



## SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

*Expanding Communication between the Police and Community*

### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2019

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

Please share this information with your neighborhood and business organizations.

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:04 p.m. with Katy Dwyer presiding.

Topics covered:

1. SPD Introductions:
  - a. Captain O'Donnell expressed his appreciation to NPAC for the support it's given SPD. He thanked us for our collaboration, helping SPD to understand the issues that are important to the community. After 3.5 years as North Precinct's captain, he is moving to Traffic. He then introduced our new captain, Captain Eric Sano, who is coming to us from Traffic.
  - b. Captain Sano said a few words to introduction himself. He's been on the force 35 years, most recently the head of Traffic. His only experience with the North Precinct was when he was a student officer, and a temporary post for a month. He is busy learning about the precinct. Captain Sano will answer all emails and phone calls, so do contact him with your concerns.
  
2. Special Presentation Speaker: Andrew Myerberg, Civilian Director of Office of Police Accountability (OPA)
  - a. OPA investigates allegations of SPD employee misconduct. It is an independent branch of SPD whose director is a civilian who reports to the mayor & city council, and whose staff of 25 is an equal mixture of civilians and sworn officers.
  - b. Its vision is to safeguard a culture of accountability within SPD, and its mission is to ensure SPD employees comply with law and policy by conduction thorough, objective, and timely investigations. It also recommends improvements to policies and training.
  - c. OPA's public affairs unit does policy analysis and community engagement, while its investigations unit does - wait for it - investigations.
  - d. Complaints can be made by anyone, civilians or SPD employees, and are done by email, phone, in-person, letter and online form. Over 1000 contacts are received a year (1325 in 2017 out of 300,000 contacts with police that year). A preliminary investigation is conducted within 30 days to classify the complaint for mediation,

supervisor action, investigation, referral to another department (such as the Prosecuting Attorney's Office), or just to the contact log if it doesn't involve SPD or there is no policy violation. In 2017 21% were classified as supervisor action and 34% for investigation.

- e. Investigation, conducted by sergeants within 180 days, includes looking at officer-worn body video and dash cam video, interviewing all named employees and most witnesses. Findings are reviewed by OPA civilian leadership, approved by Office of Inspector General (OIG), and certified by the OPA director.
  - f. The OPA director reviews the case and finds for either sustained (misconduct found) or not sustained (unfounded, lawful & proper, inconclusive, or calls for training referral or management action). Findings go to chain of command and police union, as well as the complainant. In 2017 findings were 18% sustained, 71% not sustained, 11% partially sustained. Director Myerberg noted that he is seeing less misconduct in Seattle than he did in New York.
  - g. Police chief makes the final determination of discipline, can be oral reprimand, written reprimand, suspension without pay, demotion or termination. The SPD employee may appeal the decision, or get arbitration. The complainant can not appeal.
  - h. If the finding is for management action, OPA might recommend changes in the training materials, policy, etc.
  - i. OPA's website is [www.seattle.gov/opa](http://www.seattle.gov/opa). There, you can file a complaint, check the status of one, take the public awareness survey, or contact them to give a talk like this one to your group. The survey, also here: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/OPAPublicSurvey2019](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OPAPublicSurvey2019), is open until March 15. Also, follow OPA on Twitter: @SeattleOPA.
3. Surveillance Technology, Deputy Chief Marc Garth Green
- a. All city departments must do outreach to explain their uses of technology that affect privacy, and take public comment. SPD believes that the 3 technologies reviewed today are intrinsic to departmental function. You can read more about the technologies here: <http://www.seattle.gov/tech/initiatives/privacy/surveillance-technologies>. Comments are being taken through March 26, 2019. Online, go to [seattle.gov/privacy](http://seattle.gov/privacy). If you don't want to comment online, you can send a letter to Seattle IT, PO Box 94709, Seattle WA, 98124.
  - b. 911 Logging Recorder - it records all 911 calls as well as all radio traffic between dispatchers and patrol officers. The recordings provide transparency, accountability and quality assurance. Recordings are used in criminal prosecutions and within 911 center for training and quality control purposes. Recordings are destroyed after 90 days unless needed for court. They are not shared with any other entities unless ordered to do so by public disclosure requests (heavily redacted for privacy) and the courts. Only authorized SPD users can access the password protected system.

- c. Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) - software used in the 911 center and in computers in patrol cars. When a 911 call comes in, the call taker creates a record in CAD to log caller information. The system also tracks officer location, allowing staff to dispatch appropriate patrol resources. The record is updated by dispatch and officers responding to service events. System logs around 250,000 events a year, and an additional 135,000 initiated by police officers. Only authorized SPD users can access the password protected system. All data moving outside of SPD network is encrypted. Records are subject to public disclosure requests and court records.
  - d. CopLogic - crime reporting software that allows public to submit certain police reports though a web-based interface. For non-emergent crimes, this allows people to report them without having to wait for an officer to arrive to take the report. It saves SPD over 20,000 patrol officer hours a year, freeing them for more serious incidents, saving SPD over a million dollars a year. An SPD officer screens each report, gives it a case number and transfers it to SPD's Record Management System. Officers follow up when necessary. Only authorized personnel can access the information. If your non-emergent crime doesn't fit the categories allowed for online reporting, call the non-emergency line to have an officer take the report.
4. 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](mailto:spd.npac@gmail.com).
5. Precinct Update: Captain Eric Sano
- a. Captain Sano understands that police response times are important to us. He acknowledges that North Precinct's (NP) are higher than the city average. Staffing and the size of the NP - 40 square miles - play a role in that. Year-to-date, NP's median response time for priority 1 calls is 7.44 minutes (half are below and half are above). He gave no statistics on priority 2 & 3 calls.
  - b. Crime is trending down, but he knows that's no comfort to victims. 90% of our crimes are property crimes, and more efforts are going to be made to reduce that. One strategy will be to focus on the prolific repeat offenders and arrest them, getting them off the streets. Programs will be developed to identify these offenders, and collaborations will be created with Major Crime Task Force, the bike teams, and other units to go after them.
  - c. Captain Sano is not interested in statistics per se, though he does use data to help allocate patrol officers and devise strategies to deter and prevent crimes. He's more interested in hearing from us what's important.
  - d. Three locations are currently experiencing high commercial theft: Home Depot on Aurora, TJ Maxx at Northgate, and the businesses around 13200 block of Aurora, such as Rite Aid.
  - e. A lot of property crimes are due to drug problems - mail theft, car prowls. Need to

work on this. LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), that was added to North Precinct in July, is helping to get help for low-level, non-violent offenders with drug addiction. See <http://leadkingcounty.org> for how this program works. One goal is to get high offenders into LEAD.

- f. North Precinct has the most homeless encampments in the city. Anti-crime Team works closely with Narcotics to go after drug dealers in the encampments and to put drug users into LEAD. Note that the Navigation Team will do an encampment cleanup in Fremont soon.
  - g. Two child luring incidents were reported on Lake City Way in February. A van with a similar description was seen in Ballard.
  - h. Captain Sano is learning about our precinct, talking to staff, looking at the Micro-Community Policing Plans (MCP), listening to us. He looks forward to leading the North Precinct, one step at a time.
  - i. Anastasiya Shevchuk, MCP Research Analyst, announced that the MCP top 5 concerns will be published in the coming months. She will be sure she gets them to us.
  - j. Q: does SPD use baiting to catch criminals? NP used to have a bait bike, but had to give it back to the precinct that owns it. NP will look at all strategies to reduce property theft.
6. Next Meeting is Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00. Stay tuned for guest speaker.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.