

NORTH PRECINCT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Expanding Communication Between the Police and Community  
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
October 1, 2008

Recorded by Ruedi Risler and Barbara Maxwell

The monthly North Precinct Advisory Council meeting for October began at 7:04 p.m., with Jack Heavner, presiding.

I. Special Presentation Speakers: Stephanie Tschida, Community Court Grant Manager.

Stephanie Tschida works out of the City Attorney's Office. The Community Court System gives low level first offenders the opportunity to perform community service instead of going to jail. Typical offences are students who steal books, possession of small amounts of marijuana, or minor in possession of alcohol.

The Court works with Ameri-Corps volunteers to supervise the participants in the program, but they want community involvement as well. Work is typically structured in four-hour blocks, but it can be shorter or longer, depending on the task.

Stephanie was accompanied by several Ameri-Corps volunteers from the Central District who gave a first hand account of how the system works. Kevin Bowes, Coleman Neighborhood Association, spoke in support of the system. Kevin has two years' experience with the program. He and his wife, together with neighbors, started a litter patrol to clean up their neighborhood. They worked with the Adopt-a-Street Program and later with the Community Court. They work side-by-side with the participants and take groups of five. With Ameri-Corps volunteers, they can take more and cover a larger area. The supervision consists primarily of assigning work areas and keeping things flowing.

Kevin was initially very skeptic about working with "criminals" but is now an enthusiastic supporter of the program and described the participants as nice people who are thankful to be given a second chance.

Other work examples are maintenance of traffic circles, tree planting, cleaning up graffiti on public property (and on private property with the collaboration of the property owner), and cutting back overgrowth over sidewalks. Necessary work tools such as gloves are provided through the Adopt-a-Street Program.

Ed McKenna addressed the liability issues. This is similar to the Adopt-a-Street Program, where participants sign a waiver form. Participants are instructed not to tackle anything dangerous or something they feel uncomfortable with.

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

Lieutenant Robin Clark is the new Operations Lieutenant for the North Precinct. She replaces Clay Monson, who goes to the Motorcycle Unit. Robin has 28 years with Seattle Police Department and has worked in all precincts, sex crimes unit, Green River Task Force and motorcycle unit.

On the first Saturday after the beginning of the school year at the University of Washington three noise citations were issued to students.

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, a Third Watch officer arrested a known gang member with outstanding warrants on University Way. The suspect had 160 grams of cocaine, a 9mm gun, and \$1000.00 in cash on him.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, a series of street robberies occurred around Northeast 46<sup>th</sup> Street. Two hooded males driving a car were involved. Gunshots were fired on at least one occasion. One of the victims was able to get a license plate number and a description. The plate was traced to the grandmother of one of the suspects. The police staked out her house and arrested the offenders.

A bouncer at a nightclub on Lake City Way was stabbed by an intoxicated patron who was refused further service.

A suspected car prowler was shot and killed in the 9700 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast. Two other car prowlers left the scene. The shooter was arrested.

Captain Washburn made a Power Point presentation he had prepared for the City Council as part of his Council update on North Precinct activities. He concentrated on the success story of the collaboration with GAIN on Aurora. He showed how the number of 911 calls for multiple causes decreased dramatically over the past three years when the police stepped up their response. The involvement of local businesses and residents was essential for this success. In the University District where police increased efforts in a similar way the success is much more limited.

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

There have been several burglaries where the occupants of the affected unit were home at the time and had left doors or windows open. With the shorter days, it gets dark before people come home and more break-ins tend to occur in this time. Consider installing timers for some lights. Neil distributed a flyer explaining how to deal with observed drug activities. The first part of the flyer is also available at <http://cityofseattle.net/police/contact/reporting/nars.htm>.

### IV. City Attorney's Office: Ed McKenna.

There are now new state laws in effect to more effectively deal with gang-related activities, especially gang-related graffiti. There are now automatic civil penalties and attorney fees can be recouped.

New King County filing standards will go into effect next week. This is expected to add a higher caseload to the Court system, both for the County and the City. As no additional staffing has been assigned for this, it is unclear what the impact will be.

Councilman Tim Burgess' Safer Streets Initiative needs support from all community groups. It is a well-balanced comprehensive approach. Among many other things, it might put funding back into the "high impact offender" program that was dropped a few years ago.

### V. New Business.

The election of new offices was postponed to the next meeting, November 5, when Councilman Nick Licata will be our guest.

### VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.