



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

January 03, 2018

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

Please share this information with your neighborhood and business organizations.

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Katy Dwyer presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Student Officer Jessica Chandler, re: police training
 - a. Jessica was last year's Micro Community Policing Plans intern while she was a graduate student in criminal justice. Working with the officers and community inspired her to become a police officer.
 - b. She took the six hour test, part written and part video. Five hundred people took the test.
 - c. After passing the test, one must be hired by a police agency before going to the academy for training. SPD made Jessica a conditional offer, then she went through more tests, including physical fitness, polygraph, medical, psychological and background check.
 - d. For SPD, there's a week of pre-academy training.
 - e. Then there's the 20 week basic law enforcement academy in Burien during which the recruits are paid. There is also an academy in Spokane. Both academies serve recruits of agencies in Washington State.
 - i. Classes are comprised of 30 people. In Jessica's class there were 6 women. Two of the thirty classmates dropped out.
 - ii. SPD gets seven student slots per academy class.
 - iii. Lots of classes, including criminal procedures, criminal law, officer safety, driver training, firearms, sobriety testing, scenario training, defensive tactics.
 - f. For SPD there's another seven weeks of post-academy training for learning the manual, regulations and firearms specific to SPD.
 - g. Next come three rotations as student officer, going out in the field with an officer supervisor. Jessica's first rotation is at the North Precinct.
 - h. Finally, officers are on probation for a year.
 - i. Questions for Jessica:
 - i. Academy militarization - Captain O'Donnell explained that Washington

State's focus has moved from militant to guardian mentality. Jessica felt that any military mentality at the academy served to promote comradery.

- ii. Specialty - Officers must be regular patrol officers for 3-5 years before going into a specialty.
- iii. Testifying in court - the academy does get some training
- iv. Less lethal weapons - All officers must carry at least one less lethal device, such as taser, pepper spray, baton.
- v. Preparation - Jessica felt the academy prepared her well for the next step, and she also appreciated the seven weeks of SPD-specific training.
- vi. Lateral hires - SPD also hires officers from other agencies, who go through an abbreviated training and therefore get out on the street faster.
- vii. Hiring goals - Captain O'Donnell explained that there have been significant retirements so hiring replacements and also hiring additional number of officers desired is a challenge.

2. Precinct Update: Captain Sean O'Donnell

- a. Carmen Best is acting Chief of Police since Chief O'Toole resigned.
- b. 2018 priorities for the North Precinct are:
 - i. Maintain a low level of person crimes
 - ii. Focus on reducing property crimes, including by using data analysis
 - iii. Manage legal and illegal encampments and recreational vehicle camping issues
- c. Every month the precinct is given money for overtime pay to conduct emphasis work. During the end-of-year holidays, this is typically used to do more patrols at U Village, Northgate Mall, lower Ballard/commons/market, Aurora and the Ave.
- d. Community Police Team, Bike Squad and Anti-Crime Squad can focus on specific problems.
- e. Crime statistics in the precinct for 2017:
 - i. Crime was down 3% from 2016, whereas city-wide it was down 2%.
 - ii. Person crimes were up 7%, compared to city-wide up 6%.
 1. Aggravated assault up 11%, compared up 12% city-wide.
 2. Aggravated assault domestic violence up 25% compared to city-wide up 19%.
 3. Robbery was down a bit both here and city-wide.
 4. There were 4 homicides here, with 24 across the city.
 - iii. Property crimes were down 4%, compared to city-wide down 2%.
 1. Arsons up 45%, same as city-wide; we had 44, many of them in dumpsters and porta-potties.
 2. Larceny up 1%, compared to up 2% city-wide.
 3. Residential burglaries in the precinct down 14% (335 fewer than 2016) compared to down 4% city-wide.
 4. Commercial burglaries in the precinct down 4% (32 fewer), compared to up 14% city-wide.

5. Car prowls no change from last year, compared to down 6% city-wide.
 6. Car thefts down 19% compared to city-wide down 12%.
 - iv. Encampments/RV parking:
 1. After getting complaints about encampments at Cowen Park, the Navigation Team offered services and cleaned up the area.
 2. Nav Team did the same at Ballard Commons, where tents were on a parking strip.
 3. SPD is working on the problems at the 88th & Aurora encampment.
 4. A mini-legal encampment is being set up on Northlake across from Ivar's Salmon House. Some campers from Ballard will be moved there.
 5. Mayor's office is in discussions about how to handle the difficult problem RV camping and illegal encampments.
 - v. Q: What happens when people in encampments refuse services? People are not required to accept services. Mayor's office is in discussions about what to do next.
 - vi. Q: Are the new lower speed limits being enforced? Cars still zoom on NE 65th. They are being enforced, mostly by responses to complaints. Use Find It, Fix It to complain about specific locations.
 - vii. Q: Neighborhood needs help with illegal activity/public health hazard/graffiti/threats problem near Ravenna and NE 65th St, by the old Perkins School. Captain O'Donnell made a note of it and referred neighbor to the Community Police Team, that can help with specific trouble spots.
 - viii. Q: Is SPD aware of problems by NW Hospital and the cemetery? Yes.
3. Crime Prevention Coordinator: Mary Amberg
 - a. The CPCs are focusing on communications between block watches and between block watches and SPD.
 - b. Tax season reminder that any phone calls from IRS are a scam. For a synopsis of SPD tips on scammers, see:
<https://www.westsideseattle.com/robinson-papers/2017/11/21/seattle-police-offer-tips-avoid-getting-scammed-holiday-season>
 - c. SPD Blotter is a good place to see what's going on in the North Precinct:
<http://spdblotter.seattle.gov/category/police-precincts/north-precinct/>
 - d. Tweet By Beat is also a way to see crimes in your neighborhood:
<https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/tweets-by-beat>
 4. City Attorney's Office: Meagan Westphal - no report
 5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: Amanda Froh

- a. The 2014 law requiring domestic violence offenders to turn in their firearms was on the books but there were no funds to enforce it. Now there's a new division funded to enforce, and July - October 2017 more firearms were collected than in all of 2016.
6. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom
 - a. Thank you for all the socks and other things collected. During the cold snap in December she distributed all the coats and hand warmers. Other things will be distributed soon. UW did a collection for us, and so did a grade school.
 - b. Some toys and stuffed animals that were donated will be given to Mary's Place for the store where kids can spend points earned by doing chores.
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership: please let the membership chair know of any roster changes.
 - b. Focus Groups
 - i. None of the groups are currently active. This program needs to be re-assessed.
 - c. Issues: Curtis Gehrke - none
8. Business, Old and New - none
9. Next Month's Agenda
 - a. TBA

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.