



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2012

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

The monthly NPAC Meeting began at 7:03 p.m. with Curtis Gehrke presiding.

Topics covered:

I. Special Presentation Speaker: Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, with SPD Assistant Chief Mike Sanford

Mayor McGinn opened by saying that we live in interesting times, referring to the Department of Justice investigation into SPD practices. He stressed the importance of partnering with the community, and fostering trust and confidence between SPD and the public. Media coverage tends to go in waves, and right now we're in a trough. He is working hard to spread the whole story of SPD, including successes, to give a more balanced view. He suggested we can help remind the public of the successes by neighborhood blogging; sending letters to the editor; calling in to radio shows; commenting on articles in newspapers.

The Mayor accepts the DOJ report, and says it would be helpful if DOJ also released data that explains how it came to its conclusions. '20/20 – A Vision for the Future', the set of 20 initiatives the Mayor released last week, was informed by feedback from DOJ, police officers, and the community; it goes beyond just the DOJ findings. So far, DOJ has not offered any funding to help implement new training, etc. but the City will surely ask for federal resources. It's estimated that \$5million a year will be needed. Efforts need to be 1) effective and sustainable over the long term; 2) affordable in the short term.

The Mayor was asked if he would be willing to sign a code of ethics statement if SPD officers are asked to do so. He said he'd be happy to. He supports the idea of a code of ethics and acknowledged that accountability runs in both directions - up the ladder and down.

The 20/20 initiatives propose increased training, such as for appropriate search and seizure practices. Most officers are good people and want to do the right thing. Training can help everyone help each other do the right thing in a supportive atmosphere.

A handout dated 2/14/2012 was passed out regarding the status of getting a new North Precinct station (attached). It is still in evaluation mode. At this point a property has not been chosen, size of structure is undecided, cost estimate depends on the approach, and timeline could run 4-5 years depending on the solution.

As urban density shifts and/or increases, officers are moved around as needed. The Mayor would like to hire more officers, but there is no money for it. Though the economy is picking up, it is not yet reflected in the city budget.

The Mayor's top public safety priority currently is the seawall. He noted that public safety is important in many areas such as buildings; water; fire codes; streets; sidewalks, as well as policing.

Mayor McGinn ended the session by encouraging us to reach out to other organizations and city areas, so we can share each others' perspectives. He meets with many constituents and hears their perspectives, and he thinks the public would also benefit from a diverse community dialog.

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

- a. Lt. Rasmussen reported that there was a big rash of burglaries in March, and it was calmed by the arrest of three people who did multiple burglaries. But others have moved into the occupied burglary niche. Year-to-date 28 north end burglars have been arrested, accounting for hundreds of burglaries. Most occupied burglaries involved entry through an unlocked door or window, so again we are urged to lock our doors and windows.
- b. March also had a rash of commercial burglaries involving smashing windows in the early morning and grabbing flat screen TVs. One of two people has been arrested.

III. Crime Prevention Report: Terrie Johnston

- a. Terrie sent out notices about four level III sex offenders moving into the north end. She notes that these people have no restrictions on where they can live, so there is nothing that can be done if they live near a school, for instance.
- b. In burglaries where force was used to enter, it was often the back or side door that was kicked in, and though the door held, the doorjamb was old, rotten, or the lock plate screws were short and didn't hold. She recommends using long screws.
- c. May 3rd she is helping conduct personal safety training at Northgate Community Center.

IV. City Attorney's Office: Jana Jorgenson

- a. Jana is meeting with various organizations to learn about north end issues.
- b. She'll be going to a conference on graffiti, as we do have graffiti issues, such as the underpass near Green Lake.

V. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent

DOC arrested a person in Crown Hill on gun possession charges who was recruiting Ballard HS students to join the Goon Squad gang (Bloods).

VI. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom

- a. Dianne handed out a home security checklist (attached).
- b. Also passed out was a flyer for getting grants for community climate action projects (attached).
- c. She introduced Brian Thomas, U District Community Police Team.

VII. Liquor Control Board: Judy Lewis

Year-to-date there have been six DUIs in Judy's territory, but none was leaving a north end liquor establishment.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Issues: Doug Thiel listed some possible guest speakers and asked for more ideas.
Email him at doug@thielnet.com
- b. Membership: Dick Hillmann—please give Dick any roster changes.

IX. Old Business

The executive board revisited the Nightlife Initiative and reaffirmed that the North PAC is not taking a position on extended liquor establishment hours since our council members have a variety of opinions on it. We encourage individuals and community groups who want to take a position to write to the City Council on their own behalf.

X. New Business

- a. There is no July meeting since first Wednesday is 4th of July.
- b. There is no August meeting because that's night out and the precinct picnic.
- c. Precinct picnic is Saturday August 11th, 1-4 pm at the North Precinct building.

XI. Next Month's Agenda

- a. Former Mayor Wes Uhlman is tentatively May's speaker. We will confirm this.
- b. Council President Curtis Gehrke will be absent in May, and Vice-President Ruedi Risler will preside.

XII. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.