



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2014

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

The monthly NPAC Meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Pete Hanning presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Focus group reports:

a. Drugs/Anti-crime -

- i. Committee's first target was the 'Burke house' at 137th & Burke, in foreclosure, plagued with drug dealing, rats, garbage in the yard, unsavory people coming and going, etc.
- ii. SPD, community club and bank worked together to get the tenants out, including the club raising money to hire a lawyer for the eviction. Huge success! It took about three months.
- iii. If any other community has a similar problem house, let NPAC know - spd.npac@gmail.com and this group may be able to help.
- iv. A request was made for someone in the group to write up the steps taken in this effort.
- v. Next group meeting is Dec 18, 6 pm at the North Precinct. Anyone is welcome to attend.

b. Transportation/Mobility -

- i. No projects have been selected yet.
- ii. Possible project is safety around a Lake City Way school crossing now that Olympic Hills is being torn down and kids have to cross LCW to Cedar Park.
- iii. Another possible project is around issues of some cyclists not obeying traffic laws in Fremont.

c. Human Services -

- i. Ruedi (lead) and Mike are the only ones in this group and Ruedi wasn't here today. Please let us know if you'd like to join this group by emailing spd.npac@gmail.com

d. Lighting -

- i. No report

2. Precinct Update: Lt. Jim Arata

- a. **Robbery** is a big focus currently, since they are up 28% from October. In November there were 37 robberies. The 10 person Gang Unit is helping, providing lists and photos of gang members for officers to watch out for. SPD is looking for them at the mall and other places. Green Lake is a hot spot. A lot of robberies are of cell phones. There is a group, not quite a gang, of East African young men who are quite aggressive stealing in groups, especially at night on the Ave in the U District. Some are during the day, too.
 - b. **Electronics thefts** - North Precinct investigated the Danny Westneat incident (Seattle Times articles about tracking stolen phone with GPS), had numerous discussions with him, and Danny agreed that what was described in the article was not exactly what went down, but SPD agreed that some things could have been done better. Bottom line on GPS - it doesn't pinpoint the exact location of a stolen device. Its accuracy is maybe about a block. So police can't use it to knock on a door or get a warrant. The happy ending of Westneat's story was that SPD put out a bulletin, which helped the Sammamish police ID the suspects' vehicle and an arrest was made.
 - c. The recent focus on **auto thefts** has resulted in some arrests, and whereas there were 280 thefts in October, there were 147 in November. North Precinct has teamed up with the Major Crime Task Force on this. They use license plate readers to ID stolen cars (or plates). Some high school students have been arrested for stealing cars from Lake City and Aurora car dealerships. Stolen cars are often used to commit other crimes - burglaries, drug dealing, etc.
 - d. Overtime is being authorized to focus efforts on Friday and Saturday nights. One problem with juvenile crime is that the kids aren't jailed for very long, so they get out and resume their criminal behavior.
 - e. The **Ferguson demonstrations** around Seattle are keeping SPD very busy. Dianne and the Community Police Team are downtown instead of at this meeting. Bike officers, the mobile unit and other officers, a total of 60-70 North Precinct officers, are making themselves visible at various locations - Westlake Mall, U District, etc. Volunteer officers have been called in to backfill the precinct. The demonstration responses take a lot of logistics including meals for the officers. Interestingly, after officers were getting pelted with objects, Seattleites asked SPD to be more proactive at the demonstrations so the tone changed over the weekend.
3. Crime Prevention Report: Elizabeth Scott
 - a. **Mail theft**
 - i. Check your mail every day so it doesn't sit in the box very long.
 - ii. Instead of putting outgoing mail in your box, take it to the post office so the little red flag on your box doesn't lure thieves to it.
 - iii. When you go on vacation ask neighbors to take in your mail or have the post office stop delivering it temporarily.
 - iv. Get a box that locks, preferably metal, not plastic. They are available at hardware stores.

- v. Have packages delivered when you know you'll be home, or delivered to an alternate location. Or give instructions for the package to be put in the back yard instead of on the porch.
- vi. Be a good witness if you see someone take a package from someone's porch. Get a good description of the person and vehicle and call 911.
- vii. Delivery service employees are trained to call 911 if they suspect someone is following them stealing packages.

4. City Attorney's Office: Brendan Brophy

- a. Working on a contract that businesses can sign to give SPD authority to deal with trespassing in a vacant building without having to contact the owner at each occurrence.
- b. GPS tracking is new technology and courts don't have a lot of precedent for the legality of its use in criminal matters. When it was accepted as evidence it has usually been in conjunction with good descriptions of the suspects and/or the stolen goods were in plain sight of officers. Not that useful on its own at this point. It will take time to see how judges come to use GPS as evidence.
- c. Judges are constrained by court rules for bail for car prowlers. Considerations: flight risk, danger to community, chance of reoffending. Crowded jails also factor in. If you want stricter bail guidelines for these crimes, let the judges know you want them handled differently.
- d. City Attorney's Office reviews marijuana licence applications using specific criteria, including background checks, compliance with distance of facility to schools, ownership histories. Beyond those criteria, it has no legal ability to object to an applicant. If you have concerns about a location, contact the Liquor Control Board.

5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Luke Larson

- a. It is contemplating charges regarding the house that burned down due to a hash oil operation fire. It's hard to get evidence after the fire. Possible charges are drug sales or reckless endangerment.
- b. Trial is in progress for Thomas Bowman, the man who killed the wine merchant in his car on NE 75th St. The charge is 1st degree murder. According to evidence collected, Bowman planned the act, but the victim was random. SPD conducted an excellent investigation.

6. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent

- a. Arrested on a DOC warrant a man living in Meadowbrook. He'd been arrested five times in 2013 but then laid low. Finally DOC got a tip that located him, still in Meadowbrook.
- b. A 20-something male who was charged with theft and robbery was at large for a few months on warrant. He also had four other warrants out on him. His ex-girlfriend alerted DOC that he was doing bad things and tipped them off on

where to find him. He was arrested and is now in jail.

7. Community Police Team: Dianne Newson - no report; out on Ferguson demonstration duty
 - a. Elizabeth conducted a raffle for Dianne, in her absence, in which three sets of handmade crocheted pot holders were raffled off to lucky members. Thanks, Dianne!
8. Liquor Control Board: Woodrow Perkins - no report
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Issues: Curtis Gehrke
 - b. Membership: Inga Manskopf - please give Inga any roster changes.
10. Member Organization Profile - Lake City Neighborhood Alliance, Steve Daugherty
 - a. Formed in late 2013, it's a group of about two dozen neighborhood organizations including Lake City Greenways, North Helpline, Lake City Community Council. See entire list at <http://lcna-seattle.org>. This new group is helping Lake City feel like it is starting to have a voice.
 - b. Priority is envisioning a future Lake City, and developing an Urban Design Framework.
 - c. Pushing for a full community center; City Council just put \$500,000 in the city budget for improvements to the community center.
 - d. Pedestrian safety is also a focus. A recent survey found that most pedestrian injuries occur IN crosswalks. Cars need to slow down.
 - e. Also concerned about city business sign codes; would like the city to update them. Rick's strip club has some offensive large images on its electronic sign that can't be legally challenged as the code currently reads.
 - f. Pierre family (of the car dealerships) owns a lot of land along Lake City Way. It wants to leave a legacy for the Pierre name in the area once it moves out. There is a visioning process going on for that purpose.
11. Old Business - none
12. New Business
 - a. Pete Hanning presented to the North Precinct the Fremont Chamber of Commerce *Put 'Er Out Award* for excellent work on the Asko plant fire in Fremont last October. See photo --->
 - b. Will Murray announced that a new documentary on the sex trade in King County called 'The Long Night' is available free on-line through December 7th. More information on that was sent to NPAC members December 4th.
<http://www.thelongnightmovie.com>



13. Next Month's Agenda

- a. Guest speaker is Sola Plumacher, Seattle Human Services Department

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.