

plan. "Be gentle, after all, we're conducting a funeral here," Petris said in on his bill.

The Mall's Big Problem Isn't Unique

By BILL NEUBAUER
Sentinel Staff Writer

Yes . . . the city's downtown area has a big law enforcement problem.

No . . . the Pacific Avenue Garden Mall area can't claim to be the only city area where that big law enforcement problem exists.

But police statistics concerned with law enforcement problems in the mall area support contentions by Citizens Worried About Downtown that the area has big problems involving purse snatching, panhandling, fistfights, drunkenness, trashing and verbal abuse.

In quarter zones 9-1 and 9-3, which include the mall area, the various problems totaled to 169 in August, 142 in July, 152 in June.

These problems, or calls for service from the officer on the beat, involve only those either observed or routed through the officer, according to Officer R.E. Damon of the city's Crime Awareness Prevention program.

Other complaints are received, according to Officer Pat Walsh, who patrols the mall, but in many cases a person who is panhandled or otherwise harassed will just gripe but refuse to take any action against an offender.

For the first half of 1977, the police record shows, there were 871 calls for service, or problems, logged for quarter zone 9-1 and 1,645 for quarter zone 9-3.

In 1976 the totals came to 1,750 for quarter zone 9-1 and 2,501 for quarter zone 9-3.

In 1975 the totals were 1,700 for quarter zone 9-1 and 1,977 for quarter zone 9-3.

How do these statistics compare with the beach area, another big problem area in the city?

The four beach area quarter zones totaled 3,794 service calls or problems in 1976, compared with 4,261 for just the two quarter zones covering the mall area.

Damon stressed that the statistics are not "pure" in the sense that every incident is specifically on the Pacific Avenue Garden Mall itself, for the quarter zones overlap some downtown areas, including San Lorenzo Park.

Walsh told The Sentinel this morning that wherever large numbers of businesses and people are concentrated there are bound to be more law enforcement problems than in other areas.

In the Circles area, for instance, there were only 1,344 problems recorded for 1976, contrasted with 5,978 recorded for all four subzones in Zone 9, the mall-downtown area.

Walsh elaborated: "If you have a popular area like the mall that attracts different groups or types of people you will get offenders in all the groups, not in just one or the other. If there is more of one group than another, you may get more offenders in that group just because there are more of them."

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"This bill reasonable tax shift," said S kmejjan, R-L But Petris mulars giving a low-income ta Californians \$42,500 annual rebates.

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The Mall's Big Problem Isn't Unique

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Walsh stressed that offenders on the mall come in all sizes, ages, colors and represent all types of lifestyles.

"The mall with its shops and plantings and music and friendliness attracts people of all sorts," he said.

Reports of women being harassed do reach him via husbands, boyfriends and business people, usually angry and demanding that something be done.

"But a big problem about the law problems is that many of the people who complain to me don't want to get involved, don't want to go to court, are afraid in one way or another," Walsh stated.

"If people want to protect themselves they do have to get involved," Damon added. "We hear about many problems people have on the mall whenever we get together at community meetings to talk about the city's Crime Awareness Prevention program. It isn't enough just to complain to the police. Victims have to get further involved, follow through."

The Citizens Worried About Downtown have a petition drive going to get signatures of all persons interested in helping to persuade the Santa Cruz City Council to authorize more police coverage on the mall to eliminate offenders against the established city laws and regulations.

The group has pledged there will be no "witch hunt," that it is concerned to prevent law violations only so that people who shop or wander around the mall and the downtown area may do so safely and without harassment.

In the past three months in the two subzones covering the mall area there were 62 re-

ported shoplifts, 10 reported panhandlings, three purse snatches, 71 disturbances, 82 drunkennesses, 16 narcotics violations, 29 thefts, 14 mental cases, 24 burglaries, 13 malicious mischiefs, 16 drunken drivers, 7 auto thefts, 51 violations of the municipal code, among other offenses, police records show.

In 1976 the police logged 23,332 "incidents" throughout the city. The two subzones covering the mall accounted for accounted for 4,261 of these or over 18 per cent.

Colonna C Politics; Q

FROM PAGE 1

Liddicoat stepped right up to get in her say. She commented that Colonna "right now is under investigation by the county grand jury." She added her belief that he resigned because "those higher up in the Democratic party have told him to ... and because he hoped that by resigning the investigation would cease."

A source close to the grand jury refused to either confirm or deny that an investigation of Colonna is under way.

Colonna, meanwhile, lashed out at Liddicoat, saying "I've heard rumors that I am being investigated regarding my appointment to the assessment appeals board, but I have heard nothing from them. If they are investigating me and my background, you would think that they would want me to testify. "She (Liddicoat) is implying that she has privileged in-