

NORTH PRECINCT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Expanding Communication Between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2011

Recorded by Bill Doell

The monthly North Precinct Advisory Council meeting for April began at 7:00 p.m., with Curtis Gehrke, presiding.

- I. Special Presentation Speaker: Mimi Walsh, Strategic Advisor, Policy and Planning, Seattle Police Department, with Mary McGuire Data and Survey Specialist.

The Neighborhood Viewpoint Project and Neighborhood Policing Plan are aimed at reducing fear of crime and developing proactive communities. Police officers are being scheduled to have time to interact with the communities and talk with the business owners and homeowners to see what their concerns really are. If there is a fear of crime, or an area conducive to crime, they want to know before the crime actually happens. Often modifying behavior can change effects in neighborhoods.

There is a need to go beyond the crime statistics and talk with the neighbors to see what has happened and perhaps not reported or a similar crime happened some time ago and is now being repeated.

They have surveyed several neighborhoods and are going over the statistics as well as the one-on-one interviews to form a clearer picture of each area. The goal is to attack problems before they are critical. Many communities perceive a problem before the crime occurs.

In the overall survey the North Precinct people are stars. Two pilot programs: Licton Springs and Green Lake have been completed and other neighborhoods will follow. People living in the North End are 16-year residents on average while in other parts of Seattle, they average 12 years. Crime importance varies between residents, such as traffic, arson, robbery. Less than half of the crimes committed caused fearfulness.

The primary information source is neighbors or friends. New communication methods include blogs, twitter, face book, and local newspapers, plus block watches. Many think more police officers would improve the neighborhoods, while others think the status quo is just fine.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a concept where changes in lighting, traffic patterns, clearing of shrubbery, and more open space have cut crimes. Fear of crime is different by age groups. Older people can perceive changes faster than younger groups. Old time residents “sentinels” and businesspeople have seen similar changes and can relate to possible crimes. Overall people appreciate the police officers and the way they do their jobs. We are fortunate that we have the BEST.

II. Precinct Update: Captain Robin Clark/Lieutenant Ken Hicks/Sergeant Diane Newsom.

Lieutenant Hicks reported that vice arrests have been made on Aurora, stolen bicycles, narcotic arrests made. Mid-March there was an increase in burglaries. Using a team concept and anticrime scene work, and using the Prosecutor’s Office are all driving the crime rate down. Burglaries are less than in 2010. Auto thefts are the lowest in three to four years, thanks to the team effort. More evidence is gathered, including fingerprints. There were nine individuals arrested for burglary (six lived in the North End).

Sergeant Newsom reported the problem motel on Aurora is in receivership and should soon be closed. Officer Dave Gordon was introduced to the group.

III. City Attorney’s Office: Craig Simms.

Craig Simms, liaison officer, reported the attorney for the North Precinct has not yet been funded.

There are 30 marijuana dispensaries in Seattle which will be regulated by the authorities. Any problems, call the Prosecutor’s Office at 206.684.7771.

IV. Liquor Control Board: Judy Lewis.

There is a Chronic Public Inebriate (CPI) problem in the Greenwood area. Call Judy Lewis at 206.491.2282. No public drinking is allowed.

V. Jeff Sergeant.

There has been an extra emphasis on Aurora motels. Arrests have been made.

VI. Committee Reports.

Issues: Doug Thiel. Guest speakers are lined up for the next several months. We will have confirmations soon.

VII. Membership.

Dick Hillmann – Please give Dick any roster changes.

VIII. Old Business.

July Picnic: See Sergeant Newsom to reserve a table for your group.

IX. New Business.

Pete Rogerson reported on Protection of Felons in finding work and lodging.
Precinct Support Rally on April 20th at the Precinct from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
New Mayor's Office Survey will be available online.

X. Next Month's Agenda.

City Councilmember Tim Burgess.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.