

KPD: 'It became kind of theme in the industry.'

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"It's all about having the right people at the right places, at the right time," said Keizer Patrol Lieutenant Andrew Copeland. "We all work together and brief together in the morning."

With four separate shifts of patrol officers, it's easy for details to get lost or forgotten from one shift to the next, but POP creates a structure to address that.

"Our CRU unit, headed by Sergeant Darsy Olafson works with our Crime Analyst Cara Steele - they work issues right alongside the detectives and patrol officers."

Everyone getting in the same room and sharing information every morning creates a heightened readiness for KPD.

"For example, a night shift officer says 'Hey, I had contact with this specific person,' then the day-shift patrol officer says 'Didn't we just talk about him?' and then someone from our CRU says 'Oh yeah, he's been here, here and here and we've been tracking him because he's one of our problem-people,' and they put a packet together for a District Attorney (DA). Then the parole and probation officer, who also work out of our office, says 'That's so-and-so, and I know who the parole officer is and I can put you in contact with them.' And then code enforcement is in there saying 'How can I help?' Then it's like 'Listen, we're going to go execute a search warrant, why don't you come along with us.' All

of this happens kind of organically at the briefings every morning."

Olafson, a long-time KPD veteran and currently leading the CRU, cited other examples of how POP has improved their ability to fight crime.

"One of the bigger ones that we didn't realize we were doing POP until a couple of years later was we were having enclosed trailers, excavators, vehicles stolen throughout the city," said Olafson, "These briefings started to highlight the idea that it was a very specific color and make of (the perpetrator's) vehicle, and we started to home in on it, working with traffic and motors."

Olafson said the communication

and cooperation enabled by the POP structure within the department and other city and county agencies was the primary reason they recovered more than 500 pieces of stolen property from that crime ring, and has greatly contributed to overall crime reduction in the city.

"One little piece of subtle nuance in a patrol guy's day can be the linchpin for us putting together an entire case," he said.

"It really turned the whole agency into a household instead of a neighborhood," said Teague. "In a neighborhood, you have a problem and you might call your neighbor down the street. In a household, you know everybody's problems - it's much more intimate."

POP isn't just improving communication, though - it involves a great deal of analysis, as well.

"[Cara Steele] is much more than a number-cruncher," said Teague. "She takes an over-arching view of the crime that is happening in the city, and then tries to make some analysis of that. We don't have a great deal of crime, comparatively, so she works to get a subjective feel for what's happening and where things might be happening next."

According to Teague, Copeland and Olafson, the POP program is having a direct impact on the ability of Keizer's officers to effectively do their job and keep the community safe.

"In the absence of the CRU and the crime analyst, we would have to staff up heavily and we would be responding to crime without actually doing anything to prevent it."



Upcoming political rally causes stir at city council meeting

BY CHARLES GLENN
Of the Keizertimes

Every Keizer city council meeting provides time for the public to speak to the council about any issue, and on Monday, March 21, a number of local activists and residents took the opportunity to voice their views on the upcoming Reawaken America tour slated for Volcanoes Stadium on April 1.

The stadium is privately-owned, which means the council has no authority to prevent the event. While most of the speakers acknowledged this, many still want the city to do more to prevent these kinds of events, going forward.

The controversial rally will feature several speakers, including former National Security Advisor Mike Flynn and Mike Lindell, the chief executive officer of MyPillow. It was originally scheduled for the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond, Ore., but public scrutiny surrounding the promotion of election conspiracies, mandatory mask-wearing, and the identity of the some of the speakers - Flynn

was pardoned by former President Trump for giving false information to the FBI - led to the venue change.

The same kind of public scrutiny was on display at the Keizer council meeting's public testimony on Monday. Some local and tribal activists carried signs reading "I'm white America's nightmare" and "End racism and white supremacy," spoke about how racism and white supremacy are impacting their communities.

While the tribal activists framed the issue in terms of racism and white supremacy, other speakers objected to the rally on the basis that it would cause a disruption in the community and possibly violence.

Ron Bersin, Oregon Government Ethics Commission executive director, said the rally had a reputation for violence and voiced displeasure at the lease agreement between the city and Volcanoes owner Jerry Walker.

"I'm really disappointed in the city," said Bersin. "It seems like no matter who wants to come into the Volcanoes stadium, it's up to the



Robert Edwards, right, of Salem appeared at the March 21 Keizer City Council meeting with a group of local activists.

BY CHARLES GLENN

lessors to decide. So we have no way of stopping, let's say 5,000 Hell's Angels ... or any other group that, I think, just really isn't in the Keizer spirit."

Bersin said he was expecting the police department to be challenged over the two days of the rally. Many

other speakers took time to voice similar views for more than an hour at the meeting.

Brandon Smith, of Salem, was one of three people who spoke in favor of the rally.