



## SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

*Expanding Communication between the Police and Community*

### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2021

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

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

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

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Victoria Beach, Chair of African American Community Advisory Council (AACAC)
  - a. Ms Beach's family has lived in Seattle for five generations. She grew up hating police, and family members have had bad experiences with SPD, been beaten up, guns pointed at, etc. But in the 1980's her street started having problems and she became block watch captain, where working with SPD officers, she realized she liked some police.
  - b. Became more involved in meetings, and eventually became chair of AACAC. As such, Beach feels she is caught in the middle, between the Black community who she feels loyal to, but that sometimes thinks of her as a traitor, and SPD, that she still doesn't trust in general. But she thinks it's important to try to keep communications open.
  - c. AACAC's purpose is to facilitate Black voices to be heard about police matters, but it is open to all races and is citywide.
    - i. Meets third Thursday of each month. Now it's via Zoom, previous to the pandemic it met in a park.
      1. Email to be on mailing list: [victoriatbeach@gmail.com](mailto:victoriatbeach@gmail.com)
      2. Facebook page has meeting announcements and zoom links: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/African-American-Community-Advisory-Council-114022320365180/>
      3. SPD webpage on AACAC: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/community-policing/demographic-advisory-councils/african-american-community-advisory-council->
    - ii. The meetings are good opportunities to engage with the Chief and other SPD officers and to let them know what's on their minds.
    - iii. Would like more attendance at meetings - it seems there's not much awareness around Seattle that this council exists.
    - iv. A venue for getting to know the officers who are charged with protecting Seattle citizens.

- d. Personally, Beach is in favor of SPD reforms, but is against the 50% defunding idea; need a plan before defunding. Reimagining policing includes making police more accountable - and by non-peers. Agrees more funding is needed for mental health, drug addiction help, etc.
  - e. So many seasoned officers have left, there are many newer, younger officers that need mentoring. Feels there need to be seasoned officers at the protests and on the streets to help the new ones. Would like, during officer training, to let Black people share their stories.
  - f. Hope is for Black community to have more trust in SPD, but she understands the lack because she used to feel the same way, and it took her a long time to gain some. She does see people changing from being involved in the advisory council.
  - g. Agrees with some of BLM, which has a different relationship with SPD, but hasn't spoken with the Seattle BLM leaders.
  - h. Some Black Seattlites are afraid to speak out, for fear of being called traitors, or afraid of being retaliated against. And some have family members who disagree with them.
  - i. Beach is also a member of EastPAC, which is very white. It's hard to get Black attendance there.
  - j. Would like to see all the PACs work together. Would also like other ways besides the PACs to bring SPD and the community together. It's hard to get people involved. Often it's a huge crisis that motivates people to get involved.
  - k. Advice for attracting people of color to NPAC - reach out, ask them to share their experiences, fears, thoughts.
  - l. Thoughts on SPD redesign - keep seasoned officers from leaving; clean house in City Council; need SPD Chief, City Council and Mayor to work together.
  - m. All in all, Beach believes Seattle is headed in the right direction.
2. City Attorney's Office (CAO): Meagan Westphal
- a. Municipal court is still running greatly reduced due to the pandemic public health restrictions. Hoping jury trials can resume in May.
  - b. Reviewed the departments in CAO's Criminal Division.
    - i. See: <http://www.seattle.gov/cityattorney/about-us/criminal-division>
    - ii. This document, starting on page 10, describes the processes in review & filing; trial team; domestic violence; specialty courts: <https://news.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2020Annual.pdf>
  - c. Update on Everspring Motel re-opening on Aurora -
    - i. Dept of Health found a few failed items in recent inspection. Will reinspect in May.
    - ii. Need to comply with conditions to open and then will be on probation for two years during which it will be monitored for over thirty conditions.
3. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO): David Baker
- a. A new public-facing dashboard showing King County felony cases was released on-line a couple weeks ago. It's a first cut and will be improved over time. Would love feedback - email is on the website.

- i. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/prosecutor/criminal-overview/CourtData.aspx>
    - ii. There's a video for how to use it, definitions of terms, and ways to filter the data, such as by time period, crime category.
  - b. King County deals with over 6,000 cases a year; big backlog now due to the pandemic.
  - c. Answering question: once a judge approves a protection order resulting from a criminal case, it goes onto a state-wide database and will pop up when police do a check on the person.
- 4. North Precinct Update: Lt. Joseph Osborne
  - a. North Precinct crime stats - comparing 2021 year-to-date with 2020 year-to-date
    - i. Citywide crime is down 4% but North Precinct is up 3%
    - ii. Vehicle theft down 6% (363 YTD this year)
    - iii. Robbery up 12% (106)
    - iv. Aggravated assault up 10%
    - v. Rape down 44% (15)
    - vi. Arson up 1200% (13 compared to 1 last year YTD)
    - vii. Burglary up 23% (926)
    - viii. Other theft up 1%
  - b. Prior night's shots fired in U District - found shell casings for two cars shooting at each other at 4500 block of 7th Ave NE. No descriptions of vehicles or people.
  - c. Huge uptick in car prowls in Magnuson Park. Extra patrols going there as time permits.
  - d. Community Service Officers (CSO) are not assigned to precincts at this time. Next week North Precinct will get a briefing on what CSOs will be doing, as original duties have been affected by the pandemic.
  - e. SPD doesn't know what percentage of officers have gotten vaccinations. Employees are not required to get it, and not required to tell SPD if they do.
  - f. North Precinct building, whose front desk is still closed to public due to pandemic, is near completion of remodeling. It will be up to the Chief when front desk reopens.
  - g. Complaint about cars speeding on 25th Ave NE in spite of reduction of limit to 25 MPH - Traffic unit has been cut in half due to budget, but patrol officers are trying to use arterials on 911 calls to be a visible deterrent to speeding. School zones are being enforced this week via the cameras, so hope that will deter also.
  - h. No news on hiring a Crime Prevention Coordinator for the North Precinct. But given the uncertainties of future budget cuts due to defunding/reforming, don't want to hire someone only to have to lay them off. For CPC-type issues, contact Sgt. Martin Welte, [Martin.Welte@Seattle.gov](mailto:Martin.Welte@Seattle.gov), who will pass it on to another precinct's CPC.
  - i. Protests aren't as frequent now as last year, but increased numbers are anticipated for May Day and the trial of Derek Chauvin's murder of George Floyd. Originally there were two platoons of 50 officers each available; with officers leaving SPD, it is 30-35 officers each.

- j. SPD is dealing with frequent late night street car racing. Dangerous, and has injured pedestrians.
- k. As part of defunding SPD, Parking Enforcement will move to Dept of Transportation eventually.
- l. Re: question about when Ballard Commons will be usable by the community (ie encampments gone) - Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for that, not SPD.

5. Business

- a. NPAC officer elections will be held at the June meeting.
  - i. Term runs September - June
  - ii. We are looking for people interested in being an officer: president, vice-president, secretary. You may self-nominate! All attending the June meeting can vote.
  - iii. Also looking for volunteers to be at-large members on the Board. The Board nominates at-large members, and all attending the June meeting can vote to ratify its nominees.
  - iv. See attached document for office descriptions and board duties.**
  - v. If interested, please email [spd.npac@gmail.com](mailto:spd.npac@gmail.com)!
  - vi. We will finalize nominations at the May meeting.

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 7:00 pm on Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.