



Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2017

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Inga Manskopf presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speakers: the three City Council Members representing the North Precinct neighborhoods
 - a. Debora Juarez, district 5
 - i. Precinct building - Met with many constituents about the new North Precinct building. Put together a toolkit for how to contact all Council Members (attached). She supports the new building and is willing to consider cost-cutting changes to the design.
 - ii. Police accountability - legislation is being written to comply with the DOJ consent decree, to create a structure that includes 3 components: Office of Police Accountability (OPA), Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and the Community Police Commission (CPC). Her amendment calls for city council district representation on the CPC (flyer attached), not just precinct representation.
 - iii. Homeless issue success - the tiny house village on 88th newly set up. It's a no-barriers location, meaning people don't have to be alcohol and drug free to live there. They must restrict their usage to inside their houses.
 - iv. Unsafe habitation - Worked with city departments to evacuate families from Georgian Motel at Aurora and 88th and find them elsewhere to live and receive other social services. Slumlord's failure to pay bill resulted in water being shut off, and other conditions made the motel unlivable.
 - b. Rob Johnson, district 4
 - i. Police - Would like more eyes on the street - more police officers, enough staff so officers can respond better to 911 calls. Mayor has called for 200 more officers by end of decade. 72 officers hired so far, on target for 2018 goal of 181 new officers. Budget funds 66%, Rob would like it to fund 80%
 - ii. Supports LEAD diversion program so people can get social services and avoid getting a criminal record which puts up barriers to jobs & housing.
 - iii. Precinct building - Agrees we need a new precinct building. The most frequent comments he received was that it was too expensive as designed.

Doesn't know when the Mayor will send out a new plan for it.

- c. Mike O'Brien - district 6
 - i. LEAD diversion program - also supports this. It started here and is being copied around the country. It still holds people accountable.
 - ii. Community Service Officer program - glad it is being brought back with a \$2 million budget. It started in 1971 but was discontinued when budget cuts were necessary 2003-4. CSO will handle non-emergency incidents such as neighborhood disputes, investigations, and crime prevention. Planning will continue in 2017 with hiring near the end of the year and start-up in 2018.
- d. Q&A for the City Council Members
 - i. How is it going to work to add more officers when the North Precinct building is already inadequate, and how is the city's race & social justice toolkit being used for a building design?
 - 1. Juarez - The plans were halted to try to lower the cost. Will be getting an update in June on the results of the racial & social justice toolkit assessment.
 - 2. Johnson - the design commission and the community contributed to the high cost by requesting design elements. They will look at savings such as changes in parking and reassessing the firing range needs.
 - 3. O'Brien - was critical of the building design and cost, but agrees the current building is inadequate. There are fiscal constraints and other needed capital improvements around the city, such as Green Lake Community Center. Looking at surface parking across the street instead of 2 level parking garage. Possible additional office space in Ballard for doing paperwork.
 - ii. Do you support an expansion of the SPD Crisis Response Team and increased training of officers in crisis intervention?
 - 1. Johnson - Yes!
 - iii. Aurora Merchants Association would like more police
 - 1. Juarez - the DOJ consent decree calls for hiring of more officers. She agrees the Aurora corridor, Haller Lake and Bitter Lake could use more police support. The new precinct building being on Aurora Ave would help.
 - iv. Rent of the North Seattle College room for the NPAC meeting is being raised. Is City Council willing to use its budget to rent the room?
 - 1. Johnson - Yes!
 - v. Currently the LEAD program is limited to a small area of Seattle. Can it be expanded to the North Precinct?
 - 1. O'Brien - that pilot is about ready to expand some time this year, not city-wide yet, but something. Will need budget to do so. Also need the resources for the diversion - beds, social services, etc.
 - 2. Johnson - UW wrote a report on the LEAD program - space is

needed, as well as resources for officers doing the work, and more availability of nonprofits and other community services.

<http://leadkingcounty.org/lead-evaluation/>

- vi. Can the valuable Crime Prevention Coordinator program be expanded to have more staff?
 1. City Council budget allocation to SPD does not go to the position level. There could be some coordination between CPCs and the new Community Service Officer program. Open to suggestions.
- vii. Mail, package, ID theft rampant, etc. Police lack tools and facilities. Who at top administrative levels decides on the current 'minimal selective law enforcement'?
 1. Johnson - Encourages use of Find It, Fix It app on cell phone to call in problems, such as to get used syringe pickup. Hoping to increase the number of public restrooms.
 2. Juarez - Does not want there to be an us vs them mentality. City Council supports SPD. A lot of crime is a result of drug and mental health problems of vulnerable individuals.
 3. O'Brien - Lots of challenges; the current problems didn't happen in a vacuum, but are a result of continued defunding of mental health care, big pharma pushing opioids, government not funding affordable housing, etc. Solution is not to just have more police officers, but to also fund root problems - social services, mental health care, etc. SPD tries to balance law enforcement and social services.

2. Precinct Update: Lt Kevin Grossman

- a. Introduced Diana Freese, 3rd Watch Commander, on duty at night.
- b. NP uses Chief O'Toole's data driven approach to allocate resources. Every morning Lt Grossman looks at the data and its geographical mapping, and decides where to direct officers that day.
- c. Statistics
 - i. NP burglaries are down this year so far; auto theft is also down. Problems in U District and Ballard have improved.
 - ii. Sexual assault is up in NP, but mostly not strangers. Domestic violence is up, too. Most of both type of incidences involve drugs or alcohol.
 - iii. Car prowls are up 12% this year - 1400 so far. Are working on it. Data shows hot spot is Green Lake, and up Aurora to 105th St.
 - iv. Two new schools are being built near the no-barrier tiny houses. Sex offenders may end up living there. Right now there are no plans to add additional officers nearby, but NP will keep an eye on that area to see if any officer patrols need to be added. Sanctioned camps have lower crime than unsanctioned. The tiny house property is staffed 24/7 with two staff members.

3. Crime Prevention Report: Mary Amberg
 - a. Reminds us she can help set up block watches, speak at community meetings, visit homes and businesses to do a security assessment. She also can answer questions about SPD and help direct us to the correct SPD resource for a problem.
 - b. Consider signing up for Smart 911 to automatically provide more information during 911 calls. See <https://www.smart911.com>
4. City Attorney's Office: Meagan Westphal - will start in May
5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: David Baker
 - a. Charges were filed today for the fatal shooting downtown. \$1 million bail set.
 - b. Recent letter in Seattle Times by King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg. <http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/crackdown-on-immigrants-undermines-public-safety>. He says the crackdown on immigration is more of a public safety threat than it is an aid to public safety. Anti-immigrant rhetoric from the Trump administration is undermining the relationships between immigrants and law enforcement officers.
 - c. April is sexual assault awareness month.
6. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent - still on medical leave
7. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom
 - a. Handed out info on syringe cleanup: You can use the Find It, Fix It app on your smartphone to call in dirty needles. Or you can call SPU at 206-684-2489. Weekday evenings call Needles Hotline at 206-684-7587, and on weekends call 206-643-3682
 - b. The NP picnic will be July 8. Moving it back to the precinct building is being considered.
 - c. New socks, hats, scarves, gloves can be brought to the precinct any time of year for the annual winter sock drive.
8. WA Liquor & Cannabis Board: Ken Neaville
 - a. The Lake City Way marijuana store fire is still under investigation. It will probably reopen.
 - b. Regarding distance between licensed stores, the state doesn't have any rules about that; it is up to the local jurisdictions.
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership: Michael Cuadra - please give Michael any roster changes.
 - b. Focus Groups - Social Services is sending its letter tomorrow to the Mayor to advocate for expanding the Crisis Intervention Team.
 - c. Issues: Curtis Gehrke

- i. Aurora Merchants Association presented Lt. Grossman with a check for \$1,000 for the bike patrols.

10. Business, Old and New

- a. No news on changing the location of NPAC meetings. Read May's meeting agenda email carefully for any new information.

11. Next Month's Agenda

- a. Scott Lindsay and members of the city's Navigation Team will be May presenters.
- b. Nominations for NPAC officers will be accepted. More nominations can be made in June, and elections are in June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.