

November 3, 2006

Licton Springs Community Council Report for November

North Precinct Advisory Council Report for November 1, 2006

The November meeting got under way just a little after 7:00 pm. As it turned out, the featured guest, Nick Licata, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. (Now would be a good time to send his office a "get well" card.)

That said, President Pete moved the meeting forward by making a few other announcements concerning the staffing at North Precinct. First, Captain Reed will be leaving to head up the Communications Department of Seattle Police Department. Second, Jane Mensoff was acknowledged for her years of service with the North Precinct Advisory Council. There was cake for everyone!

Once the fun and frivolity had subsided, President Rogerson presented the meeting with a "little food for thought." He had with him a metal box that was in less than perfect shape (actually it was a pried open gun safe). Along with that there was the trigger lock and cable to secure the safe to an immovable object (in this case, a very heavy bed). As the story unfolds, thieves broke into the home and located the safe, and managed to pry it open, retrieve the firearm inside and defeat the trigger lock. This despite all the usual safeguards and a number of (guard?) dogs. Subsequently, this firearm was used in several assaults, shootings and one homicide.

We should all be reminded that Seattle's Chief of Police lost his service pistol out of the front seat of his patrol car several years ago and that pistol hasn't been recovered. What crimes may have been committed with that weapon are unknown. (Note: Most felons, 40%, found to be in the possession of a firearm did so as the result of one form of theft or another. Another 30% got theirs by way of a "straw sale," wherein a friend or acquaintance makes the purchase through an established business and then passes the firearm on to the felon. LESS than 1% of firearms are purchased at gun shows or flea markets! Those are National Crime Statistics. Bad things happen to good people (and they aren't all civilians)!

Several of the North Precinct Advisory Council members have been attending the budget hearings and lobbying hard for more Police Officers. So far it looks like we have only one City Council member firmly in our corner, Peter Steinbrueck (others are walking a thin line). It would also appear that the idea of more police officers for public safety has little to no support from the Mayor's

office. (Remember that at election time.) The letter and phone calls to the City Council have been getting their attention. However (and it's a big "HOWEVER"), the other "social services" in town are also making a grab for the money in this budget. Those social services have full-time employees making their pitch to the Council....again and again. If we are to see any chance of getting more officers on the street, we need to keep up the pressure on the City Council. If you have called, written or sent an E-Mail.....DO IT AGAIN! (Get your friends to send one, get your dog or cat to send one or two.)

The report from the City Attorney's Office, (Ed McKenna) is good news for all of us. Beginning November 10th, it will be a violation to expectorate on a bus (waited a lifetime for that one). In an effort to remove one of the impediments to bus ridership, drunks and vagrants will not be allowed to loiter at bus shelters (24 hour rule). The City is also making progress in the ongoing struggle against "car farming" - that's where certain people park multiple cars on the street and move them every 72 hours (or part them out and let the City deal with the remains). One fellow has an estimated 150 or more cars parked on our streets.

Thus ends yet another entertaining and adventurous night at the North Precinct Advisory Council Meeting,

Ken Thompson