



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2016

Recorded by Karmen Schuur

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Inga Manskopf presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Fire Chief Harold Scoggins, Seattle Fire Department
 - a. Number 1 challenge is the **rising call load**. Not significant increases in fires, but more in the EMS-type calls. Units moving, AMR moving through the city. Because of the information and the data, how we capture it, we still use paper documents, forwarded here, forwarded there. Of the 92,000 calls last year, 25,000 of them were “low-acuity” calls - not true ALS type emergencies. This year, we have our low-acuity task force helping us. We also reached out to Microsoft, who will be granting us tablets, currently testing that. When we go on an EMS call, we’ll be able to see problems in real-time. Also bringing on some staff workers - case manager and case workers - some of the shelters are our #1 customers...which makes sense - DESC - 1000 responses last year, 300 were actually emergency situations. Our convalescent care and nursing facilities - there are a lot of calls out of North Seattle. Good news that there are not a lot of fires, but lots of emergency calls. Ideally, when higher-level EMS calls come in, then we can help, task force and other staff can handle that.
 - b. Another goal/challenge is the **building and development** in the city has outgrown our staffing levels. That creates longer wait times for developers, creates a higher inspection load for FFs out in the field. Every new building is much safer than the one standing there previously. We are also seeing a built-out waterfront and the challenge that creates for our fire-boats. Have 5 boats total...have one out on station 5 on the waterfront, then we have a cross-staff crew that populates the Lake Union boats. Several months ago we had a fire on Lake Union, partnered with SPD to stop that fire, held it in check.
 - c. Using **technology and data-efficiencies** that we create in the department. Working to create an application for these tablets going out, trying to eliminate redundant work.
 - d. Also want to create **next generation of leaders** - major turnover in the department, working on how to better prepare people to take on leadership roles. Lot of things going on in the SFD.

- e. In the second month of our newsletter, **The Seattle Responder**. This will address things going on inside the department, some safety tips and recruiting links...
 - f. **Staffing** - received over 7, 000 applications, very proud of that, trying to create a more diverse department. This is a nationally-recognized department and it is a destination department. Our EMS program is the jewel of the EMS system. The model that Seattle created partnered up with the CPR component-when you look at the stats-8,000 people trained in CPR, we have some of the highest save-rates of any other city.
 - g. **Cascadia is Rising** program - 4 day state-wide exercise. Emergency Ops Center will simulate exercises...if there is an Earthquake, SFD will break down the city by the 5 Battalions. Each will have a map of key facilities to check (bridges, schools, roadways etc.) From there, triage the information and prioritize the issues ongoing. Also engaged in a study with Princeton that is doing some earthquake modeling - should get the answers on what a high-magnitude earthquake will look like in Seattle.
 - h. Q: **Is increased traffic density a problem?** - because there's more traffic, our response times have the potential to slow, something we are paying attention to. All that is based on that medical information that we have...we use that to base our ideal response times. We also use timeframes to estimate spread rates for fires. That will be something we will address if/when our response times increase. Some of this data is on the open data info, but internally, we are always tracking the response times. Washington Surveys and Rating Bureau - last time we were rated as a class 2 organization. Rating of the local fire department is used to determine housing and business insurance rates. No matter where we end up, our goal will be to create a class 1 organization.
 - i. Q: **Harm reduction training?** - we have training for this and continuing education events for our FFs. Also have opportunities for field training...we now have domestic violence training portions. For summer, we have training for de-escalation, we have a way to do that. We have a topic of the month for trainees' 96-week training program. As for morale...it's challenging to respond to these calls, we sometimes have to rotate people out of these aid cars because we want to prevent that burn out. Around the country, FDs are partnering with different programs to prevent this problem. At some point in time, someone will adopt something that works. In the 50's and 60's, there were a lot of fires. This generated literature ("America is Burning"), which led to better building codes and EMS as a standard procedure.
 - j. For SFD data, news and reports, see the website: <http://www.seattle.gov/fire/>
2. Precinct Update: Captain Sean O'Donnell/Lt. David Sweeney
- a. First thing: Our **new N Pct. 3rd watch commander** - from South Precinct (Dianne Frees). She was on patrol for about 7 years, then worked for the narcotics division, North precinct at second watch, then to ACT in South, now up here to 3rd watch.

- b. **Officer-involved shooting** in the 2200 block of NE 85th St, a couple of ACT officers who were reacting to a known felon/criminal who was armed (not supposed to be armed). He had a gun in a holster on his hip. When the officers later approached him, they observed him reaching for a gun and made the decision to shoot. The gun was recovered from the scene. I know that's a very nebulous description, but it is still under investigation.
 - c. **Person-crimes** are trending slightly lower (YTD). Bad news, we continue to have a higher number of property crime - mostly in the southern area of the precinct. Because of that, working with other units in the police department, Chief O'Toole requested that a property crimes task force be created. To-date they've had some significant successes. Receiving stacks of reports about arrests - are clearing crimes for a number of different crimes - one individual was cleared for 70 different thefts. We find when we take prolific criminals off the street, we see a reduction in the number of crimes occurring. We do not see this drop happening yet (task force has just begun work). 18 of those arrested city-wide are from the North Precinct. Task force will remain in place for 30-60 days to bring the trends down.
 - d. **Property crimes** (auto theft, residential and non-res burglaries, prowls and thefts). The individuals involved in this are usually involved in some capacity in narcotics. One of the other things we are doing to ID our suspects is using our ALPR cars. These vehicles can read plates - mobile or stationary. We are taking both of those cars, identifying the car, arresting people who are driving those cars.
 - e. On **encampment issues**, we are working with other city departments on creating safe zones for campers. 14th NW-able to move 11 different RVs - temporary parking permits. Former Yankee Diner lot just off of Shilshole; the lot is now occupied by 13 RVs. Lot will be there until September. The end goal for this is to provide services to the RV folks and move into more permanent situations.
 - f. Continue to maintain work down on **University Way**, also have bikes there and on Aurora. 3 officers apiece. In addition, we brought additional resources (horses/mounted patrol on University Way). There will be 4 additional officers in the North precinct to fill vacancies - this will allow us to address some of these calls faster.
 - g. **Heroin use** is an epidemic at this point...narcotics section will be working on higher-level investigations to find the dealers. Mayor Murray announced that there will be 71 new beds added to South Beacon Hill for those who are recovering. Will be moving forward with King County on that...clearly an issue that needs a lot of work...
3. Crime Prevention Report: Mary Amberg
- a. Have had out-of-state training.
 - b. Focusing this week on **secure parking garages** because of car prowls. Even in the most secure garages, people are letting others in. People can just come right in. In some of the condos - once someone got into the parking garage, people

were able to get into elevators without any keys or key fobs. So, please don't leave garage-door openers in the cars. Car-prowls are generally an under-reported crime so please contact me if you want a security check.

- c. You can lock your gates to protect yourself; no laws about keeping open access for emergencies.
4. City Attorney's Office: Brendan Brophy
 - a. The **drug crimes** are going to felony prosecution. People coming through our office are usually misdemeanors. Can get people through drug courts, given services.
 - b. Good news, former problem club **Fusion's building** will become a brewery (Floating Bridge)...working on re-modeling the space.
 - c. Also **squatters**...KIRO did something on it, covered Dept of Planning and Development mostly. Unfortunately, you can't tear down until you have a plan. In Ballard, on the vacant building trespass program that allows SPD to enforce trespassing on that property, if you see someone breaking into these places, call the police and they can enforce it...don't be afraid to call 911.
 5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: Dan Clark
 - a. Seattle Times article today covered our efforts to go after **johns and pimps**, not sex workers. Completely flip-flopped our approach for that...2009 - mostly convictions for prostitution, now we are going after the demand-side of things. Studies show that the entry point for prostitution is 12-15 years old. Recently had a motel manager on Aurora charged with knowingly allowing prostitution in the establishment. Also partnership with businesses to prevent trafficking of women through their establishments has also helped us. One thing for the online stuff, we've been working with some online agencies like Google, trying to be as aggressive as possible on demand side.
 - b. King Co. has been pushing **drug court** for a very long time...no matter where you stand on this issue politically, having less demand, having someone off drugs, dries up that drug market. Makes sense to get people into programs like LEAD and avoid prosecution in general - this is a clunky, expensive process...not effective.
 6. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent
 - a. Level 3 sex offender running around Ballard - finally found him in the Lake City neighborhood...found a new girlfriend, failure to register charge on that guy.
 - b. There was a guy who was a frequent arrestee out of Edmonds - on for assault 3 (assault with a weapon). Recently wanted for a stabbing up in Edmonds, found this guy having a subway sandwich...grabbed him.
 7. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom
 - a. Karmen Schuur and I worked on some of the questionnaires and the map on the

Micro Community Policing Plans. Started revising the priorities for each plan.

- b. **SOCKS**...big box of socks.
 - c. About NextDoor...**NextDoor** is a good forum for communicating with each other and finding things out...problem is that people can fixate on things-we don't get into all of everyone's interactions. If you are speaking to a neighbor about a vacant house and it is a concern, you may want to invite us on that conversation. Another thing that happens is we get some things that are not crimes...
 - d. Another issue coming across my desk is **RV camping rules**. The law says they can't park more than 72 hours...this means they can move. If they are over 80 inches wide, on a residential street, they are in violation of the law. If there is a person in the vehicle, there is liability here and the vehicle cannot be towed. We sympathize with people who have campers, but if you see someone in front of your house who looks like they might be a good candidate, we can screen their criminal history, they get hooked up with Road to Housing (who does their screening) and then if they are good to go, they can park in the Yankee Diner lot. Have more spots, so call or email me.
 - e. (CPT officer Lanz) Have been assisting Ballard and Fremont community with the RV campers who are in need of services. Big issue right now, working hard on it. Sgt. Newsom has been doing a great job on coordinating this...
 - f. Canal Park - seeing lots of encampments on WSDOT and SDOT property, a lot of times with Parks, if you get ahold of the crew chief, they can help, or 684-CITY or calling CPT. The encampments are a big issue right now, and they are scheduled in the next couple weeks...
8. Liquor and Cannabis Board: Lucy Peterson
- a. Just been keeping busy with marijuana retailers. If you have any complaints about bars or MJ retailers, call or go online; we'd be more than happy to check that out.
9. Member Organization Profile - none
10. Committee Reports
- a. Membership: Michael Cuadra - please give Michael any roster changes.
 - i. Really want to know who is coming to NPAC meetings. Working with Nancy and want to fine-tune the roster so that we can update the email list.
 - b. Focus Groups
 - i. Social Services Committee:
 - 1. The **needle cleanup class**: Over 30 people attended, lots of positivity. Already been asked to do another one. The next step-contacting the people who attended the class-give them a survey so that they can tell us how many needles they are picking up etc...It's a timely issue, did a lot of interviews, and when the Mayor announced the new treatment facility, got several more

requests.

2. **Advocacy letter** to the Mayor asking for some clarifications about car-camping and limitations the first responders have when working with these cases. What kind of support does SPD get from other agencies since this is not just an SPD-issue? Letter is going around for committee signatures; will be sent soon.

11. New Business

- a. **Annual police picnic** - there's a letter going around the room for signatures that says that while we do appreciate the Seattle Police Foundation, the change to move the picnic around and associate the police event with other festivals does not work. This letter requests that the police picnic be its own event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.