

MEMORANDUM

To: Sgt. McGrath

From: Ofc. Sheley

Date: 2/2/18

Subject: Giving Heart

During the week of January 23, 2018, Impact Officers were assigned to look into the issue of Giving Heart at 4358 S Broadway. Business owners surrounding Giving Heart filed a complaint with the Englewood Police Department, regarding the criminal conduct of the patrons of Giving Heart. Complaints of loitering, trash, drug and alcohol use, and an assault, witnessed by the surrounding business employees. Neighboring businesses stated the criminal activity was rampant, and was driving away patrons to their business.

Impact Officers made contact with the surrounding business owners, including representatives of Giving Heart. Members of Giving Heart told us they have included mental health professionals to be onsite when there is a gathering. In addition, patrons are being monitored and if they have caused any sort of problem, being criminal activity, disruptive behavior, or being intoxicated, they will be removed from Giving Heart and banned from services. Giving Heart conducts weekly trash cleanups of the alley, spanning the 4300 Block Broadway / Lincoln alley. Giving Heart did acknowledge there were a few people that caused problems, but took care of the issue by internally banning those people from Giving Heart. It was discussed that members of Giving Heart had no idea their neighbors had complaints nor were included in an email chain of the neighboring businesses. Giving Heart stated they were open to any communication with the neighboring business owners.

Only two calls for service (CFS) were logged at Giving Heart in the last 6 months regarding transient issues. On 12/30/17, Giving Heart called EPD on an intoxicated male refusing to leave the property. On 1/22/18, Giving Heart called EPD on a male refusing to leave, after he had been late for pick up.

The surrounding business owners stated they have had issues with Giving Heart since they moved in. The complaints stemmed mainly from two business that were on either side of Giving Heart, but separated by some other business in between. The main complaints were for transients loitering on the sidewalk along the 4300 Block S Broadway in front of the businesses. These transients were seen allegedly drinking alcohol, doing drugs, and littering along the sidewalk and alleyway. The two business owners believed Giving Heart was doing nothing to address these issues. They believed Giving Heart should cease, and move away somewhere else and simply did not belong on

their block. The business owners believed they should move their charity to the surrounding churches in the neighborhood, or another location.

In an email, the owner of Gekko Vapes (4346 S Broadway) stated he had called the police department at least 100 times in regards to transients involved in criminal activity around his business. Looking into CFS, there hasn't been 100 CFS at that location, only 26 CFS in the last 6 months. 21 of the CFS were Parking Complaints, the rest audible alarms or animal calls. No CFS were created regarding transient issues. He also stated the vehicles creating the parking complaints, blocking his driveway, were by employees of Giving Heart. He stated the employees would park there intentionally blocking his driveway. When I ran the CFS and looked at each individual parking complaint. All but one was unfounded, or legally parked. One vehicle cited, was logged under case number 1710376 regarding Officer Castillo responding to a parking complaint. Originally the Officer observed the vehicle legally parked, but was called back later in the day and did cite a vehicle. Of all the vehicles called on for parking violations, not one vehicle was the same, not substantiating the claim Giving Heart employees are intentionally illegally parking in front of Gekko Vapes.

The owner at Dalkita Architecture (4370 S Broadway #B) also alleges he has made numerous police reports for the criminal activity of the transients. He also stated all of the business owners up and down the block have had problems with the transient issues and Giving Heart. I pulled the CFS for this location in the last 6 months, and only 4 calls were related to transients. On 8/7/17, there was a complaint to Code Enforcement for finding human feces on the premises. On 1/23/18, a complaint for two suspicious subjects walking down the sidewalk carrying marijuana bags. The responding Officer did not locate the subjects and cleared the call unable to locate. On 1/24/18, a complaint was filed in reference to an indecent exposure for a subject urinating in public. The responding Officer did not locate the subject and cleared with a case report.

Next door, 4370 S Broadway #A at the barbershop, an employee was assaulted by a patron of Giving Heart on 1/16/18. The patron, who had already been trespassed from Giving Heart for inappropriate behavior, was standing outside of the front door to the business. The employee of the barbershop asked the female to step away from the entrance, and the female yelled at the employee and assaulted her.

I pulled the CFS for each individual address on the eastside of the block, to include the entire 4300 Block S Broadway for a 6-month period. Outside of the CFS at 4346, 4356 and 4370 S Broadway, only 3 CFS were related to transients. The first CFS was on 8/5/17 at 4328 S Broadway for a welfare check. A female was intoxicated and had lacerations on her wrists. The female locked herself in the bathroom at this location and PD, FD arrived. The female was taken to the hospital. The second and third CFS were not tied to an address, but were in the 4300 Block S Broadway. On 9/7/17, Impact Officers cited a subject for a liquor violation. On 12/30/17, Officers were dispatched for 3 intoxicated people in the area, but Officers were unable to locate the subjects. In total, only 9 CFS have been reported involving transients in the area.

The week of January 23rd and the following week, Impact Officers spent a large portion of the day saturating this block. Officers utilized plain clothes and unmarked vehicles, along with uniform and marked vehicles in the area. Officers also spent times on foot walking the block and in the alley. Officers did not observe any criminal violations, nor did we observe any transients loitering around Giving Heart, or on the block. Officers did observe many cars coming and going from the block, with subjects going to Nature's Kiss. Officers did observe a few parking violations in front of Gekko Vapes, however the drivers of the vehicles who got out, came to and from Nature's Kiss.

From my observations, I conclude there is no evidence to substantiate the claim of criminal activity due to Giving Heart being located in this block. Nor is their evidence showing Giving Heart to be deemed a nuisance property. Giving Heart has taken the necessary steps to avoid any issues that may arise, by calling Police when there is a problem, or by banning subjects from receiving their services. I believe the best steps forward, is for the businesses along this block to reach out to Giving Heart and work towards a goal that both sides can agree upon.