

Numbers Can Translate into Cost Savings

1000 words

Rauf Bolden

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“I never met a number I didn’t like,” he said.

Big-Data crunches numbers or should I say sorts the numbers, specifically arranged into results by algorithms, suggesting choices for decision-makers. Benefits and salaries are the biggest driver, pushing costs up exponentially for local governments.

The human equation has incalculable variables, perhaps resolution based on numbers alone, inviting the question: can data factor in employee value and customer satisfaction?

Managers are charged with being cost conscious, spread-sheeting the numbers, putting government policy first, disregarding the impact on their employees until his or her findings are pushed up the ladder for Senior Management to review.

Numbers tell a linear story, needing to address quantifiable elements like sequence, time and date of calls for Fire and Police, knowing that all departments have a cost-per-customer-interaction ratio. The faster incidents are resolved, escalating efficiencies follow, raising the level of customer service.

“What is a world ruled by numbers and logic?” I asked myself.

The human equation needs numbers. Interpreted in a logical way to balance the profit and loss column, enabling people to make a living wage, sustaining the greater good for local governments. We need the facility of numbers, interpreted as a cost to survive, organized into communities, keeping civil society alive and communities safe.

I digress. A single mother trying to feed her household, working a job, counting on her benefits and salary to provide for her family, trying to avoid re-cycling the cycle of human despair through her work ethic. The numbers tell us this is an ongoing statistic, having made some bad choices, generating comments about why she is in this situation, asking ourselves do human beings have an inalienable right to decent housing, fresh water, food and health care?

The numbers will say, “The financial question has nothing to do with the ideological question of social justice, paying for social-experiments does not make fiscal sense, as Finland is doing: <http://www.businessinsider.com/finland-launches-basic-income-experiment-2016-12>.”

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I shall now humbly propose balance. Local Governments may have a dialogue with their employees, crafting directives to reduce costs, paying attention to little details like using both sides of the paper when printing, turning the lights off when you leave the tennis courts, changing the thermostats when the building is not occupied. Balance happens when local governments embrace the idea of educating their employees, publishing policies that promote team savings, making numbers work for both parties and save a few jobs along the way.

Addendum

Executive Summary - Orange Beach Fact Sheet for 2016

Resident Population

Orange Beach enjoys a small-resident population of 5850 in 2015.

Health Care Facilities (6)

South Baldwin Hospital in Foley
Med-Star Ambulance Service with Helicopter
Orange Beach Medical Center
Orange Beach Walk-In Care
American Urgent Care
Southern Rapid Urgent Care

Public Safety

Police: 56 Police Officers, 3 Part-Time Officers, 1 Animal Control, 3 Support Techs

Total Calls for service: 2015 - 12,823, 2016 - 17,089

Total Traffic Stops: 2015 - 765, 2016 - 1,289

Total DUIs: 2015 - 95, 2016 - 64

Total Speeding: 2015 - 245, 2016 - 406

Total Accidents: 2015 - 636, 2016 - 668

Total Drug Arrests: 2015 - 83, 2016 - 180

Fire: 47 Fire Fighters doubling as EMTs or Paramedics, 8 Part-Time Fire Fighters and 14 Residents

Total Calls: 2,850 Calls, of those 1,690 were medical. No way to determine what calls occurred on the beach because the zones are geographically divided so the condos and the north side of the beach road would be included.

City Council

Total Resolutions passed: 203

Total Ordinances passed: 26

Transportation Overview - Vehicles per hour estimate

Foley Beach Express (Summer): 1888 per hour

Loop Road (Summer - SR182): 2580 per hour

Adventure Island (Summer - SR182): 2320 per hour

Public (Summer - SR182): 2688 per hour

Main Street Wharf (Summer - SR182): 1980 per hour

Ono Island Bridge (Summer): 1804 per hour

Marina Road (Summer - SR161): 2504 per hour

Beach Road Widening Information: SR182.COM

Community Development

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Total Building Permits was 1599.

Finance Department

Total Business Licenses was 11,337.

Elections

Voters in November 8, 2016 General Election was 4360.

Public WiFi (FREE): City Hall, Community Development, Bradley Center, Recreation Center, Tennis Center, Aquatics Center, Art Center, Waterfront Park, Sail Camp, Library, Senior Center, Golf Center, Sportsplex, Events Center

School-System Enrollment (BCBE)

Orange Beach Elementary: 456

Gulf Shores Elementary (Title 1): 1027

Gulf Shores Middle School: 413

Gulf Shores High School: 844

Library (Books Checked Out)

Total Adult was 47,697

Total Children was 17,416

Beach Ambassadors

Public Interactions: 51,124

Promotional Items Distributed: 20,439

Glass Warnings Issued: 3322

Tent Warnings Issued: 3285

Tents Tagged: 886

Hole Warnings: 1378

Holes Filled: 2170

Trash Warnings: 485

Trash Bags Distributed: 5689

Law Enforcement Requests: 46

Fire/EMS/Rescue Requests: 14

Dog Issues/Encounters: 157

Wildlife Related Incidents: 88

Metal Shovel Warnings: 71

Parks and Recreation - Art Center

After School Arts Program, 4 classes (12 weeks each) - 100 participants

Adult Art Education, 6 classes - 80 participants

Hot Glass, 200 classes - 500 people

Clay, 125 classes - 300 people

Summer camp, 2 camps - 100 kids

Numbers should be similar for 2017.

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Parks and Recreation - Aquatics Center

Total Visitors including recurring: 7,431.

Parks and Recreation - Camp Sunshine

Total in Main Building and Portable is 100 - 150 children year round

Parks and Recreation - Event Center

Total Events: 83

Total Attendees: 69,310

Parks and Recreation - Golf Center

Total N/A

Parks and Recreation - Recreation Center

Total Visitors including recurring: 84,260.

Parks and Recreation - Sail Camp

Total Students was 300.

Parks and Recreation - Senior Center

Total N/A

Parks and Recreation - Sportsplex

Total Events was 61, not including our youth-recreation sports or GSHS soccer games.

Parks and Recreation - Tennis Center

Total Visitors including recurring: 6,996.