

NORTH PRECINCT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Expanding Communication Between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2008

The focus of the meeting on this night was to give a more personal perspective to the job of being a police officer.

Sometimes the public tends to forget that the men and woman that serve in that capacity have personal lives, thoughts and feelings just like the rest of us. To that end, Officer Travis Sauer, a two year veteran of the Seattle Police Department, was asked to give us some of his thoughts and insights now that he's been on the street for a while.

First I should point out that Officer Sauer is young (well he's young from my perspective!), outgoing and filled with enthusiasm. With a little luck, that won't change. He also comes from a family that has a history of involvement in law enforcement. Much of the discussion centered around time spent at the Seattle Police Academy. As in any school, it's a learning process...some things are just what you'd expect and some things are far from what was expected. The "real" learning starts when the new officer gets to the street and starts applying all that was taught.

Officer Sauer is very "upbeat" about his job. He likes the work and the sense that he is providing a very real service to the community. He was somewhat surprised by the amount of bookwork that goes with the job. (LOTS!) His shift begins typically at around 2:00 a.m. with roll call at 3:00 a.m. He hits the street around 3:30 (Lake City Way to Lake Washington from 145th to the Montlake Cut), and most of his calls involve alarms and parking issues. His shift is usually the quietest. He's off at noon.

If you'd like to know what life is really like in a patrol car, ask to "ride with an officer." Yes you can!

Another issue that was brought up during the meeting has to do with something that is going to happen in the near future. (Time to start thinking about this one.) Seattle has no jail. We (Seattle) beg, barrow or rent space at the King County facility. That arrangement is going to end when the current agreement runs out in 2011. King County needs all the space it can get for its own inmates. Seattle will have to fend for itself. So.... where would you like the NEW JAIL built? Sand Point? Harbor Island? Ballard? It has to go somewhere. Ah Ha! A new use for the Wilson Pacific site, eh. Most likely it will be somewhere downtown close to the courthouse, but you never know.....

Ken Thompson

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