/Annex Fencing
 - (1) Discussion. Emergency Lighting was in place in the 15th Street and 14th Street parking lots. The lights were not utilized but would have been effective during the non-permitted event "Orange Crush". Being able to bring light to a mostly dark parking lot can assist in monitoring crowd control and will foster a safer environment. Fencing around the South Annex has proven effective during the non-permitted events "Orange Crush" and "Turnt Island". The fencing allows law enforcement to close off a parking lot exit for law enforcement to organize in the event of a hostile crowd. The fencing also allows law enforcement to protect the South Annex itself, from potential damage from the hostile crowds and to also protect police personnel from thrown objects. Victims of crime also have the ability to seek shelter in a secured area in the event a crowd becomes hostile.
 - (2) Recommendation. It will be recommended that TIPD continue to utilize lighting and fencing around the Annex to foster a safer environment.
 - (e) Topic. Agency Assistance
 - (1) Discussion. Law Enforcement Agencies provided to assist the TIPD are as follows: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia State Patrol, State Arson Investigators, Chatham County Sheriff's Office. The

assisting agencies all played a huge role in providing police services to the City of Tybee Island. Each agency provided different services to the City and all were utilized as a force multiplier in making the island a safer place. Their assistance has proven very effective in accomplishing the mission of the TIPD during large scale, non-permitted events.

(2) Recommendation. It will be recommended that these agencies be called upon whenever preparation is underway for another large scale, un-permitted event.

3. The point of contact regarding this report is Assistant Chief Bertram Whitley at 912-472-5099 or bwhitley@cityoftybee.gov.

Respectfully,

Bertram McVae Whitley III

Assistant Police Chief