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# Bogus Boston Strong T-shirts seized outside show

By Matt Rocheleau | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT JUNE 04, 2013

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City officials said they confiscated hundreds of Boston Strong T-shirts from about a half-dozen vendors who were selling the apparel without proper permits and probably with no intention of donating the proceeds to charity, outside the star-studded benefit concert for Boston Marathon bombing victims Thursday night.

“A lot of people come in from out of town, and they don’t realize it’s counterfeit and that the money isn’t going to the One Fund,” said Michael Mackan, chief of the Code Enforcement Division of the Inspectional Services Department.

Shirts, apparel, and other goods can be sold on streets within Boston proper, but only if a vendor has secured a city permit to peddle and complies with rules that come with the permit, including setting up shop only between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

The time restrictions are intended to protect brick-and-mortar vendors.

Most of the shirt-selling crews city officials shut down Thursday were from New York, did not have permits, and were selling exact replicas of special Boston Strong shirts being sold at the concert.

Concert proceeds were donated to the One Fund to support bombing victims.

“If the deal’s too good, there’s usually a reason for that,” said Mackan, citing how many of the illicit shirts cost \$10 each or less and are often made of cheap material that wears easily.

When city officials approached the groups outside the arena Thursday, many “dropped the shirts and ran,” Mackan said.

He said city officials recognized the crews.

“It used to happen before, whenever Boston would play New York,” there would be unlicensed curbside apparel sales outside Fenway Park, TD Garden, and other areas in the city, Mackan said.

“We had cleaned that up, and we hadn’t seen them here since 2007,” around when the Red Sox won the World Series, he said.

No arrests were made and no fines were issued, city officials said.

Two local vendors who had permits were cited for selling shirts before 8 p.m.

*Matt Rocheleau can be reached [mjrochele@gmail.com](mailto:mjrochele@gmail.com).*

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