



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April, 6, 2022

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

Please share this information with your neighbors, neighborhood & business organizations.

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Andrea Perr presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Deputy Attorney Scott Lindsay, City Attorney's Office
 - a. City Attorney Ann Davison has been rebuilding CAO since she took office
 - i. Hired Scott to #2 position
 - ii. Hired new criminal division chief; division has 30 attorneys who handle about 7000 prosecutions
 - iii. Civil division handles city legal affairs
 - b. 80% of crimes in Seattle are misdemeanors; CAO only handles misdemeanors, which include theft, trespass, assault, DUI, domestic violence and more. Called quality of life crimes.
 - c. Believes crime is rising more than SPD statistics show due to people and retail not reporting crimes. Reasons: they think SPD isn't going to respond; employees told not to spend time on reports and instead help customers; think CAO is not going to prosecute.
 - d. City misdemeanor system has been slowing, lack of SPD resources, lack of prosecutions, resulting in lack of accountability.
 - i. In last couple years, CAO has deemphasized retail prosecutions, and there's still a large queue waiting to be reviewed. In 2019 retail crime reports started falling. About 1200 in 2018, about 250 in 2021.
 - ii. 2015-2019 SPD referred 18,400 - 19,500 total cases each year to CAO. 2020-2021 referred 13,000 - 14,000.
 - iii. 2011-2019 SPD reported 3000-3700 thefts to CAO per year. 2020-2021 reported about 2000 each year.
 - e. New CAO's agenda
 - i. Focus on rapid case filing - goal over 90% of filing decisions made within 5 business days. Important to show people the city is responding.
 - ii. Work through the backlog of cases - over 5000. Hired Brian Moran to help create a plan, including prioritization.
 - iii. Staff up criminal division; many open positions; staff is overworked. Salary levels have not kept up with the market.

- iv. Repair relationship with SPD; working with precinct captains, etc.
 - v. Focus on “high utilizers” - repeat criminals who have a disproportionate impact on public safety. Need a plan for each individual, including drug and/or mental health treatment, housing, etc.
 - f. Q: how can businesses along Aurora help CAO agenda? A: CAO is working on a strategy for that area and will ask for feedback.
2. City Attorney’s Office (CAO): Meagan Westphal (Meagan.Westphal@seattle.gov) explains her role as precinct liaison
- a. 1995 CAO got a federal grant to work directly with precincts, to house a liaison right in the precinct. Goal to have a long-term, proactive partnership with SPD, the community, etc.
 - b. Work with precinct command staff, project officers and crime prevention coordinators on legal issues and chronic problems such as some night life issues, motels. Also trains officers in changes in the law, and guides SPD policy.
 - c. Works closely with Fire Department, SDOT, Dept of Construction & Inspections, WA Liquor & Cannabis Board, etc.
 - d. Can meet with community groups, and help direct people to the right resources for their problem. Contact: Meagan.Westphal@seattle.gov
3. King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (KCPAO): Leesa Manion, KCPAO Chief of Staff
- a. KC filed 20-30 cases daily even during the pandemic.
 - b. Looks forward to better collaboration with CAO under Ann Davison.
 - c. SPD has been a great partner, making an impact on high users
 - d. Juvenile crime is at an all-time low, cumulative impact of diversion programs the last 12 years.
 - e. Introduced Douglas Wagoner, KCPAO Deputy Director of Communications, dwagoner@KingCounty.gov, 206-514-7643. Happy to respond if you have a question about a specific incident number or an individual.
 - f. Drug court graduates folks every month, and 12-16 treatment plans are created each month. There is a high success rate for getting clean and sober, and low recidivism.
4. Business
- a. At the May meeting we will hold nominations for NPAC President, VP & Secretary. You may self-nominate or nominate someone else. Elections will be held at the June meeting. You may also let us know of your interest by email - spd.npac@gmail.com. Also, if you’re interested in being on the board, email us; the board will nominate some new at-large board members and in June ask NPAC to ratify them. We have heard from a few interested people so far - thanks!
5. North Precinct Update: Lt Joseph Osborne
- a. Crime stats for north precinct, comparing 2022 year-to-date to 2021 year-to-date
 - i. North Precinct is down 25% compared to last year. Overall, Citywide crime is up about 16% compared to this time last year.

- ii. Motor Vehicle Thefts: up 52% from this time last year, with a total of 593 cars stolen compared to 390 last year.
 - iii. Robbery: up 45% from last year, 160 incidents compared to 110 last year.
 - iv. Others: Aggravated Assaults up 36%, 234 compared to 172; Rape down 47%, 9 compared to 17; Arson down 23%, 10 compared to 13 last year; Burglary down 29%, 703 compared to 986; Theft down 37%, 1551 compared to 2472.
 - b. Regarding retail theft, Alta at Northgate has the highest shoplift rate of all the Alta stores in the country. It expects to lose \$1 million this year to theft.
 - c. Still doing a shot-fired emphasis - involves patrol cars in high-incidence areas to be a visual deterrent. Aurora, east half of Ballard, U District. Thursday through Monday 8pm-2am
 - d. Staffing vacancies means SPD won't be able to staff some summer events, but in north precinct will staff U District Street Fair, Seafood Fest, 4th of July. Won't be at Fremont Fair; it turned in the application late.
6. Open Forum/Questions
- a. Shooting on NE 145th St - A person is in custody over the shooting.
 - b. Encampment on Mary Ave - Captain has asked that it be moved up the priority list for cleanup.
 - c. Drive-by shootings - usually target people known to the shooters, not random.
 - d. RV and tent encampments in greenbelt by 115th St & Stone Ave - SPD would like the 2 departments responsible to come at the same time to deal with both.
 - e. Drug sales near homes - Narcotics unit is down to 4 people. They do buys and try to break the chain farther up.
 - f. Problem vacant houses - to be designated a nuisance property, must have significant violence 911 calls. Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI) is responsible for working with the owners. SPD can accompany them when/if they inspect and board it up. Breaking in is a misdemeanor, but offenders are released after a report is written up. SPD can't just arrest someone for trespass. SPD has to tell them they aren't allowed; no trespass signs help. People can report vacant home activity via Find It Fix It app, or 911; just give the facts, not opinions. For more SDCI info, see <https://buildingconnections.seattle.gov/2021/03/31/vacant-building-you-have-options/> Contact Meagan Westphal (see #2 above) for information about a vacant building work group.
 - g. Prostitution at 93rd St & Stone Ave - Not prosecuting prostitution loitering. You can call 911, but SPD won't come, though a patrol car might drive around later as a visual deterrent. Note that 911 is low on staffing, so might be put on hold.
 - h. Precinct picnic - Not sure if it will be held this year, same with Seattle Night Out.
 - i. Reminder by NPAC president - if you don't report a crime, it doesn't exist to SPD; do report crimes so the city knows what's going on.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.