

SMILE Community Safety Committee
Minutes
10:00 AM - September 7, 2025 - Blue Kangaroo Coffee Roasters

Attendees: Grant Huling (Chair), Creed Bruce (Vice Chair), Aaron Friedman, Mike Dodge, Lance Goldenberg, Will Shepherd, Eric Cramer, Thavisha Tudawe, Patrick Brunette

The meeting took place at Blue Kangaroo Coffee Roasters on 13th and Lexington, but was as open to all comers as any Community Safety Committee (“CSC”) meeting. Minutes from the previous June “Sellwood Shine” graffiti clean-up-based meeting were distributed prior. There were four first-time attendees: Everyone introduced themselves and, if relevant, stated where they live and what safety concern had motivated their attendance.

The sole topic: Recurring complaints of drug use, camping, and volatile behavior at the intersection of SE Tacoma St. and SE 17th Ave (“the intersection”), and what the Community Safety Committee can do to help facilitate better outcomes. Grant noted that the CSC had flagged the intersection to its two Neighborhood Response Team (“NRT”) officers, Laura Frear and Joey Yoo, a year ago, and that the most recent concern brought to the CSC - a large cluster of tents near Mio Sushi - had been resolved a couple of weeks ago. There was consensus that issues facing this intersection warranted focused engagement by the CSC, across multiple months.

For the benefit of newer members, Grant provided an overview of the relevant available resources. The two primary resources CSC has relied on in these types of situations have been 1) its NRT officers and 2) the Portland Environment Management Office. He provided an overview of each, including how the CSC has utilized each with help on previous problems, including stubborn RV camping, camping and blight at Oaks Bottom, and loitering, drug use, and shoplifting at the Westmoreland QFC.

Grant focused on the precedent of the QFC, which he said seemed instructive to how to best approach the intersection. Creed described how he had engaged Justin Laney, the store’s manager, and had facilitated a PEMO site walk. From PEMO, QFC had learned and began utilizing its own rights regarding refusing bathroom service, requiring loitering to be further from the store, and had started doing what the Portland Police Bureau wants to see regarding documentation and pressing charges against shoplifters and other criminals. PEMO said it would add lights (though this has been delayed) on QFC’s trees and QFC showed a willingness to adjust its can return policy (something over which, with July 1, 2025 change to the Oregon Bottle Bill, businesses have more control). QFC added a security guard shortly after the PEMO walk – although an assault on a customer in the parking lot was the official cause given, the CSC and PEMO attention may have helped make that investment easier to justify. Grant said he was open

to other approaches at the intersection, but there was agreement with his suggestion that the key will be to first gain buy-in from the local business owners.

The group identified these businesses as the key stakeholders:

- 7-11
- CVS
- Mio Sushi
- Miller Paint lot (vacant lot, currently fenced and listed for sale or rent)
- Berie Lou's
- Jake's Place (previously noted as a site of outdoor drug-dealing)
- Food trucks north of 7-11
- Sellwood Center (Section 8 apartments seen as a source of issues; it also would have a private sector landlord who could be a partner)

Creed agreed he would reach out to the property owner or manager of the CVS and 7-11 locations (either can work). Patrick said he would reach out to the Miller Paint lot owner. The committee agreed that it will take awhile to engage all of the needed stakeholders. Grant said he would start an Intersection Task Group email chain with volunteers Creed, Patrick, Aaron, and Lance (since started). All agreed that adjustments will have to be made based on the level of interest or resistance experienced from different business owners.

Aaron described his underwhelming experiences with calling PPB. Several CSC members gave input on using PDXreporter.org and how reaching out to NRT officers has worked in the past. Grant said he would send to all listserv members a copy of the CSC-created City Safety Resources one-pager, the PDXreporter.org matrix used to score the severity of reported campers, and, if it could be located, a map indicating what streets are considered Safe Routes to School routes (since issues on these routes receive more engagement).

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place one month later, in October. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Draft

*Minutes to be approved at the next meeting of the Community Safety Committee,
taking place Sunday, October 18th at 10:00 AM at Blue Kangaroo*

Attachment A
Map of area discussed, for reference
(“The intersection”)

