



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2014

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

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

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Ronald Ward, Assistant Monitor, Seattle Police Monitoring Team, with Deputy Monitor Peter Ehrlichman
 - a. In 2010, 33 Seattle community groups petitioned US Dept of Justice asking it to investigate SPD for a pattern of excessive use of force and biased policing. In December 2011, DOJ did find these patterns and in July 2012 DOJ & Seattle entered into a settlement agreement (consent decree).
 - b. Merrick Bobb was appointed by Federal Court to monitor SPD:
 - i. Give technical assistance to SPD for meeting the requirements
 - ii. Report twice a year on progress
 - iii. Certify compliance
 - c. The Seattle Police Monitoring Team works with and supports the Monitor. Our guests Ronald and Peter are both long-time lawyers who work at Seattle firms. See <http://www.seattlemonitor.com/monitoring-team/>
 - d. The Team is NOT anti-police; it has tremendous respect for police. It is here to help SPD develop best police practices, best safety practices and best technology to support police activities. Interaction with SPD is reciprocal, based on respect.
 - e. Seattle is on its way to becoming a world-class city and it is right for citizens to insist on services that make it a desirable, safe place to live.
 - f. SPD has made tremendous strides toward compliance with the settlement agreement, including but not limited to:
 - i. It has changed how it investigates instances of force used by officers.
 - ii. City Council has funded better equipment for SPD, such as new SUVs, tasers, in-car video.
 - iii. National experts have been consulted for revamping officer training programs, preliminary training has concluded and comprehensive training is due to be completed by December 31.
 - g. SPD must have better business intelligence systems in order to do data-driven policing that is the current best practice. City Council is aware of this need. It will be a couple years until new systems are in place.
 - h. New Police Guild leadership is on board with working with the monitor.
 - i. Monitoring Team - and our Captain - are in favor of in-car or on-person video.

Statistics show that there is 60% less use of force by both police and citizens when it is turned on, making it safer for everyone.

- j. Monitoring Team will continue to be involved until Seattle has been in full compliance with the consent decree for 2 years.
 - k. See http://parc.info/the_seattle_police_department.chtml for information and reports regarding SPD and the monitoring process.
2. Precinct Update: Capt. David Emerick/Lt. Jim Arata
- a. Introduced the new North Precinct Operations Lieutenant, Jim Arata. Jim has been with SPD for over 30 years.
 - b. Crime statistics in NP compared to last year to date:
 - i. While non-aggravated domestic violence is down 3% this year, aggravated DV is up 20%. The Community Police Team is doing outreach with City Attorney's Office & the DV Unit to educate housing managers and tenants at the hot spots where many of the offenses occur - large Seattle housing high rise apartment buildings.
 - ii. Non-residential (business) burglary is up 18%, but residential burglary is down 1-2%.
 - iii. Rape is down 5% - 27 last year vs 26 this year.
 - iv. Robbery is down 5%. Note that it rises during the (upcoming) holidays; emphasis patrols will be sent out.
 - v. Car prowls are up 14%, but for perspective, there have been fewer this year than in 2005-06.
 - vi. Car theft is up a lot. 2013 had about 3200, this year 4200. In October, 16 car thieves were arrested.
 - c. Regarding the article in Seattle Times by Danny Westneat about police response to his car prowl and tracking the thieves by GPS - see http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2024924914_westneat02.xml.html
 - i. The day of the incident was exceptionally stormy & windy so the 911 call center had a huge number of calls. There were no cars available to follow up on Danny's problem.
 - ii. The 911 call taker happened to be the same one who took the call 10 months ago from a man by the same Fred Meyer who called in an attempted robbery and then was murdered by the returning thief while the call taker was on the line. She did not want Danny to endanger himself so she strongly urged him to quit chasing the thief.
 - iii. That said, some aspects of the 911 call could have gone better.
 - iv. There is room for improvement by 911, so the Chief has asked a team to report on 911 service to callers and to make recommendations, due in 2 weeks. Training will be improved. Officers need to be trained to send the right message, too, NOT 'call your insurance company.'
 - v. King County Sheriff caught Danny's thief at Marymoor the next day or so.
 - vi. Remember burglaries in process are higher priority than those called in after the fact. Stay safe by getting descriptions, license plates, call 911, then step back from the situation.

- d. Seattle Police understaffing
 - i. Currently SPD is 54 officers short. NP has 18 fewer than it had in 2010.
 - ii. Next 6-8 months there will be increases. In 1 - 1.5 years should be back up to level called for in the Seattle Policing Plan.
 - iii. Only 7 a month can be admitted to the Police Academy for training.
 - iv. Recently 19-23 fairly new officers resigned. Not sure why. Recruitment by nearby agencies may be one factor.
3. Crime Prevention Report: Elizabeth Scott
 - a. Remember to practice good personal safety, including know your whereabouts; don't be distracted by your cell phone; walk where there are other people; make eye contact; walk with confidence, etc. If assaulted, scream to bring attention; get good descriptions; call 911.
4. City Attorney's Office: Brendan Brophy
 - a. Described new Find It, Fix It mobile app to alert city services to problems like graffiti, broken streetlights, illegal dumping, potholes, abandoned vehicles and more. See <http://www.seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau/find-it-fix-it-mobile-app>
 - b. Continuing to combat prostitution.
 - c. Investigating the recent shooting on 52nd Ave NE. Working with Community Police Team officers on issues related to the nearby bar.
 - d. Vacant eyesore Aqua Dive on Lake City Way is going to be torn down.
5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Deputy Prosecutor - no report
6. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent
 - a. Described a drug bust at the Seals Motel on Aurora.
7. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom
 - a. Handout: Reporting Suspicious Behavior (attached)
 - b. Thanks for bringing socks for the sock drive - and bring more!
8. Liquor Control Board: Woodrow Perkins - no report
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Issues: Curtis Gehrke
 - i. Doug Thiel mentioned a homeless encampment in Ravenna. It's well organized. It will be going to Seattle Pacific U in January. Tents in front of U District post office are now at the Congregational Church. Tenters at North Acres are still there, but were given the opportunity to go to SPU. A task force is making a plan for non-sheltered homeless in Seattle.
 - b. Membership: Inga Manskopf - please give Inga any roster changes.
10. Member Organization Profile - Meadowbrook, Andrea Collison
 - a. Meadowbrook is bounded by Lake City Way, Sand Point Way, NE 95th St and

NE 115th St.

- b. It is mostly residential, with just a little commercial on Lake City Way. There are no sidewalks and it doesn't feel safe for walking.
- c. It annexed to Seattle in 1962, and has desirable large lots and tall trees.
- d. Burglaries have declined. Neighbors complain of crime, but it is pretty good compared to some parts of Seattle.

11. Old Business

- a. Ruedi is looking for more members for the Human Services focus group. Michael Cuadra volunteered.

12. New Business - none

13. Next Month's Agenda

- a. No guest speaker. We'll report on our focus groups and celebrate the season. Please consider bringing holiday cookies/snacks to share. And socks!

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.