



## SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

*Expanding Communication between the Police and Community*

### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2019

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

Please share this information with your neighbors and neighborhood and business organizations.

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Kurt Kapusuzoglu presiding.

Topics covered:

1. New District 4 City Councilmember Alex Pedersen introduced himself. He supports getting a second police station in our precinct, and hiring more officers. He wants to hear from us about our public safety concerns. Contacts:
  - a. <http://www.seattle.gov/council/pedersen>
  - b. Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov
  - c. 206-684-8808
  
2. Special Presentation Speaker: Ann Forrest, Chair of Northeast Seattle Hubs, NESeattleHubs@gmail.com
  - a. **Community emergency hubs** are places where people gather after a disaster to help each other. Hubs serve as a central gathering place among neighbors in homes, apartments and condominiums.
  - b. In contrast, and separate, **gathering spots** are p-patches designated by the city as safe places to congregate for safety, where there is open sky, no power lines or buildings to fall down on people.
  - c. After a disaster, we will be on our own; we will have to take care of ourselves. Police and fire departments will be really busy responding to the most urgent problems in the most densely populated areas, and the north precinct is mostly lower density single family homes, so we won't be first priority.
  - d. On an individual level, plan for two weeks on your own - food, water, toilet paper, etc.
  - e. It will be neighbor helping neighbor, and lots of creative problem solving. In the hierarchy of where to expect to get help, from most to least, is: family; neighbors; your community; city services.
  - f. The hubs are help at the community level. They are being developed by volunteers at natural gathering spots, such as parking lots, churches and parks.
  - g. Hubs are only activated if normal communications are down - no internet or

phones. At hubs, there won't be material items like food and flashlights; those are expected to be at the family level. Here are some things the hubs can do:

- i. Hook up people who have stuff with people who need stuff (via posted lists)
  - ii. Disseminate information. Ham radio operators will be on duty. The city will broadcast information at the top and bottom of each hour. The info will be posted at the hubs.
  - iii. Trained volunteers will have helpful advice on how to cope with the challenges such as boiling water and can help individuals share their knowledge.
- h. During a disaster, Seattle Police will work with hubs to the extent they can, such as by sending people to them for help, providing information to the hubs, dropping by, etc.
  - i. Hub volunteers from all over the city meet every other month, drill once a year, get grants to buy large storage boxes to put at their hub sites for equipment and paperwork, and do outreach at skills fairs, etc. to spread the word about both the hubs and family/individual preparedness.
  - j. North precinct is 33 square miles. There are 21 communication hubs. With a goal of having one within ½ mile of every person, we need 45 hubs. We will send out a map and list of existing hubs in a separate email; if you'd like to start a hub in a hub desert near you, check out the web site:  
<https://www.seattle.gov/emergency-management/prepare/prepare-your-neighborhood/community-emergency-hubs>
  - k. For more information on hubs and hub locations, how to prepare for a disaster, check out [www.SeattleEmergencyHubs.org](http://www.SeattleEmergencyHubs.org).
3. Crime Prevention Coordinator: Mary Amberg
    - a. Auto theft is a current issue. Lock your cars. Don't leave your car running and go back inside. Don't leave your garage door opener in your car. Use a club on your steering wheel.
    - b. If you want a free club, Mary has some, but hurry, they are going fast. Only request one if you plan to actually use it! [Mary.Amberg@Seattle.org](mailto:Mary.Amberg@Seattle.org)
    - c. Holiday season means increase in burglaries and car prowls. Have packages delivered to a locker or to a friend who will be home. UPS and FedEx let you deliver to their stores, and Amazon has lockers at local businesses like groceries. Tell neighbors if you go away for the holidays so they can watch your house.
  4. City Attorney's Office: Meagan Westphal - no report
  5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: William Doyle
    - a. KC's Most Dangerous Offenders Program assists law enforcement agencies. They will go out to a crime scene 24/7, and assist with legal issues such as search & seizure, warrants, etc.

- b. Reminder that Seattle Attorney's Office handles misdemeanors, while King County's handles felonies. Felonies include car theft, drug delivery, sexual assault, etc.
  - c. KC practices vertical prosecution for homicides. That means the same attorney works on the case from start to finish so there is continuity.
  - d. Two units are devoted to repeat offenders. They are trying to identify this group for burglaries and car theft. Crime can go way down once the prolific offenders are caught and jailed.
6. Community Police Team: Sgt. Dianne Newsom
- a. Still collecting socks! Our meeting host, Northaven Senior Housing, has a big basket in the lobby for collecting socks, and some residents are knitting hats. Diane gave one resident - who was actually knitting at our meeting - a gift for her many contributions. SPD takes cash donations, too. Recently \$1000 was donated, which was used at the Fred Meyer sock sale after Thanksgiving. So far 2651 items have been collected. You can drop off items at the precinct - 10049 College Way N.
7. 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).
  - b. NPAC Board asks members' help with outreach to north end groups/people, especially underrepresented populations.
8. Precinct Update: Captain Eric Sano
- a. As a followup to this month's special topic
    - i. During a disaster do NOT call 911 except for truly major emergencies. Don't call to ask when power will be back on, or to ask for help to find your missing pet. The 911 lines need to be open for bigger problems. 911 call center has a generator so it should be available.
    - ii. During a disaster SPD officers will be driving around looking for victims, protecting infrastructure, etc. Fire Department will be doing the same.
    - iii. SPD has an emergency operations center that will be activated to coordinate police response.
    - iv. SPD also trains officers for emergencies.
    - v. Best advice is to be prepared - have 2 weeks of food and water, as well as things like diapers, toilet paper. Know your neighbors so you can help each other.
  - b. Though auto theft is down year-to-date in Seattle overall, it is up in the north precinct. NP is working on strategies to reduce it here, such as focusing on chronic repeat thieves to put them in jail.
  - c. Homicides have been a problem lately - of the 27 in Seattle this year, 12 were in NP, and 6 of those were on Aurora Ave N.

- d. Due to recent traffic fatalities, NP instituted a traffic safety patrol. Do not text and drive, do not cross streets while texting, and do not jaywalk - use crosswalks.
- e. Aurora Avenue is still having emphasis patrols from about NE 80th St to NE 130th St. Prostitution has not decreased. There are some decoys, some plainclothes officers, to go after pimps and johns. A lot of the rapes being reported are on Aurora, mostly prostitutes. Rape is up 24% this year. SPD is also looking for drugs along Aurora.
- f. Holiday emphasis (using overtime) has commenced in University Village, in Fremont/Ballard, and on University Ave.
- g. There has been an increase in 7/11 store robberies, usually young punks. SPD is trying to find patterns/commonalities.

9. Open Forum/Questions

- a. Regarding the city's 2020 budget, Capt. Sano did not get everything desired. Studies show north precinct is understaffed. They recommend an additional 32 officers, or at minimum 19 (2-3 squads-worth). NP has been promised more officers as they come out of the Academy, starting in mid-December.
- b. In the city budget, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) got a \$3.5 million increase. SPD is asking for metrics of success. NP made over 300 referrals. Suggestion for LEAD to come back to NPAC for an update.
- c. SPD Community Service Officer update - the first 5 officers have been hired and are being trained. Six more will be hired in January and five more in March. They are unarmed, noncommissioned, to help with non-criminal calls, with services like housing, transportation, food, support for the elderly, etc.

10. Next Meeting: There is no meeting in January, so the next meeting is February 5, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.