



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2013

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

The monthly NPAC Meeting began at 7:00 p.m., with Ruedi Risler presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Chief Criminal Deputy Mark Larson, King County Prosecutor's Office
 - a. KC Prosecutor's Office has two divisions: civil and criminal.
 - b. In the criminal division, it handles misdemeanors in unincorporated KC, but the primary focus is on KC felony cases.
 - c. There are 125 lawyers in the office, and a 24-hour squad for responding to homicides.
 - d. It handles domestic violence, economic crimes (theft, fraud), drugs, sexually violent predators, juvenile crime and more.
 - e. In 2012 it handled 8000 felony crimes, 6000 misdemeanors and 2000 juvenile crimes.
 - f. Since 1990, crime in KC has decreased 46%. Prison population, on the other hand, has gone from 6040 to 18000, of which 70% is violent offences, 18% is property offences and 9% is drug offences.
 - g. In 2001-2 there were 60,000 people on probation in Washington. In 2013 there were 16,000 and the number continues to fall. Focus has switched to most serious offenders.
 - h. Re: drugs, in the 1990s through 2000s, the push was for prosecuting drug offences. Theoretically it was a three-pronged approach - education, prosecution and rehabilitation, and but in fact the focus was on prosecution and it wasn't working well.
 - i. Now other approaches are being used, such as
 - i. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program in Belltown, which lets police take open air drug market offenders (who agree to go) to a place to get social services instead of prosecuting them.
 - ii. Drug Court, where offenders contract to go through a 2 year program that includes social services.
 - iii. The recent U District project to offer drug dealers at U Way & NE 47th St a contract promising they will stop selling around there in exchange for not being arrested. If they break the contract they will be arrested for any new offences.
 - j. Drug addiction and mental illness are large problems in the homeless population.

Funding is currently shrinking for mental health care. North Precinct does focus a lot of resources on these issues, such as giving officers training in handling mental illness, drug and alcohol problems.

- k. Crisis Solution Center is a place for police and other first responders to take people who are in crisis and might otherwise receive no help, or be taken to jail or a hospital emergency department. The goal of the CSC is to reduce unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice and emergency medical systems. It's a great tool for low-level crime by the mentally ill.
 - l. Mental Health Court (different than Seattle's) creates a custom plan for treatment of some mentally ill offenders. About 300 cycle though.
 - m. Update on juveniles and guns - bill not voted on yet. It would allow juveniles convicted twice of possessing a gun to go to JRA instead of having to wait until the fifth conviction.
2. Precinct Update: Capt. Robin Clark/Lt. Ron Rasmussen
- a. Captain Clark has accepted a new position, Acting Assistant Chief to Special Operations Bureau starting in mid-June. Congratulations! She said she has enjoyed her nearly-four years in the North Precinct, and thanked NPAC for all the help the community has given the police, calling in robberies, suspicious persons, etc. A cupcake cake was presented to her, which she shared with us. The new NP captain has not been announced yet.
 - b. Currently there is an uptick in shootings in the north end, especially on the weekends. Aurora, Golden Gardens and Lake City were mentioned. Some suspects are in custody and some have not yet been apprehended.
 - c. A couple burglary/arsons occurred last month, as well as the torching of a North Acres Park porta-potty. Investigations continue, including whether there are any connections.
 - d. Regarding homeless encampments, such as under the 15th Ave NE bridge south of Northgate Way, you may call NP Community Police Team during office hours, at 206-684-0794. For clean-up of junk left by an encampment, it depends on who owns the property. Call the city customer service line for help, at 206-684-CITY.
3. Crime Prevention Report: Terrie Johnston
- a. Noted that property crimes go up in the summer.
 - b. Has been doing her normal thing - talks with community councils, security audits, etc.
 - c. Car prowling continue to reap rewards - do not keep cash, passports, laptops, backpacks, checkbooks, etc. in your car, especially in sight.
 - d. Burglaries currently are mostly from windows broken at the side or back of the house. If you would like a personal assessment of your home security, contact her at terrie.johnston@seattle.gov.
 - e. Remember to answer the door (without opening it) instead of pretending no one is home. And keep an inventory of your electronics' serial numbers & models.

4. City Attorney's Office: Jana Jorgensen
 - a. Marijuana
 - i. Nick Licata is sponsoring a City Council zoning ordinance regarding growing & processing marijuana for recreational use. It calls for up to 10,000 square foot indoor facilities in industrial zones, located no closer than 1,000 feet from schools, parks and other kids places. For North Precinct, that would be some areas of Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford and North Aurora. If you would like to give input, go to the City Council meeting Wednesday, June 12th. Call City Council office for time and place.
 - ii. Liquor Control Board is taking applications for growing/processing marijuana. There is a 20 day period to object to an application. If you would like to be on the mailing list to learn who is applying, contact Jana at jana.jorgensen@seattle.gov.
 - iii. If you wish to weigh in on marijuana growing facilities (for instance are concerned about power usage or industrial space usage of indoor growing and would prefer it be grown more naturally outdoors) contact Liquor Control Board via Judy Lewis at jhlew@liq.wa.gov.
 - b. Nickelsville homeless camp is disbanding and there are several proposal for what to do. Food Lifeline wants to buy the land, but neighbors are objecting, saying that the camp is driving down property values. City Council Housing Committee is discussing this June 12 (but not for a vote).
 - i. Nick Licata is proposing t allow licensed, managed camps to be set up for up to a year for up to 100 people in a location not within 25 feet of a residential zone. Licensing would not be required if camp was on a religious institution property.
 - ii. Fund resources to help camp residents find other accommodations.
 - iii. Move Nickelsville to two properties owned by religious organizations for up to two years for up to 200 people.
 - iv. Allocate funding for permanent housing.
 - c. Jana announced that she is moving back to the Domestic Violence Unit. Thank you for your fine work with the North Precinct, Jana! Brendan Brophy will take her place.
5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Deputy Prosecutor - no report
6. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent - no report
7. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom, dianne.newsom@seattle.gov
 - a. This month's handout is on proper disposal of unwanted medicine. Attached.
 - b. The NP picnic is Saturday, July 13. We will send a flyer when it is available.
 - i. If your organization would like half of a table at the picnic to promote its events, contact Dianne by email before July 4th.
 - ii. If you would like to donate items for the raffle, contact Dianne. Kids stuff is

especially welcome - the kids love it.

- c. Seattle Night Out is Tuesday, August 6th. You may register your block party or event now, at <http://www.seattle.gov/spd/nightout/>
 - d. Diane introduced CPT Officer Loren Street, who works Fremont, Wallingford, Green Lake and Phinney Ridge. He's also a Nightlife guy.
8. Liquor Control Board: Judy Lewis - no report
9. Committee Reports
- a. Issues: Doug Thiel & Pete will meet to make progress on the membership drive.
 - b. Membership: Dick Hillmann - please give Dick any roster changes.
10. Old Business
- a. Existing officers are agreeable to continuing in their positions, but if you would like to be on the executive board, please contact Ruedi Risler at risler@u.washington.edu. Elections will be in September, and officers will take up their duties in October.
11. New Business
- a. Citywide Precinct Advisory Council is hosting a mayoral candidate public safety forum Saturday June 22, 10-12 at City Hall. RSVP to 411, submit questions to seattlecpac@gmail.com. See attached flyer.
12. Next Month's agenda
- a. No meetings in July and August. Next meeting will be September.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.