



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 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:
 - a. Instead of a speaker, we had a social and poster session. Members brought holiday treats (thanks!) We chatted, and on posters for each neighborhood we wrote public safety concerns and successes. The comments will be compiled for discussion at a future meeting.
2. Crime Prevention Coordinator: Mary Amberg - no report
3. City Attorney's Office: Meagan Westphal
 - a. Follow-up on the woman who assaulted a child at a community center a while ago: she went through the mental health diversion. She went to Western State Hospital to try to restore competency, but that failed. Now she's going to be evaluated.
 - b. Follow-up on the man who takes photos of young girls around Green Lake who assaulted a man and his child: he is barred from being within 500 feet of Green Lake, and his trial date is set.
 - c. Sometimes misdemeanors can lead to big public safety wins. A woman repeatedly hounded a family in Greenwood, entering the house through the dog door, lighting candles, and sitting outside. She was charged with criminal trespass and given a no contact order for that family. But she returned. A neighbor called SPD, and guns and tools (that could be used for kidnapping) were found in her car. More weapons were found in her home. At trial she was found guilty (jury rejecting the defense's diminished capacity argument) and sentenced to six months in jail.
4. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: - no report

5. Community Police Team: Sgt. Dianne Newsom
 - a. Dianne ran a raffle for holiday goodies!
 - b. There's still time to donate socks for the sock drive (accepted all year round, really); just take them to the precinct at 10049 College Way N. As of December 5, the donations are:
 - i. 100 hats
 - ii. 1591 pairs of socks
 - iii. 11 pairs of gloves
 - iv. 14 scarves
 - v. 6 beautiful crocheted blankets
 - vi. 3 coats
6. Business
 - a. Membership: If you come regularly and would like to be on the member sign-in checklist instead of using the visitor's sign-in, please email spd.npac@gmail.com.
7. Precinct Update: Captain Sean O'Donnell/Lt Abram Barker
 - a. Update on LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program newly in North Precinct: in November, SPD officers made 43 referrals to LEAD. Most were from along Aurora Ave N, with the rest from Ballard.
 - b. The Captain introduced his new administrative assistant, Samantha Roit. For the first time in years, Michi Tolmie was not at this meeting, but Samantha did a great job helping to set up. Thanks, Michi, for your long-time support!
 - c. 'Tis the season for car prowls. Remember to NOT leave things visible in your car. And when shopping, don't put stuff in the trunk and then go back into the stores - thieves watch for this. Also, if you leave your garage remote control in your car, if someone steals it and you don't lock the door between your house and garage, they can get in. That said, car prowls are down 7% YTD compared to last year. Motor vehicle theft is up 5% YTD.
 - d. Homicides are up 50% YTD (6 vs. 4 in 2017).
 - e. Last 28 days statistics show an unusual double digit percent downward trend in all categories except larceny-theft (illegally taking and walking away with someone else's property without authorization), up 10%. This dashboard is used to help the Captain identify crime hotspots and deploy SPD resources. Currently, there is more criminal activity in the Aurora corridor, University Way, Lower Ballard; and Fremont is seeing more property crime.
 - f. Additional overtime hours have been authorized for emphasis patrols in the hotspot areas. In addition, there is emphasis around the malls for the holidays - Northgate and University Village.
8. Open Forum/Questions
 - a. Q: why does SPD have to respond to UW problems when it has its own police force? A: There is a mutual aid agreement between the two departments. The

stadium holds 70,000 and the UW force has 70 officers! UW pays for a SWAT team during games, and pays WA State Patrol to help, too. SPD provides traffic control before and after games. For large street parties and disturbances around frat row, that is city property, not UW's, so SPD is responsible for maintaining peace there.

- b. Q: There are vehicles without license plates parked in Fremont. A: It is not legal for cars without license plates to be parked on the street. Call parking enforcement, which can cite vehicles. Regarding RV parking, there are rule differences depending on size of RV, zone, etc. In residential zones, parking is limited to 72 hours. These can also be called in as parking complaints. Next meeting we will get clarification on how far a vehicle must move (DOT website says vehicle must be moved off the 'blockface'. A common definition of blockface is: one side of a street between two consecutive intersecting streets. We shall see what the City says.)
 - c. Q: Is it ok for groups of neighbors to patrol the streets to hopefully deter crime? A: Yes, but do not intervene when you see illegal activity. Call 911. Some criminals are deterred by people watching, but some mentally ill and/or narcotics users are less concerned.
 - d. Q: Heard there are gangs in Ballard. True? A: Yes.
 - e. Q: There are illegal encampments in southwest Ballard, specifically Leary Triangle, where you can see piles of bikes, tools, presumably chop shops for stolen goods. A: Please report things like that. There are over 400 illegal encampments. The Navigation Team, which is tasked to reach out to encampments with social service offers, give notice and clean them out, is newly funded to double. Its work is limited by the number of shelter options available. The Captain notes that SPD is part of the homeless solution, but other city social services are involved. He also reminds us that there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution. Some people want to get off the streets; some do not.
 - f. Q: Aware of the growing encampment at the Northgate Way southbound I-5 entrance? A: Yes. Technically it is WashDOT property, but SPD is involved. Lack of placement opportunities is limiting ability to clean it up. SPD has made two arrests there, one for a Northgate Mall robbery.
9. Next Meeting: January 2, 7:00 pm. Our guest speaker will be Tracy Gillespie, Project Manager for the North Precinct's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.