



MARGATE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Palma, Captain

FROM: Scott DeDi, Sergeant *MP for SD*

DATE: November 29, 2016

SUBJECT: St. Vincent Carnival

The purpose of this memorandum is to illustrate the crowd dynamic and subsequent police response at the most recent carnival, specifically Saturday night (November 26, 2016), so as to inform key decision-makers and stake holders.

On the aforementioned date, six off-duty Margate police officers were assigned to the security detail at the carnival, consisting of Captain Shaw, Lieutenant Galaska, Sergeant Banatte, K9 Handler Connelli, Officer Gray, and Officer A. Hernandez. They were scheduled until 2230 hours, and thereafter five officers until the carnival closed at 0000 hrs. I was the Acting Platoon Commander for Road Patrol and I had one other sergeant working and 10 officers to handle calls for service. The estimated number of visitors at the carnival during its peak hour of 9 PM was well over 500 people, coupled with over a hundred people just lingering in the parking lot, with the majority being teens between the ages of 15-19 years old; however there were also many families in attendance with younger children. It appeared that most of the teens were dropped off at the venue and had no adult supervision.

Throughout the evening there were many fights inside the fenced area of the carnival involving the teens, and as the night progressed the number of fights and unruliness increased to that of mob proportions. Most of the teens in the mob either ignored legal commands from officers to cease and desist or ran off. Each time the detail officers responded to a fight, the mob would move to another section of the carnival. At approximately 2230 hours, I had Dispatch hold all non-emergency calls for service and ordered all available Road Patrol officers to the carnival to assist detail officers with the fights, crowd control, and parking at Chevy Chase Plaza. On several occasions when groups of unruly teens were congregating outside the carnival fence and were ordered to leave, they fled from the officers and jumped the fence to reenter the carnival. I observed several teens walking around chanting, "Hands up don't shoot," in what appeared to be an effort to incite lawlessness. Moreover, several teens were treated by MFR after either being punched or being sprayed by mace by unknown assailant/s. By 2300 hours, hundreds of rowdy teens began crossing SR7, ignoring the posted traffic officer and interfering with traffic. A mob of approximately 200 teens gathered in Chevy Chase Plaza, where there were people running, screaming, and fighting, as well as a report of a shot fired. To disperse the crowd at Chevy Chase Plaza, I had all available officers stay together as a force and they flanked me as I drove my patrol car around the plaza with lights and siren. I used my vehicle PA system to warn them that failure to disperse would result in arrest. Being severely outnumbered by the mob, we were fortunate they did not turn on us and subsequently dispersed from the immediate area. Officers

used the lights and siren technique to disperse ensuing crowds as they attempted to reform south of Margate Blvd. Another large mob formed shortly thereafter at Denny's, 650 N. SR 7, where more fights occurred and another gunshot was reported but unsubstantiated. Several Coconut Creek patrol officers responded to render mutual aid. This event taxed Road Patrol's ability to provide other police services for a large part of the shift, as we were still engaged in dispersing rowdy groups of teens until 0330 hours in the morning, 3.5 hours after the carnival officially closed.


In light of the situation the carnival created, coupled with the large number of teens that attend this carnival on the weekend and the lawless mob behavior that results, it is my opinion that this carnival poses a significant threat of injury to the law abiding citizens in attendance and the police. Should the carnival continue in the future, short of a field force of a minimum of 40+ officers, I would recommend the acquisition of a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) for crowd control and a geo caching program to acquire intelligence in advance of planned events.

Received on 11/29/16 – Captain Michael Palma 

On September 11, 2016, Lieutenant Konecke authored an email detailing similar circumstances concerning the carnival that was held on September 10, 2016. Some crimes/incidents directly related to the carnival on that night were: a vehicle theft, numerous fights, people discharging pepper spray in the crowd, traffic hazards due to large unruly crowds, and a trespassing arrest. Additionally, a juvenile was arrested for displaying and discharging a Taser in the crowd, she was subsequently tased by officers and taken into custody. Lieutenant Konecke recommended a minimum of four detail officers to work the carnival in the future. This is the reason why six officers were assigned to work the carnival detail on November 26, 2016. Based upon the most recent and past events, I recommend that we do not approve future carnivals in our city. The safety to our citizenry and police officers is paramount and it may only be a matter of time before someone is seriously injured. Associated reports and emails are attached to this memorandum. Since Captain Shaw worked the carnival detail, I am forwarding this memorandum to him for additional comments.

TOT Captain Shaw

After working this event, I concur with Sergeant Dedi, and Captain Palma about discontinuing carnival events. The recent carnivals have escalated in dangerous and violent behavior by patrons who do not appear to be Margate residents. A concern with just increasing police presence is the police department will have increased arrests, Uses of Force, and demand on patrol for processing what could be multiple prisoners during these events. The crime rates and potential for serious incidents and injury vastly increase during our carnivals. While working the event, I spoke to several patrons that advised they were attending from city's as far north as Riviera Beach all the way south to Miami. It was explained to me, since the discontinuation of the Broward Fair, the Margate Carnivals have become the replacement for that event. Our carnivals are clearly not just attracting families and people wanting to have a pleasant experience. The carnival has become a location for rival groups to meet and cause problems. I believe having Margate Food Truck events and other city sponsored activity that draws more Margate residents, is more beneficial to the City and our citizens.

Captain J. Shaw 

11/29/16

Carnival

Charles Konecke

Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2016 2:35 AM

To: Michael Palma

Cc: Joseph Galaska; Kevin Stransky; Greg Giacomino

Captain,

This email is to inform you that the carnival crowd on Saturday night 09/10 was completely out of control. Several hundred youths from neighboring jurisdictions were causing all kinds of chaos. Numerous reports of fights, attempted burglaries to trailers, people discharging mace into the crowd, and several people reported hearing the discharging of a Taser. Often times a large group would begin running from one area of the carnival to another (for whatever reason) and one time they were observed trampling a woman walking her child in a stroller. In addition to those things, dozens of teenagers crossing State Rd#7 in random areas that were beyond any control. Very dangerous. An obvious issue was that far too many people were allowed into the carnival. The traffic for entry was backed up to the Marathon gas station at 804 N.SR#7 which also caused a significant traffic hazard.

Once the Carnival was shut down more chaos ensued. Parents were having their children run out to their awaiting vehicles on SR#7 when they came to pick them up. More fights in the Chevy Chase Plaza and surrounding areas up and down SR#7 (Denny's / Walmart etc). **This detail really needs to be staffed with a minimum of four detail officers if crowds of this size are going to continue.** It literally took all of my available manpower to gain control of this situation. I have include the list of cases below that can be directly related to the crowd at this carnival. Perhaps Lt. Galaska can reach out to the owner and arrange for additional officers to work for the next couple of nights.

37-1609-030305 (2)

Theft / Vehicle at 505 N. SR#7.

At approx. 2350hrs, the victim left his vehicle running as he ran inside the gas station. While inside an unknown subject entered the vehicle and fled south on SR#7. Vehicle was recovered a short while later, abandoned on the 100 block of N. SR#7. Victims credit cards and cash had been taken from her purse. A large group of carnival patrons had just arrived at the gas station prior to this vehicle theft.

Vehicle - 2016 Toyota Avalon (Fl tag 721HMC)

37-1609-030304 (2)

Open carrying of a weapon / Resisting W/O violence arrest by Ofc. Speziale 1043 N. SR#7. The subject was openly displaying and discharging her Taser at a group of people. The subject pulled away from Ofc. Speziale as he attempted to apprehend her. Ofc. Speziale discharged his Taser at the subject and ultimately took her into custody. The subject was one of several hundred in the Chevy Chase Plaza at the time.

Subject - B/F Tequila Natasha Youte (09/26/99)

37-1609-030314 (2)

Trespass After Warning arrest by Sgt. Giacomino at Walmart.

Subject was causing a disturbance in the parking lot by smashing carts into each other and driving through the parking lot on one of the electric scooters. Despite repeated commands to leave the area the subject refused to comply and was ultimately taken into custody. The subject was amongst a large group of people that had recently left the carnival.

Subject - Alex Abraham (03/20/2001)

FYI - Prisoner Injury/UOF for Ofc. Speziale's case and a Prisoner Injury for Sgt. Giacomino's case will be forthcoming.