



## SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

*Expanding Communication between the Police and Community*

### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2015

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

The monthly NPAC Meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Ruedi Risler presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Pete Holmes, Seattle City Attorney
  - a. Office has just under 100 attorneys, and now they are all together on 3 floors of the Columbia Center instead of scattered in numerous buildings.
  - b. Four divisions: administration (of the office), criminal, civil, precinct liaison.
    - i. Criminal Division -
      1. Domestic Violence team's model is different than normal - the same prosecutor handles a case all the way through so he/she can get to know the person, family, situation, etc.
      2. Two trial units prosecute non-domestic violence related offenses.
      3. Specialty teams represent the City in the Mental Health Court, Community Court, and the Veterans Treatment Court.
      4. The D.U.I. Unit focuses on the enforcement of alcohol related crimes.
    - ii. Civil Division - provides legal counsel and representation to the City
      1. Contracts and Utilities provides legal services to City Light and Seattle Public Utilities, and to the City for all stages of its contracts.
      2. Employment
      3. Environmental Protection
      4. Government Affairs
      5. Land Use
      6. Torts
    - iii. Precinct liaison - each police precinct is assigned a prosecuting attorney to provide partnership among the prosecutor's office, SPD, public and private organizations, and the community to solve neighborhood problems, improve public safety, and enhance the quality of life of community members. Brendan Brophy is the North Precinct liaison.
  - c. Marijuana legalization/regulation
    - i. Pete was a primary sponsor of I-502. Now SPD is getting involved in

enforcement.

- ii. See Pete's January 4 memo 'Moving Marijuana Policy Forward' (the link isn't working on the [seattle.gov/law](http://seattle.gov/law) site he mentioned, but you can see it here:

<http://seattletimes.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/pot/files/2015/01/MarijuanaMemoFinalPSH.pdf>

- iii. The goal is to create a tightly regulated system for producing, processing and selling marijuana. Next step is to get the hundreds of medical marijuana operations pulled into the system. They either need to get legal or go out of business. I-502 is not in its final state; it will be tweaked to get to this comprehensive system.
- iv. New goals are to deal with marijuana lounges, increase the number of licenses, and ongoing compliance with the application requirements.
- v. City doesn't prosecute drug crimes, like illegally selling, because drug crimes are felonies, and the city prosecutes misdemeanors. King County has jurisdiction for drug crimes. There is a burgeoning problem with heroin and meth downtown.

d. Mental health reform

- i. Working with KC Prosecutor and WA State Attorney General in Olympia to push for more resources at state level.
- ii. Want to change focus from spending resources on getting a person to the point of being competent to stand trial, "competency restoration", to spend resources on connecting person to hospitalization, caregivers and medication for longer term benefits. It averages \$8000 per defendant to get him/her competent, which is a short-term goal - get to trial.
- iii. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), that offers resources, is being expanded.

e. Police reform

- i. SPD is the office's largest client.
- ii. Pete is counsel of record for the City for the Department of Justice mandated police reform process.
- iii. Helped write the new use of force policy.

f. Race and social justice

- i. Prostitution - Laws have not changed, but prosecutors in partnership with SPD are now more focused on sex buyers. Prostitutes are considered victims. Most women are not in the trade by choice, but due to coercion, drug addiction or economic circumstances.

g. Domestic violence

- i. Patrol officer training for how to handle.
- ii. Dedicated prosecutors and victim advocates.
- iii. SPD's Victim Support Team is a partnership between community members and police to address and prevent domestic violence. Provides comprehensive, culturally relevant, and supportive services to domestic

violence victims and their children.

- iv. National Day of Arresting Johns day was on SuperBowl Sunday.
- h. The police officers' lawsuit over the new use-of-force policy is on appeal. It is turning toward a 2nd amendment rights issue - right to defend oneself. The lawsuit claims the policy doesn't give officers the right to defend themselves adequately in the line of duty.
- i. Newsletter - Pete puts out a monthly newsletter. You can read them here:  
<http://www.seattle.gov/cityattorney/news/newsletters>

## 2. Precinct Update: Lt. Jim Arata

- a. Other units sometimes borrow NP officers. One NP officer is working with the robbery unit, which helps NP's robbery problem. NP loaned a vice officer to help with prostitution, and loaned someone to help with auto theft, another NP big problem. It's a good partnership, transfers knowledge both ways.
- b. UW borders four NP neighborhoods. NP is building a good partnership of collaboration with UW's good police force.
- c. Significant events this month
  - i. Three home invasions, one person shot. Probably all related, drug ripoffs. Arrests made, and confessions taken.
  - ii. Orion Motel prostitution and drug dealing enabled by motel management. Bike officers noticed a lot of activity, notified narcotics unit. Did 2 month investigation and sting. After arrests, activity has stopped. Managers are in jail and owners, who said they didn't know of the activity, have been cooperating.
  - iii. Robbery and stabbing by the zoo involved a mentally ill woman who asked another woman for money then stabbed her. Patrol units responded within 60 seconds and arrested the woman with the knife still in her hand. Officer aided wounded woman to stanch the bleeding.
- d. Car camping, in response to question from council member
  - i. There are a lot more cars and caravans on the streets than three years ago. NP is considered a safe place to park. The only law besides no parking signs, is that a vehicle can be ticketed to move if it's been in the same place over 72 hours.
  - ii. Police have few tools to deal with car campers. Some have been in the same place for years, just moving vehicles every 72 hours. Or not moving at all - one guy by Ivars just barricades himself in the vehicle when police come; police can't do anything when the vehicle is occupied.
  - iii. Frank, from Compass Housing Alliance, gets public complaint info and tries to offer car occupants city services, transitional housing, etc.
  - iv. Scofflaw Mitigation Team assist vehicle residents who are low income and unable to pay their outstanding parking tickets. This project is a coordinated effort between volunteers who do outreach to vehicle residents, the Seattle Municipal Court, and Seattle Police Parking

Enforcement.

- v. Government officials really need to find more tools and solutions to this problem.
3. Crime Prevention Report: Elizabeth Scott - no report
    - a. Elizabeth is leaving this position to work with the Police Guild.
  4. City Attorney's Office: Brendan Brophy
    - a. Has been focusing on the car camping problem, trying to find solutions. Been told no more 'No parking 2am - 5am' signs will be issued. Will be city council solutions.
    - b. Dealt with the problems at Fusion Ultra Lounge (which has gone out of business) and Orion Motel.
  5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Gavriel Jacobs
    - a. Still have some pending marijuana felonies, like for houses that were turned into big grow operations, not like for just smoking, which is now legal.
    - b. Getting tougher on consequences for first DUI offence.
    - c. Prosecuting a couple people caught stealing mail and packages in NP. House and car full of stolen stuff. At least 60 victims identified, probably over 100 more. One person pleaded guilty and prosecutors are asking for 6 years in prison, and the other is opting for a trial.
    - d. Car thefts - in 2014 King Co had 12,000 stolen vehicles. So far in 2015 (3 months) there have been over 1000 stolen. There are city attorneys dedicated to car theft cases. They are trying to file aggressively (meaning filing even if it's not a slam-dunk case). Brendan noted the high impact of a car theft on low income people - can't get to work, etc.
  6. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent - no report
  7. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom
    - a. 500 pairs of socks and other clothes from our sock drive were delivered to the Mennonite Church to help people dress for job interviews.
    - b. Passed out SPD's Email Community Newsletter, 3/26/2015, attached. Main topic is prepaid debit card scams and what to do about them.
  8. Liquor Control Board: Woodrow Perkins
    - a. Still have staffing issues. Some new recruits are finishing up training and will be assigned. A new NP officer will come to NPAC meetings with Susan Blaker.
    - b. Working with SPD to develop a system for giving better response to problem establishments. A workgroup has been established.
    - c. Spending a lot of time at the few existing licensed marijuana establishments monitoring compliance with regulations such as advertising, traceability of

product components, violations, fines, suspensions.

- d. Suspension procedures are being developed.

#### 9. Committee Reports

- a. Issues: Curtis Gehrke - no report
- b. Membership: Inga Manskopf - please give Inga any roster changes.

#### 10. Old Business - none

#### 11. New Business

- a. Captain Dave Emerick has been assigned to Narcotics Unit so he will be leaving North Precinct. We thanked him for his good work here and wished him well in his new position. He in turn thanked us for our involvement in NPAC.
- b. Captain Sean O'Donnell will be our new precinct captain. He attended this meeting as an observer and to be introduced. He starts April 15th. Lieutenant Jim Arata will be acting captain until then.
- c. Captain Emerick made a presentation to Aurora Merchants Association in appreciation of it giving \$10,000 to the precinct for four bicycles. Curtis Gehrke accepted the plaque, a framed photo of the bike team, and a thank you letter from the captain.
- d. There will be no meeting in July, given the July 11 precinct picnic at Ballard Seafood Fest.

#### 12. Next Month's Agenda

- a. Annual nominations for the Executive Board officers will open at our May meeting. Positions are: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. All incumbents are willing to continue, but it is good to have turnover, so if you are interested, or want to nominate someone, please do so. Elections will be at the June meeting.
- b. Brendan Brophy, City Attorneys Office's NP liaison and Dave Gordon, NP Community Police Team will speak about dealing with chronic nuisance properties.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.