



## SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

*Expanding Communication between the Police and Community*

### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2013

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

The monthly NPAC Meeting began at 7:04 p.m., with Ruedi Risler presiding.

Topics covered:

#### I. Special Presentation Speaker: Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata

- a. Nick chairs the Housing Committee, is Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee, and sits on the Public Safety Committee.
- b. Homelessness as a public safety issue - there are about 1700 homeless. Addressing partly by getting more police officers, but it takes 6-9 months for new hires to get up to speed. Also trying to find facilities for homeless. Seattle is in relatively good shape economy-wise, and people are coming to find work. ¼ of people in shelters have jobs.
- c. Crime - mentioned burglaries and car thefts. Nick believes advisory councils such as ours are helpful, and block watch programs. Would like to increase foot and bike patrols, and he is for increasing the budget for auxiliary services like helping with block watches.
- d. Current city issues:
  - i. Drones - the drones the city bought have been returned to the seller. To prepare for possible future tools like drones and surveillance cameras, Nick is in favor of setting up protocols for their use.
  - ii. DOJ and SPD reforms - City Council has no direct role except for approving the members of the Citizen Police Commission. March 13 there is a public hearing at City Hall to meet the named members.
  - iii. Transportation - Dealing with Hwy 520 cost overruns, and concerns about the Montlake intersection (disruptions due to construction and later bus access and excess traffic). Also, Hwy 99 tunnel - digging starts in autumn; tunnel will open in 2015 and viaduct will come down in 2016. Models show cost of toll needed to cover \$200 M funding gap will be so great that many motorists will avoid the tunnel.
  - iv. Basketball arena - Looking into the objections of the maritime industry, which thinks congestion will impede the industry and push customers to Tacoma's port.
  - v. Responding to a question about the Neighborhood Policing concept, Nick

said that the city still supports its goal of having officers be able to spend 30-40% of their time being proactive in community, not just responding to 911 calls all day. Noted that paperwork takes up a lot of their time and hopes technology can help

- vi. Responding to a question about tools for SPD to deal with aggressive panhandling, Nick explained that ticketing is a problem because police often don't get there in time to do it (that wasn't a complaint about SPD). Arresting is a problem because in practice, a lot of money is spent on public defense of these cases, and then they end up not being prosecuted. Also mentioned "meathead ordinance" that allows police to ticket rowdies coming out of bars who are aggressive and create a nuisance.

## II. Precinct Update: Capt. Robin Clark/Lt. Ron Rasmussen

- a. It was a busy month - put emphasis on the purse snatcher, a known burglar, and caught him with the help of several bystanders who pointed which way he was running.
- b. Put extra emphasis on the sexual assaults. Two near Green Lake may be related, but the others aren't.
- c. Doing outreach in the Carkeek neighborhood where officers shot and killed a schizophrenic man threatening his father. There will be a routine Firearms Review Board review and the officers are on administrative leave.
- d. Reminder to call 911 if you see suspicious behavior; SPD appreciates the eyes and ears of citizens to help thwart crime.
- e. In 2012 there were 164 burglars arrested by the North Precinct. That is a lot. There have been 11 arrests so far this year.

## III. Crime Prevention Report: Terrie Johnston

- a. Remember the services CPC provides, such as helping to start block watches, home security audits; talks to community organizations.
- b. Number of residential burglaries are about the same so far this year as last year.
- c. Car prowls are 50% below the number last year to date. This is an underreported crime; please report!
- d. When calling 911, if you'd like to speak in a language other than English, just say what language you prefer (in English) and they will find someone for you.

## IV. City Attorney's Office: Jana Jorgensen

- a. The city is objecting to the liquor license of Fusion Ultra Lounge on 45th due to the past history of the named licensee. The Lounge is also a problem, but is a couple reports short to qualify as a chronic nuisance. Police monitor it on Friday and Saturday nights.

## V. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office – Deputy Prosecutor

- a. David Baker introduced himself.

- b. Office filed charges of robbery in the 2nd degree on the purse snatcher, with \$250K bail set. When asked why it didn't charge assault with a deadly weapon, he explained that the Office files charges for which it has the best chances of getting a conviction, then if the person doesn't cooperate, etc. they file stronger charges. In this case, both crimes have the same sentencing guidelines.
- c. A PAO group wrote a report on reducing recidivism (40% of people released will be back in prison within 3 years). You can see the report at:  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/Prosecutor/news/2013/february/reentry.aspx>

VI. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent - no report

VII. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom

- a. This month's handout is on what to say when you call 911, how to describe a suspicious person, and how the operator codes calls for priority. See attached.
- b. Please don't hesitate to call 911 if you see something suspicious - let the operator decide if it's important. And do not call the Community Police Team - call 911 - because CPT isn't on duty 24/7.

VIII. Liquor Control Board: Judy Lewis

- a. Judy was in training last week about marijuana. It is a huge undertaking for LCB to figure out how to regulate it, who should grow it, who should process it, who should sell it.
- b. Thefts of liquor in groceries is still a problem, but more stores are locking it up. There are bands of thieves out there. LCB would like to know where it is all going once it's stolen.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Issues: Doug Thiel
- b. Membership: Dick Hillmann—please give Dick any roster changes.

X. Old Business - none

XI. New Business

- a. We are conducting a NPAC membership drive. If you know of civic groups, religious organizations, business groups, school groups, please email Ruedi at [risler@uw.edu](mailto:risler@uw.edu) with contact information so we can invite them.

XII. Next Month's Agenda

- a. Guest speaker in April is Sarah Sorensen from SPD Victim Support Team

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.