

## NORTH PRECINCT ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Expanding Communication Between the Police and Community

#### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2009

Recorded by William Murray

The monthly North Precinct Advisory Council meeting for December began at 7:03 p.m., with Jack Heavner, presiding.

#### I. Special Presentation Speaker: Office of Professional Accountability Review Board.

Pat Sanesbury Chairman, Martha Norberg and David Wilma spoke about the Office of Professional Accountability Review Board at the January NPAC meeting. The Office of Professional Accountability Review Board was created in response to concerns from various segments of the community. Seattle City Council passed an ordinance in 1999 creating the Office of Professional Accountability. The office has three parts: the Director (a civilian who reports to the Chief of Police); the Auditor (an independent contractor, appointed by the Mayor, who audits all complaints); and the Review Board, established in May 2002.

The OPA Board is made up of three citizens appointed by City Council. A City Council ordinance increased the Board from three to seven members who are paid \$400.00 a month and tasked with increasing community input/outreach. The Board is still organizing having been together four months.

What the Review Board will do: Our primary task is to oversee the way the OPA handles citizen complaints against Seattle police officers. We review completed OPA investigations as well as OPA Auditor reports. We report periodically to City Council and advise Seattle officials on policies and procedures to strengthen the police accountability system. <http://www.seattle.gov/council/oparb/>

#### II. Precinct Update: Captain Mike Washburn/Lieutenant Robin Clark/Sergeant Diane Newsom.

On December 14, 2008, at 1500 hours, in the Blue Ridge neighborhood a North Precinct officer was assisting a van driver whose van had slid into a ditch along a steep section of roadway in heavy snow and ice. A bystander hollered 'lookout' as an uphill vehicle slid uncontrollably towards the officer who jumped out of the path of the sliding

vehicle injuring his shoulder. The officer was off duty for one week, but fortunately escaped much more serious injuries.

On December 21, 2008, at 6:20 p.m., officers responded to the area of Northeast 45<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Northeast regarding a car/sledder accident. The investigation showed that a 16-year-old driver was struck by an errant teenaged sledder who glanced off the bumper of the oncoming vehicle at the hillcrest. Speed estimates were minimal. The sledder was treated at the scene by Seattle Fire and transported to an area hospital. The victim suffered a contusion to the head and probable broken hip. She was listed in stable condition with non-life threatening injuries.

SPD Blotter: In December a North Precinct officer contacted a male with felony warrants on University Way and held the male at gunpoint. The girlfriend of the wanted felon then began kicking the officer and in the ensuing fight the officer's weapon was loose on the sidewalk. The girlfriend was arrested and the wanted felon escaped to later be arrested in California.

On January 1, 2009 at 1:55 a.m., officers responded to 911 calls of shots being fired by a group of males in an alley west of the 5200 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast. The suspects were reported to be armed with rifles and/or shotguns and wearing military clothing. Uniformed officers arrived on scene and were confronted by an adult male suspect who was armed with a rifle. Officers identified themselves and ordered the suspect to drop the rifle. The suspect failed to comply. The suspect pointed the rifle at the officers at which time the officers shot him. The suspect was transported to an area hospital where he later died. There were no officers or civilians injured during the incident. Homicide and CSI detectives responded to the scene and continue to actively investigate.

SPD Blotter: Sergeant Newsom reported that the Greenwood Boys and Girls Club, as well as the Transitional Women's Shelter, were grateful for the socks, hats and food donated at the December NPAC meeting. Sergeant Newsom also mentioned her upcoming trip to Washington DC to provide a security detail for the Presidential Inauguration on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### III. Crime Prevention Report: Diane Horswill and Neil Hansen.

Diane Horswill reported that the number of car prowls had increased in the Fremont and Wallingford neighborhoods. Neighbors should not hesitate to report suspicious behavior. Neighbors have also noticed suspicious footprints in snowy backyards which could be evidence of house burglars casing out properties. Neil Hansen reported that the mid-year crime statistics are now available at [www.seattle.gov/police](http://www.seattle.gov/police).

IV. City Attorney's Office: Ed McKenna.

Ed McKenna reported that a Washington State Liquor Control Board Press release mentioned a marked increase in the sales of spirits. The Seattle area is ranked third in the Country for sales of spirits per capita (one spirit license per 700 persons) and sales increased 50% last year and are projected to increase 60% in 2009. Despite such an increase in liquor sales and the associated problems, requests for additional Liquor Control Agents from the State have been denied.

V. King County Prosecutor's Office: Corinn Bohn.

Officer Corinn Bohn reported that the robbery case involving a Somali teenager in the University District will now be going to trial in Judge Laura Inveen's court.

VI. Committee Reports.

- a. Membership: Dick Hillmann – please give Dick any roster changes.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.