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**Subject:** Pride Cleanup: notes for next year

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All,

Below are my observations from this years Pride cleanup. They are not intended for discussion now. I suggest filing them away and bringing them out at the next March steering meeting (or no later than April). They should be used to open a discussion on what we'll do next year.

I've always been a big believer in "Immer Besser" (Always Better). The German system for continuous improvement. We did an excellent job this year. That doesn't mean we can't do better next year. We can make it easier for all of us if we pay attention to the details. Small improvements and changes in what we do every year add up. It's what made Germany an industrial powerhouse. It can make us better too.

#### 1. Boxes

All the extra boxes were a good idea. As expected there was no difference between trash and recycle material in the boxes. The extra box at each site just meant extra capacity. Not a single box was found overflowing with trash this year.

Monitoring 200+- trash cans and boxes took more time but that was more than offset by the lack of need to transport trash to dumpsters.

We can do better with placement:

Along Sixth Ave we should match our box placement with every crosswalk and crossing point from the Park. I placed a few of the extra boxes, or moved a few underutilized boxes, to these crossings. They all quickly saw use.

As a general rule we should place boxes at all signals and stop signs along 5th & 6th. When people stop before crossing they use the time to dump trash. If there's not a box or can where they're standing they'll hold it until they get to the other side, but only if they see a box or can there. (I've watched this behavior). If it doesn't end up in a box or can as they walk it might end up in the street when they reach their car.

I also noticed full trash bags, and some overflow trash, from cans at City bus stops. We might want add a box to those locations.

We should place more boxes along upper Sixth next year. Everyone walks behind the parade to the festival on Saturday. Then they all walk back to Hillcrest, mostly along Sixth, that evening. Boxes fill all along that route. This parade walk doesn't repeat on Sunday. People mostly drive to the festival and park in our neighborhood on Sunday.

We should place more boxes along Laurel, Juniper and nearby streets. Many more are needed along Laurel. This year the non-Pride food vendors were located outside the festival at Balboa drive and Laurel. This is a big trash generator as people buy food there and then walk into our neighborhood. I recommend doubling up cans on both sides of Laurel at sixth. The Laurel street sidewalk gets progressively crowded with obstacles as it goes deeper in the neighborhood. Adding more boxes may be difficult but should be tried.

#### 2. Tape

It was a good idea to provide tape. Overall volunteers did a much better job with the liners this year compared to past events.

Providing tape made the difference. We could do a better job instructing our volunteers. This should be done when boxes are picked up. We should have an example set up to show them. We should also give them instructions on how to properly tape boxes together and how to properly secure a bag.

#### 3. Rocks

If they have to be used they have to be BIG and HEAVY! I received calls from several volunteers about boxes being blown over Friday. (Empty boxes tip easy). Some people had added small rocks and stones to the boxes. This won't work at all if it's windy. we'll need to tie box sets to poles with tape or use large rocks to prevent tipping. Maybe we should have a supply of cobblestones available at the pickup spot for volunteers to take at setup time. (Note: the only thing Pride didn't pick up when they made their final sweep were the rocks that fell out of the bottom as they removed the boxes and trash. I went back through and removed the rocks from the lawns and gutters where they were left.

#### 4. Bags

We should give more trash bags out with the boxes. Especially the small black bags. About half the small trash boxes I pulled bags from didn't have an extra bag at the bottom. How'd that happen? Some might have been emptied prior to my arrival by our volunteers. Or perhaps volunteers kept a few of the bags we gave them for home use. We should instruct placing two bags in the bottom of the smaller trash boxes instead of one. Pride could easily supply us another box of bags Then we'd have plenty of extras to give our volunteers.

Bags should be pulled from boxes when they're one third to half full. This allows for them to be easily tied and transported. It's also the

Bags should be paired from boxes when they're one third to half full. This allows for them to be easily tied and transported. It's also the amount that's easily stuffed into a remote permanent City can. (See note below)

Roving Volunteers can be instructed pull bags, tie them, and leave them next to a box. These can easily be picked up and moved later.

This year I moved full bags on Friday & Saturday to City cans, or in some cases, underutilized boxes deeper in the neighborhood. This was much easier than using the truck to transport them to a Pride dumpster.

Note: this year the dumpsters outside the festival area were cordoned off 24/7 from vehicles. That will be a big problem if Pride doesn't commit to picking up all the boxes at the end of the event next year. Getting their commitment to do this again should be a top priority.

#### 5. Volunteers

We had a good turnout of roving volunteers over the weekend. I was out for several hours every morning and again every evening. Every single time I was out I saw at least one or more volunteers picking up trash. However we need to better control their enthusiasm. I know of at least three instances when our volunteers crossed 6th and picked up and or pulled full bags from Pride boxes inside the Park! This represents a failure on our part to properly instruct them. Perhaps a map similar to our box map for "roving sections" that can be adopted by volunteers would help.

#### 6. Pride placing & picking up boxes.

Pride placed about 40 boxes independent of our placement. Only about half ended up where we asked them to be placed. Most had a bag inserted but many didn't. Those that did have bags weren't taped or otherwise secured. This was easy to remedy. Even without moving any of these boxes to where we thought they should be they all collected a fair amount of trash. More importantly they were a valuable resource when it came time to relocate trash from other cans. We should definitely ask for Pride to do this again next year.

We only had two community members show up for the Monday morning final sweep. We've got to do better. If the volunteers from the elected officials hadn't shown I don't know what we would have done. Perhaps a later start time or an extra incentive would work? This will need attention next year.

Due to the erratic box placement by Pride I decided to consolidate all the scattered boxes into easily seen corner locations along 4th 5th & 6th. This way they could be easily found and picked up by Pride on Monday. (If they couldn't follow our map to place them what would the result be if they tried to use it again to find and pick all of them up!) The consolidation worked perfectly. They didn't miss one box and didn't leave one scrap of trash behind. (Only rocks). Kudos to Pride for this! As a result not one trip to a dumpster was needed this year! That's a good deal for us. We need to do this again.

#### 7. Incentives

In previous years we've always bought T-shirt to give to our volunteers. We have the last of our supply out this year. Do we still want to do this? There was quite a bit of interest in getting free entry to Pride, a \$35 dollar value, this year. It surprised me. I didn't think our volunteer demographic would be interested. How wrong I was. Perhaps free Pride entry is enough?

Final note:

I logged 48 miles on my bike this year. Only 9 in the truck. Last time it was more truck time, about 25 miles, and far less time on the bike.

Last time we had less than 50 boxes and cans to monitor. The truck time then was me moving trash to a dumpster. Not needing to do that this year meant the truck really wasn't needed at all! I only used it midday on Monday to make a final inspection of Pride's pick up. That could have been done on the bike too but it was hot and I was tired.

All of this years travel was spent monitoring trash cans. I can't imagine doing this successfully on foot or with a four wheeled vehicle. Knowledge gained about how cans and boxes were used this year should lead to a significant reduction in the need for travel next year.