

NORTH PRECINCT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Expanding Communication Between the Police and Community
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2008

Recorded by William Murray

The monthly North Precinct Advisory Council meeting for November began at 7:04 p.m., with Jack Heavner, presiding.

I. Special Presentation Speaker: Dan Satterberg, King County Prosecutor.

Mr. Satterberg stated his appreciation for volunteers in the community such as NPAC and had some good news to share regarding crime rates dropping in King County, which is home to 1.8 million people. Auto thefts are a danger to the community and Seattle was among the top cities nationwide for auto thefts. Former King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng had requested tougher sentencing and created the auto theft unit in King County, which targets the top 20 auto thieves. In 1984 an auto thief would have needed seven convictions for a six to twelve month prison sentence, and in 2007 they are eligible to receive a 17 – 22 month sentence on their third conviction. Subsequently, auto thefts in King County have dropped from 17,000 in 2005 to an estimated 8,000 in 2008. There is a \$10.00 surcharge on speeding tickets which funds the auto theft task force. High tech license plate readers are used by the task force and today the recovery rate for stolen vehicles has greatly improved.

Mr. Satterberg discussed a disturbing trend in youth violence, including a recent teen homicide at a Mall in south King County, and an equally disturbing trend of the 'no snitch' rule which is a part of today's popular culture. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office has a Homicide response unit comprised of 20 attorneys and seven staff members. The unit has had 72 callouts this year including five callouts on a recent weekend and has 52 open pending murder cases this year. A gang shooting earlier this year at a North Seattle mall has resulted in a five year sentence for assault. Due to a King County budget shortfall of \$93 million, some misdemeanor cases will be shifted to cities, resulting in a one to two percent caseload increase. A ten-day furlough for King County employees has been implemented for 2009. The King County Prosecutor's Office handles 25,000 cases a year.

II. Precinct Update: Captain Mike Washburn/Lieutenant Robin Clark/Sergeant Diane Newsom.

On November 16th at 7:40 p.m., North Precinct Officers responded to a grocery store in the 9900 block of Holman Road N.W. Investigation revealed that the suspect stole a case of beer, exited the store and got into his truck. Two store employees followed the shoplifter outside. One employee began to struggle with the suspect at his vehicle while the second employee tried to get the vehicle license plate number. According to witnesses, the suspect accelerated to get away, deliberately striking one of the employees with his truck.

On November 18th, Seattle Vice detectives working with federal authorities served federal warrants for promoting prostitution at a North Aurora Tan Salon. The owner of the tan salon is alleged to have run an interstate prostitution ring.

On November 17th at 12:57 a.m., a North Precinct officer contacted a victim of a stabbing at N.W. 85th Street and 9th N.W. The officer was able to broadcast a suspect vehicle description and direction of travel. Moments later, officers sighted the vehicle at N.W. 85th and 15th N.W. and made a stop of the vehicle. The suspect ultimately admitted to stabbing the victim during a dispute. Witnesses indicated a struggle did occur in the north parking lot of a nearby tavern.

On November 28th, shortly before 4:00 a.m., officers from the North Precinct responded to a 911 call of a home invasion robbery in the 13500 block of Linden Avenue North. According to the victims, an unknown male and female broke into the apartment and demanded the cash box from the victims. The victims stated that while they did not know the suspects, the suspects knew details about the victims. It is believed that the suspects were armed with a gun. The suspects fled the scene in an unknown direction, possibly in a vehicle. SPD's Robbery Unit was notified and will be responsible for the follow-up investigation.

III. King County Prosecutor's Office Report: Corinn Bohn.

Felony harassment charges with deadly weapon enhancements were filed against the assailant in the University Bridge attack. The victim was acting as a good Samaritan in this case as the assailant posed as an injured bicyclist on the bridge in early morning hours.

IV. Committee Reports.

- a. Issues: Doug Thiel requested any special issues for the Executive Committee.
- b. Membership: Dick Hillmann requested to be informed of any roster changes.

V. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.