



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

February 07, 2018

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

Please share this information with your neighborhood and business organizations.

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:02 p.m. with Steve Dougherty presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Mary Amberg, SPD North Precinct (NP) Crime Prevention Coordinator (CPC)
 - a. Mary has been our CPC for 2 years now. Of the 5 CPT sectors in the city, ours is the largest.
 - b. Some of the ways Mary helps:
 - i. Helps start block watches
 - ii. Meets with neighborhoods about specific concerns
 - iii. Does home, apartment and business security assessments
 - iv. Supports the NP Community Police Team's outreach to the community
 - v. Helps citizens communicate with SPD about concerns
 - c. Other police resources online:
 - i. Tweets by Beat - <https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/tweets-by-beat>
 - ii. Crime map - <https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/online-crime-maps>,
 - iii. Crime dashboard (statistics) - <https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/crime-dashboard>
 - iv. Online crime reporting - <https://www.seattle.gov/police/need-help/online-reporting>
 - v. SPD Blotter - <http://spdblitter.seattle.gov/>
 - d. **Block watches** are a good way to fight crime; getting to know your neighbors and talking to them increases your commitment to each other; helps you to be able to tell suspicious people from neighbors; encourages you to watch out for each other and be concerned about each other.
 - e. To lower risk of **car prowls**, don't leave ANYTHING in the car; what may not seem valuable to you may be the trigger to someone breaking in. Call 911 if you see people peering in car windows and/or checking for unlocked door handles.

- f. CPTED - Crime Prevention Through **Environmental Design** - altering the physical design of communities in order to deter criminal activity. Research into criminal behavior shows that the decision to offend or not to offend is more influenced by cues to the perceived risk of being caught than by cues to reward or ease of entry. There are elements of landscaping, fencing, lighting, windows, etc. that can discourage burglars as too risky to attempt.
- g. Burglary
 - i. Most residence entries are forced - by kicking a door, or breaking a window, BUT 30-40% are NOT forced, so a big deterrent is to lock your doors and windows. Deadbolt the door between garage and home.
 - ii. 8 am - 4 pm is the most common period for burglaries to occur. Burglars can be in and out of a residence in 9 minutes. Burglars look for residences where no one is home; if someone knocks, answer through the door so it doesn't seem empty.
 - iii. Don't make assumptions of what a burglar looks like - even elderly females can be burglars!
 - iv. Be prepared - have a plan for what to do if someone breaks in. Take an inventory of all your stuff. Have a lock on one of the room doors for a safe place to retreat in case of a home invasion, from where you can call 911.
- h. Outside the residence
 - i. Maintain good visibility of the home from the street. Cut hedges down to 3 feet.
 - ii. Put garbage cans and ladders away so they can't be used to climb into windows.
 - iii. Make sure you have a visible street address for the police.
- i. Lighting
 - i. Leave your porch light on from dusk to dawn. Illuminate each entry way, and the path to behind the home.
 - ii. LED lights render colors best, which could help if you are asked to describe a suspicious person's hair color, clothing, etc.
 - iii. Motion sensor lighting is good.
- j. Doors and windows
 - i. Exterior doors should be solid core wood or metal.
 - ii. Deadbolt locks should have 1 - 1.5" throws.
 - iii. Strike plate screws for the deadbolts should be 3 - 4" long.
 - iv. Hinges should be on the inside of the door so they can't be taken off.
 - v. Change locks when you move into a new residence.
 - vi. Security film makes it harder to break windows. Use it especially on glass that is within 30 - 40" from a door lock.
 - vii. Don't leave a spare key outside.
 - viii. For sliding windows and doors, a dowel that fits snugly will prevent opening even if the lock is picked.
- k. Surveillance - alarms and cameras

- i. Don't mount cameras too high so all you see is the burglar's hat; aim so you can see the face.
 - ii. Get an alarm system that ties to a security company only if it works for you - if you have lots of people coming and going it could be a pain.
 - iii. SPD responds to monitored alarms, but after 1 false alarm, you will be charged for subsequent false alarms.
 - iv. Non-monitored alarm makes a big noise, and you'll be relying on your neighbors to pay attention and call 911 if they hear it.
- l. Vacation
 - i. Stop your mail and newspaper delivery so materials don't build up and indicate you are gone.
 - ii. Let your neighbors know when you'll be gone and when you'll return.
 - iii. Leave a radio on, especially talk radio, to make the house sound lived in.
 - iv. Unplug your garage door.
- m. Calling 911
 - i. Trust your gut - if something seems suspicious, make the call.
 - ii. Get as good a description as you can of what is going on, description of the person, which way they're headed, etc. You can practice describing strangers (humans are pretty bad at it) at stores, etc.
 - iii. Know where you are - what the cross streets' names are.
 - iv. Answer the operator's questions. If you don't know something they ask, just say so.
- n. Reporting crime
 - i. SPD is data driven, so report all crimes. Use 911 if a crime is happening now or just happened and the people still could be nearby. For a crime you discover after the fact, you can call the non-emergency number: 206-625-5011. Or you could always call 911 and let the operator triage the call. You can also use the online crime reporting page to report certain crimes so you don't have to wait for an officer to come out.
 - ii. Remember SPD can't/doesn't read NextDoor posts unless invited to the conversation.
- o. Personal safety
 - i. If something scares you, trust your feeling.
 - ii. Walk confidently, look people in the eye.
 - iii. If someone grabs you, scream and fight back. Practice yelling 'NO! Help - police! Call police!' so you reflexively say that if attacked.

2. Precinct Update: Captain Sean O'Donnell

- a. North Precinct priorities are 1) keep developing methods to reduce person crimes; 2) use crime data to reduce property crimes and deploy officers to hot spots; 3) manage homeless encampments and RV parking issues and use outreach to connect homeless to services if they want them.
- b. After first contact with an encampment, officers refer it to the Navigation Team to

follow up. Nav Team visits are currently scheduled about a month out. It offers services and schedules cleanups, prioritizing issues of public safety and personal danger.

- c. NP has some extra budget for emphasis patrols in areas with current problems. Bike squads are also deployed:
 - i. University Way east of I-5, south of 45th.
 - ii. Ballard from Burke Gilman trail to NE 43rd St, and Northlake to Shilshole
 - iii. Aurora between NE 80th and NE125th Streets.
 - d. Dept of Justice settlement agreement - in January Judge James Robart declared SPD in full compliance with the 5 year old agreement. The 10 goals have been reached, including policy changes such as in the use of force, training changes for the 1400 officers, etc. Next step is to maintain compliance for 2 years with continued monitoring.
 - e. Crime statistics - all are year-to-date 2018 compared to ytd 2017
 - i. Person crimes up 17% ytd over 2017
 - 1. 31 sex offenses - 13 more than 2017 (8 rapes, rest misdemeanors). No patterns seen, but there is a cluster of unrelated SOs in NW Greenlake.
 - 2. Robbery up 20% but overall decreasing trend. Of the 7 incidents, 4 were shop lifts gone bad.
 - 3. Aggravated assault is on a downward trend, but ytd there have been 15 more than 2017. No patterns discerned. Cluster of them several blocks either side of Aurora Ave between NE 85th St and 90th St.
 - 4. Domestic violence aggravated assault - down 48%
 - ii. Property crimes down 18%
 - 1. Residential burglary down 23% - 58 fewer ytd.
 - 2. Larceny down 7%
 - 3. Car prown down 28% - 174 incidents fewer
 - 4. Auto theft down 14%
 - 5. Arson is the exception - more incidents than last year ytd. Under investigation, especially dumpster fires. None of the latter since a suspect was talked to.
3. City Attorney's Office: Meagan Westphal
- a. Alcohol Impact Area program (AIA) needs to be renewed every 5 years. It's that time. Created in 1999 by Wa St Liquor Control Board to help neighborhoods deal with chronic public inebriation or illegal activities linked to the sale or consumption of alcohol. Seattle created 2 areas in 2006 - 1) Pioneer Square, downtown, part of Queen Anne; 2) U District bounded by 15th Ave NE, Latona, the water and Ravenna. AIA restricts sale of certain high % alcohol during certain hours, and allows local police to object to liquor licenses in the area. If you'd like to encourage Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to renew the AIAs please

send them a letter.

4. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: no report
5. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom
 - a. CPT Officer Mike Cruzan attended the meeting.
 - b. Dianne played a slideshow of CPT delivering socks to various social service centers, including the Pioneer Square Foot Care Clinic, and thanked NPAC for all the donations.
 - c. Remember that CPT collects socks, scarves, hats all year long for the program.
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership: please let the membership chair know of any roster changes. Visitors please sign the visitors sign-in sheet and members please check off your name on the members list.
7. Business, Old and New
 - a. If you are in City Council District 5 and want to tell Council Member Debora Juarez your concerns, there is a D5 meeting February 13, 7 to 9 pm at the Mennonite Church just east of Lake City Way on NE 125th St in Lake City.
8. Q&A
 - a. Licton Springs is currently an emphasis area plus patrolled by additional bike team. Can't attribute crime to the homeless encampments.
 - b. Captain O'Donnell and mostly NP officers and 911 operators participated in the fundraising Special Olympics Golden Gardens Polar Plunge, raising \$20,000.
 - c. The Captain doesn't have any information on how the reinstatement of Community Service Officers is progressing.
 - d. North Precinct is fully staffed at this time, but it is a constant effort to hire to backfill attrition.
 - e. Public can help SPD address crime by reporting all crimes for the data-driven policing strategy to deploy resources where most needed. The new mayor is currently devising her policies for allocating resources, too. Residents and businesses can employ crime prevention techniques such as Mary Amberg cited at the beginning of the meeting. Officer Cruzan encouraged use of smartphone Find It, Fix It app to report problems.
9. Next Month's Agenda TBA

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.