



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

March 07, 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 Steve Dougherty presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: SPD Chief Carmen Best
 - a. Chief Best became interim chief on January 1, 2018, after Chief O'Toole resigned, pending hiring of a new chief. She loves the job and hopes to become permanent chief. She has been with SPD for 26 years.
 - b. SPD priorities:
 - i. Reduce crime and disorder
 - ii. Excellent service, doing work the community expects and wants
 - iii. Work with honor and professionalism, and to feel proud of working for SPD
 - iv. Business efficiency. Budget is \$352 million; be thoughtful about spending it wisely
 - v. Data-driven policies and practices - use technology to do a better job getting information to officers and the community; deploying resources; solving crimes
 - c. SPD is now in full compliance with the 2012 Department of Justice consent decree. Now it must sustain compliance for two years. SPD policing has evolved a lot in the last 10 years, with technology, training, data, etc.
 - d. Homelessness
 - i. SPD doesn't want to criminalize homelessness. Need a multidisciplinary approach to homelessness and its intersectionality with mental health and opioid addiction issues. The Navigation Team is an example of the multidisciplinary, compassionate approach. For more information on it, see <http://homelessness.seattle.gov/meet-the-nav-team> Upcoming is a new phone app to help deploy SPD and the Nav Team to encampments.
 - ii. Lots of cities are also dealing with this issue, especially on the west coast.
 - e. North Precinct (NP) building
 - i. Mayor Durkan toured the NP last week.

- ii. NP, if it were a city, would be the second largest city in the state. Needs lots of resources to police it. The current precinct building has already been outgrown.
 - iii. Though SPD hopes someday to get a new building to fit the whole NP staff, City Council set aside \$11.1 million to update the existing building and work with the existing surrounding space to expand capacity. See attached NP Facility Update flyer.
 - iv. The Chief doesn't know at this point what will become of the land on Aurora that was purchased for the new building that has been put on hold.
- f. LEAD for NP
- i. SPD would like to expand LEAD - Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion - to the NP to provide alternative ways to deal with offenders than jail. Jail doesn't really solve underlying issues of crime and it often just continues the cycle of crime. Each precinct has its own character, so SPD will tweak LEAD for the NP. For info on LEAD, see <http://leadkingcounty.org/>
- g. Questions from the council
- i. *The recent small unpermitted demonstration downtown created traffic chaos for 6 hours. Why was that allowed to continue?* - SPD's role is to ensure public safety. Citizens have a 1st amendment right to free speech. Courts are very clear as to how SPD should handle demonstrations. Permits are not required. SPD is very experienced with demonstrations - deal with over 300 marches a year. In this case several demonstrators used the sleeping dragon strategy (handcuffs and PVC pipe); just getting them uncoupled would have taken over an hour. From SPD point of view, it went well in that there were no arrests and no one was hurt. Sometimes these demonstrations will be inconvenient, but they are constitutionally protected.
 - ii. *There are some dangerous roads - what about pedestrian safety?* - Vision Zero is Seattle's plan to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on our streets. For more info, see www.seattle.gov/visionzero
 - iii. *Can we get more police officers?* - SPD would like more officers, too. Did a good job last year adding officers in spite of attrition.
 - iv. *Response to recent open letter by small business owners (food trucks) about increase in property theft?* - SPD recommends using techniques to protect property, such as locking down generators.
 - v. *Status of reinstating Community Service Officer program?* - The first five officers will be up and running this year; don't yet know which precincts they will be placed in. The rest will eventually be deployed.
 - vi. *Why are homeless incidents not always recorded?* - Though all 911 calls are recorded (added to the database), officers don't always write up a report.
 - vii. *Can the Navigation Team be expanded?* - SPD would like more but it is not in the budget at this time. For info on what the Nav Team is doing, see

its Homelessness Response Blog at <http://homelessness.seattle.gov>

- viii. *911 texting?* - Being able to contact 911 via text is launching sometime in 2018. Captain O'Donnell noted that 911 phone calls are better, as more information can be exchanged. Questioner noted that bystanders who feel it is dangerous to call may feel safer to text.
- ix. *How is it going having two officers per car?* - It is thought to improve officer safety, and it is continuing to be done. Doesn't think it has affected response time (having fewer patrol cars available). Captain O'Donnell said officers seem to be more willing to step out of the car when there are two of them, which engages with the community better.
- x. *How do Mayor Durkan's public safety goals compare to SPDs?* - They are on the same page. Mayor Durkan is tending to take a regional approach to homelessness.
- xi. *How are officers reacting to DOJ requirements - new training, etc.?* - Police have become more proactive, which the Chief takes as an indication that they are buying in to the new policies, training, accountability, and the monitoring/data. Captain O'Donnell added that the NP police officers are proud of the work they are doing.

2. Precinct Update: Captain Sean O'Donnell

- a. Mayor Durkan toured the NP February 26th. The current plan is to make interim changes to last 7-10 years until a new precinct building is built. Plan includes putting three portables on the existing property and converting the grassy area to the south to gravel for additional parking (about 40 spaces) to relieve some neighborhood parking congestion. SPD has done doorbelling and leafleting around the precinct to explain the proposed changes. Captain O'Donnell thinks the NP should have two facilities so officers can reach all areas of the precinct fast. He has brought it up at meetings and it has been put in documents 'as an asterisk.'
- b. North Precinct priorities
 - i. Identify methods to reduce person crimes
 - ii. Use crime data for fighting property crimes
 - iii. Manage homelessness encampments and RVs
- c. Repeat call locations last month include
 - i. Retail outlets along Aurora between NE 115th St & NE 125th St.. Made some significant arrests.
 - ii. Lower Ballard, regarding RVs, criminal activity on the Commons, and homelessness
 - iii. U District toward I-5, gave it extra attention
 - iv. Lake City, gave it extra attention
 - v. Northgate Mall area, I-5 to Roosevelt Way NE, between 92nd & 115th. Put extra resources there.
- d. NP crime stats, year to date compared to last year's YTD

- i. Persons crimes up 14%
 1. Sex crimes up 5% (by 2 incidents), though rapes down 25%
 2. Robbery up 13% (7 of them shoplifts gone bad)
 3. Aggravated assault up 52% (there were 21 in 2 weeks) No patterns discerned. 14 were by unknown assailants, no injuries
 4. Aggravated assault, domestic violence down 31%
- ii. Property crime down 8% overall from last year YTD
 1. Residential burglary down 14% (63 less). Secured garage burglaries are down 50%
 2. Commercial burglary down 21%. Have been putting ‘cops on dots’ (using data to ID hot spots). Last week arrested some who had prior repeat offences.
 3. Larceny down 3%
 4. Car prowl down 18%
 5. Car theft down 9%. Focusing on hot spot in U District south of NE 65th St. Had loaned out one of the 2 license plate reading cars to the South Precinct, but have now brought it back.
- iii. Monday SPD met with school principals about threats after the Florida active shooting incident that killed 17 people.
- iv. Combatting property theft is a team effort. Citizens can learn about how they can help by meeting with our NP Crime Prevention Coordinator, Mary Amberg mary.amberg@seattle.gov. She can help set up block watches, do an assessment of your home for safety features, etc.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Membership: If you come regularly and would like to be on the member sign-in checklist instead of signing the visitor list, please email spd.npac@gmail.com.

4. Business, Old and New

- a. The council ratified the executive board’s choice of Andrea Perr to join the board as an at-large member.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.