



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

January 2, 2013

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

The monthly NPAC Meeting began at 7:02 p.m., with Ruedi Risler presiding.

Topics covered:

I. Special Presentation Speaker: Detective Donna O'Neal, SPD Arson/Bomb Squad

a. Arson/Bomb Squad has six detectives and two sergeants. All are bomb technicians; a minimum of two officers are sent out on each call. It is not tied to a precinct; located in SODO.

b. Major activities include:

- Investigate arson or suspicious fires. Seattle Fire Dept gets first calls for fires, and investigates cause of fires, but calls Arson/Bomb Squad to investigate arsons.
- Deal with suspicious or abandoned packages (about 200 a year)
- Bomb threats (not many in Seattle)
- Investigate manufacturing explosions
- Post-blast investigations (such as mailboxes blown up)
- Deal with military ordnance found, such as in homes relatives are cleaning out; ammunition greater than 50 caliber; fireworks over five pounds

c. Training includes haz-mat, arson and bomb schools.

d. Officer Craig Williamson introduced us to Dennis, the bomb dog, and demonstrated the dog's ability to sniff out a bag of gunpowder. When Dennis smells one of 19,000 scents he's trained on (in 6 categories) he sits and looks at Craig for food. Craig gives him a couple pieces of kibble. This reward system results in Dennis getting all his food by dribs and drabs; no bowl of crunchies in the morning for him. Some of Dennis's duties include:

- Bomb sweeps at hotels and venues prior to a dignitary's arrival
- Bomb sweeps prior to sports events such as football and baseball
- Crime scene searches for guns and/or shell casings
- Post-bomb searches for fragments so detectives can reconstruct the bomb
- Aid King and Pierce County police departments as requested
- Aid ATF on a national level if required (ATF gave Dennis to SPD)

e. Detective Marty Heuchert demonstrated a 70 pound Talon robot named Wall-e.

- It is used to get close to suspicious objects or bombs. Can pick up objects and put in a Kevlar bag or a Total Containment Vessel to take somewhere else to

blow up. They use a smaller (and less destructive) charge to break up and render a bomb useless than the bomb itself would potentially be.

- Has four camera views on the operator's console. It can x-ray an object. To enhance depth perception, two robots are often used in tandem.
- Robot is radio controlled and also can use fiber optic cable.
- We were also shown a bomb suit officers use when they have to get close to an object. It weighs 90 pounds and has a fan inside to cool the person and to keep the faceplate clear.

II. Precinct Update: Capt. Robin Clark/Lt. Ron Rasmussen

- a. December was pretty quiet. There was that Wells Fargo robbery on Aurora. Bomb squad was called. Suspect was arrested farther north when his car overturned on his getaway.
- b. After the Newtown, Conn elementary school shootings, SPD officers went out to schools in their precincts to help foster peace of mind. SPD does training for events such as that.
- b. New Year's Eve was quiet in the North Precinct. There were a few burglaries New Year's Day.

III. Crime Prevention Report: Terrie Johnston

- a. Many schools called SPD to have them review their school layouts and disaster plans after the Newtown shootings.
- b. Residential burglaries are still happening. Three of the five New Year's Day burglaries were through unlocked doors and windows. Please lock up if you want to deter these crimes.
- c. A seasonal men's shelter opened in Phinney Ridge across from the zoo. It will operate until March 15th. Volunteers are needed. For more information, see <http://emmanuelphinneyridge.org/mens-shelter/>

IV. City Attorney's Office: Jana Jorgensen

- a. Referring to last month's report on the Orion Motel nuisance project, Jana reported that the owner signed the corrective agreement, which gives him six months to make improvements. Follow-up visits to the motel showed improvement already.

V. King County Prosecutor's Office – Deputy Prosecutor - no report

VI. Department of Corrections: Randy Maxwell

- a. Randy, Jeff Sargent's new partner, introduced himself. Having nothing special to report, he asked for questions, but we had none.

VII. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom

- a. Dianne thanked us for our holiday sock donations. She delivered the scarves, hats and gloves to Solid Ground before Christmas. She has yet to dispense the socks (see #c below).
- b. The memorial service for our former secretary, Bill Doell, is this Sunday, January 6th, 1 pm at University Masonic Lodge, 4338 University Way NE. All are invited.

- c. Bill Doell's wife, Karen, donated \$2,000 for socks, so Bill again this year donated the most socks! Dianne will shop for them this week.
- d. Aurora House, a new facility with 87 studio apartments, is opening at 10507 Aurora Ave N for men and women who have been chronically homeless, disabled and vulnerable. Its grand opening celebration will be soon. For more information, see http://www.desc.org/aurora_house.html
- e. See updated North Precinct Community Police Team contact sheet, attached.

VIII. Liquor Control Board: Judy Lewis

- a. LCB conducted twenty under-age compliance checks last week, using a 16 year old girl to try to buy liquor. Six sales occurred. Tsk tsk..
- b. LCB is working on setting up procedures for legalized marijuana in Washington. The Federal Government is planning to issue guidelines for the state, too.
- c. No further news on liquor thefts in stores now that it is privatized, but there are cases of people buying large quantities of liquor from Oregon to avoid the new taxes.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Issues: Doug Thiel - no report
- b. Membership: Dick Hillmann—please give Dick any roster changes.

X. Old Business - none

XI. New Business - none

XII. Next Month's Agenda

- a. Guest speaker: Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata

XIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.