



A phone that once provided a discreet link between drug dealers and customers has been removed from a sidewalk bordering the PCC Cascade Campus.

# Crime Fight

continued ▲ from page 3

and more welcoming neighborhood," Gatewood said. "The really wonderful thing about this is that much of our progress has come from simply getting to know one another better, meeting regularly, sharing information, and just knowing that we all have each other's back."

The commission started out by coming up with common-sense approaches to the neighborhood's crime troubles. For example, they increased the number of surveillance cameras

decided it was time to do something about the wall. The college installed a wrought-iron fence along its edge to transform the wall from a spot to sit and hang out to a place where it was impossible to sit at all. The notorious pay phone was also removed, and almost overnight, "The Wall" ceased to be a problem.

But the commission's work really took off a year earlier after a conversation between Gatewood and Portland Police North Precinct Commander Mike Leloff. Impressed with the commission's efforts, Leloff decided

we're talking about safe pedestrian crossings. That's progress."

Going forward, the commission and the police bureau are focusing on broadening and strengthening the relationships that have developed in the neighborhood, and continuing the area's collaborative approach.

"Coming together as a community has improved our quality of life," Gatewood said. "This is a warmer and more welcoming neighborhood, and I couldn't be more proud."

*Abe Proctor is the community relations officer for Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.*

*At first we were spending time dealing with burglaries and assaults. Now we're talking about safe pedestrian crossings. That's progress.*

— Sgt. Mark Friedman, head of the street crime unit

along the campus' perimeter, and expanded this network to include new cameras on commercial buildings along Killingsworth. PCC Public Safety officers regularly share access to the camera network with the police bureau, and the surveillance footage has led directly to the apprehension of suspects.

Another example of the commission's work was "The Wall," an old concrete foundation along North Mississippi Street and adjacent to a campus parking lot. The wall was a notorious hangout and magnet for loitering, and a spot where drugs were frequently bought and sold. A public pay phone nearby provided a discreet link between dealers and customers.

Earlier this year, the commission

to step up the police bureau's commitment to the neighborhood. A dedicated street crime unit was created, and hit the streets in late 2011.

The new unit quickly made its presence felt, and let it be known that they weren't going anywhere. The first priority was "probable cause" arrests targeted at problem behaviors like public drunkenness and minors in possession of alcohol. Later, as the unit became a more familiar presence and the problem behaviors began to abate, enforcement took a back seat to efforts to establish and maintain relationships and partnerships with the community.

"At first we were spending time dealing with burglaries and assaults," said Sgt. Mark Friedman, head of the street crime unit. "Now

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