SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 2022

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

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

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

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Dr. Jacqueline Helfgott, Director of Seattle University's Crime & Justice Research Center, on research for SPD's Micro-community Policing Plans (MCPP)
    a. In 2014 Seattle U and SPD began a collaboration after getting a grant for community-oriented policing. Seattle U has continued to conduct a public safety survey each autumn to measure public perception of crime, and to create a public-facing dashboard showing survey results. See https://www.seattle.gov/police/mcpp
    b. Forty students have worked on the project over the years, with four working on it this year. Katy Kepler is the researcher for North Precinct. Students assist administration of the survey, doing lots of outreach through flyers, meetings, etc.
    c. In 2021, 9,123 people participated (3,235 in North Precinct.) Half add open-ended comments, from which themes are collected. The survey is in 11 languages and outreach includes community centers, homeless, religious organizations, etc. Results are statistically weighted.
    d. Survey asks folks to rank public safety concerns through dropdown lists. Results are shown at numerous levels - citywide, precinct, neighborhood.
    e. See 2021 survey results in this PDF. North Precinct starts on page 28: https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Police/Reports/2021CITYWIDE_SeattlePublicSafetySurvey_Report.pdf
    f. 2021's top public safety concerns in North Precinct were:
        i. 1 – Police Capacity
        ii. 2 – Homelessness
        iii. 3 – Property Crime
        iv. 4 – Traffic Safety
        v. 5 – Public Safety & Community Capacity
    g. Top themes from comments made by North Precinct folks were:
        i. Property Crime (at least twice as many as the other categories)

ii. Public Order Crime
iii. Violent Crime
iv. Public Safety & Community Capacity
v. Police Capacity

h. Public perception of crime is also measured for these criteria:
i. Fear of Crime - Day, Night, All
ii. Social Disorganization
iii. Informal Social Control
iv. Social Cohesion
v. Police Legitimacy

i. In North Precinct (NP)
i. U District had the lowest ratings for iii, iv, v; Sand Point had lowest ratings for i, ii.
ii. Ballard South had highest ratings for i, ii; Sand Point had highest ratings for iii, iv, v.
iii. Fear of Crime rose in NP, and Police Legitimacy has fallen since 2020. Homelessness and violent crime rose in NP.

j. The first few years, SPD made Micro-Community Policing Plans for each neighborhood, as blueprints for how to respond to the priorities in each neighborhood. Currently, the outreach process and report are more of a means to dialog with SPD about specific concerns.

k. Outreach by meetings will include police, so the community and SPD can talk together.
i. Comment from meeting participant - since SPD can't make some policy decisions, politicians should be involved, too.

2. Business - NPAC officer elections
a. The council ratified the board's slate of at-large board members:
i. Katy Dwyer (incumbent)
ii. Verginia Aylesworth (incumbent)
iii. Melinda Jacobson
iv. Sean deBlieck

b. The council elected these officers:
i. President: Pete Hanning (by ballot)
ii. Vice -President Patrick Kane (uncontested; by acclamation)
iii. Secretary Carol Schops-Yeckel (uncontested; by acclamation)

c. The new term will start in September since we don't meet in July and August. Big thanks to the out-going officers and at-large board members for their excellent work running NPAC this year!

3. Crime Prevention Coordinator:
a. Introduction of new CPCs by Captain
i. Sarah Lawson - criminology background, former 911 operator
ii. Katelyn Yep - former MCPP analyst at Seattle University
iii. Both are still in training, so for now continue contacting Sgt. Welte -

martin.welte@seattle.gov for crime prevention questions/needs.

b. CPCs provide crime prevention through community outreach. They can help with block watch setup; do safety inspections of residences and businesses; attend community meetings; give crime prevention advice.

4. City Attorney's Office (CAO): Meagan Westphal
    a. City Council recently mandated CAO's criminal division write quarterly reports. The first one, for 2022 Q1, is here: https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/CityAttorney/Reports/CAO2022Q1Report.pdf
        i. Q1 had 2813 referrals to CAO from SPD; CAO filed 1303 cases.
        ii. New policy, Close-in-Time Filing, calls for making a filing decision within 5 business days instead of putting new cases at the back of the huge backlog queue.
        iii. In North Precinct city council districts, referrals of crimes in D4 were 8% of city total; D5 14%; D6 7%, totalling 30% of city's referrals.
        iv. SPD's DUI squad is disbanded, and there's a drop in DUI cases in CAO.

5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO): Casey McNerthney
    a. Filing 20-30 cases a day
    b. On Thursday will arraign someone charged in 2020, delayed because State Supreme Court said they couldn't make bench warrants if person didn't show up during covid.
    c. Lots of gunfire occurrences - 10 in one weekend.
    d. CAO, SPD and KCPAO partnership has never been better.
    e. KCPAO is thankful for the work SPD does daily. Acknowledges SPD has dedicated officers doing what they can with limited staffing.
    f. Ask Casey if you want info on an incident number, cmcnerthney@kingcounty.gov

6. North Precinct Update: Captain Kevin Grossman
    a. Captain thanked the outgoing NPAC officers and reiterated that of the 3 precincts where he's worked, NPAC has the best-organized PAC.
    b. Notable crime stats (Public facing crime dashboard: http://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/crime-dashboard)
    c. North Precinct crime overall is up 10% year-to-date compared to 2021 YTD
    d. Key takeaways:
        i. Violent crime up 28%
        ii. Shots fired up 88%
        iii. Property crime up 8%
        iv. Burglary down 8%
        v. Motor vehicle theft is up 57%
    e. Staffing
        i. Several May & June retirements = staffing stagnation (even with a few new officers), and far below call loads. Looked at 911 calls waiting today and saw 12 were over 7 hours waiting to take a report. Very frustrating.
        ii. Crime Prevention Coordinators: We now have TWO:
            1. Sarah Lawson (sarah.lawson@seattle.gov)

2. Katelyn Yep (katelyn.yep@seattle.gov)

f. Priorities for 2022
   i. Violent Crime/Shots Fired: Emphasis patrols, primarily in Aurora Corridor, but can shift as appropriate (e.g., U District): Paused to allow for augmentation of patrol shifts and to staff Golden Gardens weekend emphasis. In NP the incidents are more distributed, so emphasis on these 2 areas weren't effective. Plus they use volunteer overtime, and Captain is struggling even to fill shifts with the required minimum staffing.
   ii. Property Crime
      1. Trying to focus on repeat offenders, as they do a large chunk of criminal behavior. Using CAO's High Utilizer list of 118 persons so make patrols aware of them and incentivise officers to find them.
      2. Burglary: down 8%, still a priority.
      3. Motor Vehicle Theft: up 57%
   iii. Return of bike officers to U District and Ballard during the day, warmer months (May-Sept), and as staffing permits: Started on Memorial Day weekend and will run sporadically throughout the summer contingent on staffing
   iv. Ad Hoc Proac Squad is conducting organized retail theft (ORT) operations at hotspot locations (e.g. Home Depot, Ulta, Target): 4 operations since March, 28 arrests, and reported 20 cases to the prosecutor so far.
      1. 3/15: Ulta
      2. 3/31: Home Depot
      3. 4/27: Target (Northgate)
      4. 5/19: Nordstrom Rack (including one suspect responsible for stealing $10k of merchandise over 30 days)
   v. ORT project officer: Started in mid-March; to date, 20 referrals to the City Attorney or General Investigations Unit (for follow up and referral to the KCPAO)

g. Night Out is Tuesday, August 2 this year. Knowing your neighbors is important. Will send officers to parties if you ask, though staffing and 911 activity that night may limit ability. Register your block party at: https://www.seattle.gov/police/crime-prevention/night-out

7. Open Forum/Questions
   a. Officers appreciate people thanking them for what they do. Do not hesitate to thank one you see on the street. You can also do it on-line, but in-person is better! https://www.seattle.gov/police/about-us/contact-us/thank-an-employee
   b. Some shots fired are due to an uptick in road rage incidents.
   c. SPD's end of school safety activities are organized at the central level, not in the precincts.

8. Next Meeting: September 7, 2022, 7:00 pm. Have a great summer!

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.