



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2020

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. Special Presentation Speaker: SPD Chief Carmen Best
 - a. SPD's six priorities (#6 is new)
 - i. Reduce crime and disorder
 1. Using tools such as data analysis
 - ii. Provide excellent service
 1. Build relationships with citizens
 - iii. Honor and professionalism in work
 1. Work to keep officers and enable them to be successful and feel supported. Recently 30 left for lateral positions elsewhere.
 2. SPD has 5 times more training than other police departments in the state.
 - iv. Business efficiencies
 1. \$407 million budget - need to use right.
 2. Most of it is for personnel. 12-15% is for everything else.
 - v. Data driven policies and practices
 1. Use technology to deploy resources where they're most needed.
 - vi. Officer wellness
 1. Nationally, suicide is increasing among law enforcement officers due to job stress, etc.
 2. Need coping mechanisms for officers and their families.
 3. Officers need to be at the top of their game to perform optimally.
 4. Officer wellness programs will help recruitment. Younger generations values good work environments.
 - b. Other important priorities
 - i. Gun violence and gang violence.
 - ii. Car theft
 - iii. Officer recruitment and retention. Offering hiring bonuses, competing

with other police departments. Hired 108 officers in 2019. Hired four mental health professionals to deal with people in crisis. North precinct 911 crisis calls were up 56%. Twelve Community Service Officers were recruited and there will be six more. They will do community engagement, be system navigators, help youth, etc.

iv. Replace north precinct building.

v. Crime stats

1. Overall, crime was down 1% in 2019.
2. Homicide, rape and auto theft was up.
3. Shots fired were up - gangs and proliferation of handguns.
4. Robbery, aggravated assault and burglary was down.

c. Q: Shots fired? Call 911 if you hear shots fired.

d. Q: Status of new precinct building? There will be a new process, including neighborhood outreach, analysis using the equity toolkit, and renewed discussions of where a new precinct should be placed.

e. Q: Increase prosecutions? Mayor has convened discussions. Chief thinks there is now more of a commitment to convict people arrested by SPD.

f. Q: Deal with homeless garbage, defecation, trespass? Human Services Department is involved with garbage and such.

g. Q: 3rd & Pine shooting response? 100 officers responded that night to deal with trauma, collect evidence. Had to determine whether it was an active shooter situation. There is now more police presence downtown, but not at the expense of 911 responders in the precincts. Instead, once day a week each precinct sends downtown a non-911 responder - such as a Community Police Team officer.

2. Crime Prevention Coordinator: Mary Amberg

a. During the day Mary does security assessments at homes, businesses, schools.

b. In the evening she attends community meetings and helps set up block watches.

c. Saturday, April 18 12:00 - 2:30 at Northgate Library there will be a free women's personal safety class. (Note that it is not a self-defense class.) Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-personal-safety-training-tickets-90189133125>

d. Mary is taking over the north precinct sock drive since Sgt. Dianne Newsom retired! Bring new socks, hats, scarves to NPAC meetings. If you want to bring them to the precinct, please email her ahead of time. Mary.Amberg@seattle.gov.

3. City Attorney's Office: Joe Everett

a. Joe is filling in for our precinct liaison, Meagan Westphal, while she's on special assignment. He's the SW precinct liaison. Liaisons from the City Attorney's Office work in their precincts, helping SPD with legal matters. See

<https://www.seattle.gov/cityattorney/about-us/precinct-liaison-division> for more information about this role.

b. The new City budget adds 2 prosecutors, one for the LEAD program. Pending is a

- 3rd prosecutor for prolific offenders. City Council wants more information.
- c. CAO recently helped beef up the vacant building program, increasing inspections from 4x/year to every month.
 - d. CAO is also working on increased efficiencies, such as speeding up the building demolition permit process.
4. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: Paul Sewell
- a. The two young men involved in the recent 3rd & Pine shooting that injured 7 and killed 1 person are being extradited from Nevada. They are being charged with assault in the 1st degree and murder 1st degree, plus firearm enhancements. They are being held without bail. Two prosecutors have been assigned to the case for the entire duration. The third participant, the one who they were shooting at, will be arraigned soon. He's being held on \$250,000 bail.
5. Community Police Team: A/Sgt. Mike Lanz
- a. Mike is filling in for retired Sgt. Newsom until her position is filled.
 - b. CPT has recently done a lot of encampment removals from parks and where tents have obstructed sidewalks, making 300 contacts and referrals to people experiencing homelessness. Also doing RV parking enforcement, especially on Aurora, in Ballard and in Fremont.
6. Business
- a. Membership: If you come regularly and would like to be on the member sign-in checklist instead of signing the visitor's sign-in sheet, please email spd.npac@gmail.com.
 - b. NPAC VP Andy Perr is recruiting members interested in being on a committee to help get traction on the new precinct building(s). She sent around a signup sheet, but if you weren't at the meeting, email spd.npac@gmail.com to be added. Actions might be letter writing, attending city council meetings, etc.
7. Precinct Update: Captain Eric Sano
- a. Captain Sano has been head of the north precinct for a year now.
 - b. Trends
 - i. 90% of crime in the north precinct is property crime.
 - ii. Auto theft is a big problem right now. Working to identify and arrest prolific offenders.
 - iii. There is a perception that violent crime is up in the U-District based on letters & emails to UWPD from students & parents, and because of some high profile incidents that have been reported. However, data shows it's actually down 5%. Because perception is often reality, SPD is meeting with the U-District Partnership and UWPD to look at the crime trends to see what can be done to address violent crime issues.
 - c. Still using LEAD in north precinct for diversion for low level drug offences and

prostitution.

- d. North Precinct priorities
 - i. Reduce shots fired, especially in problem areas Aurora corridor and Lake City. Using data to identify known shooters, and utilize the gang unit and major crimes task force in emphasis in these two areas.
 - ii. Reduce car theft. Right now there seem to be a lot of work trucks and Isuzus being stolen. Many are abandoned near where they were stolen. Mary Amberg still has some steering wheel clubs to give away. Contact her at Mary.Amberg@seattle.gov.
 - iii. Reduce residential burglary. Also reduce organized retail theft. The Safeway at 1423 NW Market street is the biggest victim.
 - e. Crime statistics year-to-date
 - i. 9% reduction in crime compared to 2019 YTD.
 - ii. Robbery is up 30%, but officers have a 60% arrest rate. Some of the robberies were shoplifts that became robbery when they escalated.
 - iii. U District had 22 violent crimes since January.
8. Open Forum/Questions
- a. Q: License plate theft. Thieves often take the front plate to put on the back of a stolen vehicle. Report these thefts.
 - b. Q: Vehicles racing around a parking lot. Call 911 if you see suspicious activity of any kind.
 - c. Q: Prosecuting shoplifters? City Attorney does file charges for shoplifting. Maximum sentence for this misdemeanor is one year. For staff safety, many stores don't try to stop shoplifters. And some have given up reporting thefts.
 - d. Q: Status of troublesome Everspring Inn on Aurora? City is going for a civil abatement. It is collecting 911 call history, and arresting people committing crimes out of there. [Civil abatement is the application of civil regulatory law to crime prevention goals. It encompasses a wide range of tactics.]
 - e. Q: Traffic enforcement? Aware of pedestrian fatalities on Aurora, and last year had a patrol emphasis there. Still working the Lake City Way area with the traffic unit, especially at rush hour and at night.

9. Next Meeting: March 4, 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.