



MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2013

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

The monthly NPAC Meeting began at 7:04 p.m., with Ruedi Risler presiding.

Topics covered:

I. Special Presentation Speaker: Honorable Edward McKenna, Seattle Municipal Court Judge

- a Judge McKenna's current assignment is full-time on domestic violence cases.
- b Municipal Court is a limited jurisdiction court, handling only Seattle misdemeanors (max 90 days in jail & \$1000 fine) and gross misdemeanors (364 days in jail & \$5000 fine).
- c There are seven elected judges, the majority of whose time is spent on jury trials and pre-trial hearings. Examples of 2012 workload: 11,000 cases, of which 2000 were domestic violence and 1,400 were DUI.
- d There are six appointed magistrates, to assist in the administration of justice and accomplishment of the work of the court. Examples of 2012 workload: 578,000 parking & red light tickets; 36,000 traffic citations; 9,450 burglar alarm false alarms.
- e In 2012, \$33 million was collected from infraction and criminal fines and fees.
- f Municipal Court is "the peoples' court", striving to make the justice system more effective by re-establishing links between criminal justice service providers and the community. There are four specialty courts that are costly, but that reduce recidivism:
 - i Veteran's Treatment - voluntary court-monitored long-term therapeutic treatment program.
 - ii Mental Health - voluntary services if mental illness is related to or a cause of the offender's criminal activity.
 - iii Domestic Violence - for handling domestic violence cases.
 - iv Community Court - community service and social services linkages for low-level, non-violent misdemeanor offenders.
- g Over the last two years the Court has improved its technology to be more efficient and cost-effective. Examples:
 - i On-line reporting by offenders instead of internal office data entry.
 - ii Electronic home monitoring alternatives to jail time.
 - iii Electronic Magistrate system to process large number of citations instead of paper shuffling.
 - iv Award-winning website (see www.seattle.gov/courts).

- h Challenges:
 - i No matter how many DUIs someone has, court rules dictate a person be released on personal recognizance unless there is a substantial likelihood they will commit a violent offence or flee.
 - ii Pressures to keep costs down coming from Mayor, City Council and the community.
 - iii Medical marijuana muddies the waters when an offender is in a treatment program that prohibits marijuana smoking (60% claim they have a 'prescription' but they don't).
 - iv Sentencing can have profound effects on an offender's family; it was easier to ask for sentences when Ed was a prosecutor; as judge it's (mentally) harder, knowing the social costs.
- i Court is open to the public. It is at 600 5th Ave (between Cherry & James). Visit!

II. Precinct Update: Chief Dick Reed on the North Precinct station project

- a For the last 5 years, since the recession collapsed capital budget project funding, plans for building a new precinct station have been on hold. Now the project has been resumed.
- b Site acquisition in 2013 - Need 4 acres with good N-S & E-W transportation routes and commercial zoning. By end of summer hope to be in talks with property owner, for purchase by end of the year. May invoke eminent domain; this gives owner tax benefits.
- c Pre-design can begin before acquisition of property. Planning for 60,000 square feet with self-contained parking, for 370 employees and a useful life of 30-50 years. Will be calling for architecture and engineering team soon.
- d See attached handout for more information, and for information and to sign up for email updates, go to www.seattle.gov/northprecinctstation.

III. Crime Prevention Report: Terrie Johnston - no report

IV. City Attorney's Office: Jana Jorgensen

- a Fusion Lounge withdrew its liquor license application and re-submitted it under new ownership to try to get around the problems the owner has with Liquor Control Board. Now Jana's office will re-submit its objection because the new owners are also in trouble with the city in other matters.

V. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office – Deputy Prosecutor

- a Of interest given the recent DUI double homicide on NE 75th St, 2007 legislation created a felony DUI for a 5th DUI in 10 years. This increased the penalty for someone who kills someone while drunk, but it has created a problem when the Office can only count DUIs in the past 10 years.
- b Robert Hitt - the recently released sex offender who kidnapped six students in the U District by invading their home and tying them up, ordering one to undress - was convicted by jury and given a life sentence. Of note was that the jury, parents, and judge all expressed great appreciation for the excellent professionalism of the North Precinct officers in this case.

VI. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent

- a Currently doing warrant sweeps; recently made 10 warrants for DOC offenders when they weren't at the home addresses they gave.

VII. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom - no report (on duty at May day demonstrations)

VIII. Liquor Control Board: Judy Lewis

- a Continuing to develop marijuana rules and regulations. Definition of THC content will be modified by legislature so it will be possible to prove in court that illegally grown plants are for consumption, not for hemp.

IX. Committee Reports

- a Issues: Doug Thiel
- b Membership: Dick Hillmann—please give Dick any roster changes.

X. Old Business

- a Ruedi encouraged members to write a letter in support of Officer Mike Severance's Historical Sign Project, as suggested in the May agenda email.

XI. New Business

- a. The North Precinct picnic is Saturday, July 13. There is no July NPAC meeting.
- b. Seattle Night Out is Tuesday, August 6. There will be no August NPAC meeting.
- c. Executive board elections will be in June. All current officers are willing to remain in office, but if you would like to be a candidate, please email the board at spd.npac@gmail.com.

XII. Next Month's Agenda

- a King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.