



## SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

*Expanding Communication between the Police and Community*

### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2013

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

The monthly NPAC Meeting began at 7:00 p.m., with Ruedi Risler presiding.

Topics covered:

I. Special Presentation Speaker: Sgt. Sean Whitcomb, SPD Public Affairs Unit



This unit used to be called Media Response Unit; it would dispense information when the media called. With the new name came a new focus - media is seen as a partner that helps spread information, and also the internet allows SPD to spread info the public wants to the public itself. The major media sites are:

- a **SPD Blotter** <http://spdblotter.seattle.gov>
  - i Journalistic site for Seattle crime news. SPD hired a former Stranger journalist to help write on this blog. He is enlivening the posts with occasional judicious humor.
  - ii Focus of content is through the lens of the public - what the public is interested in, in order to feel safe in the city
  - iii You can filter the stories by precinct
- b **My Neighborhood Map** <http://web6.seattle.gov/mnm/>
  - i Via tabs along the top of the screen you can see:
    - 1 *Map of 911 incidence responses*
      - a You may choose an address or neighborhood, a span of days or months, and which types of crimes to show on the map
      - b Not all crimes are shown on both maps - sexual assault, child abuse, kidnapping, suicide, crimes related to homeland security.

- c Location of an icon on the map is where the 911 call came from, which is not necessarily where the crime occurred.
  - 2 *Map of police reports*
    - a You may choose an address or neighborhood, a span of hours within the last 48 hours, and which types of crimes to show.
    - b It can take three business days for the reports to be completed and entered (with redactions).
    - c As an NPAC member pointed out, sometimes too much information is in the reports, which could compromise the safety of a victim. As officers get experience, they will learn to put the right amount of info in the reports.
  - 3 *Statistics* - this page will be enhanced, hopefully by summer, during the 20/20 Initiative process. Right now the monthly stats are not aggregated in very useful ways for the public.
- c **Tweets By Beat** <http://www.seattle.gov/police/tweets>
  - i Uses the Twitter information network that broadcasts messages up to 140 characters long.
  - ii You can sign up for one (or more) precinct/beat to get info on recent crimes in that area.
  - iii It can also be accessed via the SPD Blotter website, see above.
  - iv It is fed by automated 911 data going to the My Neighborhood Crime Map
  - v Posting is delayed by an hour for safety and investigative purposes.
  - vi Excludes domestic violence calls, sexual assaults, and other certain types of crimes.
  - vii There are 27,000 Tweets By Beat followers at this time.
- d A downside of all this info is that some people may feel more afraid, now that they can see how many crimes and sexual offenders are in their neighborhood.
- e It is important to remember that the best way to **contact** the police is to call 911. “If you see something, say something”.
- f If you have questions, contact Sean at Sean.Whitcomb@seattle.gov, or 206-615-0487.

## II. Special Short Topic: Faye Garneau, Seattle Districts Now

- a Seattle District Now feels Seattle needs to change how its city councilmembers are elected.
- b Proposing a city charter amendment from at-large representation to seven district reps and 2 at-large reps, called a mixed system.
- c This method would hopefully encourage the councilmembers & their constituents know each other and the district issues. Cost of campaigning would also be reduced.
- d Seattle Districts Now is collecting signatures to put the charter amendment on the ballot.
- e See website <http://www.SeattleDistrictsNow.org> for more info and how to sign a petition.

### III. Precinct Update: Lt. Ron Rasmussen

- a U District street robberies rise in January as students come back to school with new 'toys'. UW Police and SPD have increased their presence, especially on Friday & Saturday nights. That said, the increase this year has been a lot less than last year.
- b Crime is down in the NP compared to last year.
- c Still have a large car prowling problem. Don't tempt by leaving briefcases and bags in view. Lock your doors.

### IV. Crime Prevention Report: Terrie Johnston

- a Terrie can research/follow-up a 911 call you made if you are unhappy with SPD response. Terrie.Johnston@seattle.gov
- b Schools and businesses are still calling for site reviews, triggered by the Sandy Hook school shootings.
- c Small businesses are calling for training in robbery and shoplifting prevention, somewhat spurred by the recent liquor license changes and the shopping bag law (people are putting things in their pockets instead of going to check-out and buying bags?).
- d End of the holidays has not ended delivered packages being ripped off of porches.
- e Thanks to Seattle Police Foundation Terrie has many copies of the book "The Gift of Fear and Other Survival Signals that Protect Us From Violence" by Gavin deBecker that she can give to victims of a scary crime (occupied burglary; stalking; domestic violence).

### V. City Attorney's Office: Jana Jorgensen

- a Still attending Mayor's Office meetings on car camping and what to do about it. It is a slow process. Please let Jana know of chronic car camping spots. You can send her photos and locations by email: jana.jorgensen@seattle.gov.
- b She is also attending to community groups' ownership issues with murals along Aurora, such as at N 39th St & N 46th St.

### VI. King County Prosecutor's Office – Deputy Prosecutor

- a KC Prosecutor is testifying on issues in Olympia this week:
  - i SB 5376 Increase penalty for juveniles possessing firearms
  - ii HB 1383 Protective order for stalking victims
  - iii HB 1341 Compensation for wrongfully convicted people
- b See <http://www.kingcounty.gov/Prosecutor.aspx> for more information, contact is prosecuting.attorney@kingcounty.gov

### VII. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent

- a Got closure - a 5 year plea deal - on an old investigation into a drug dealer/ID thief.
- b Arrested 2 burglars after one's parole officer gave DoC a tip that on his cell phone there was the phone # of a storage facility. Police met burglars at the storage unit!

VIII. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom

- a This month's handout is on pedestrian safety and driver awareness (attached). The new traffic cameras at a few NP schools are showing how much speeding is going on. Lt. Rasmusson says more cameras are coming.
- b All our holiday socks were given to Roots, a young adult center in the U District. <http://www.rootsinfo.org/>
- c Dianne introduced new CPT Officer Tim Wear. He's been in SPD 28 years and has worked in NP several times before. His current area is Ballard. See updated CPT roster (attached).

IX. Liquor Control Board: Judy Lewis - no report

X. Committee Reports

- a Issues: Doug Thiel - The Executive Board is planning a membership drive to encourage more NP constituencies to attend, such as religious organizations, PTAs, etc.
- b Membership: Dick Hillmann—please give Dick any roster changes.

XI. Old Business

- a Suzie Burke from Fremont said that the Seattle Police Foundation recently raised over \$100,000 dollars at auction, and also that it bought two police dogs for SPD.
- b I put this item in Old Business as a little joke, given the prefatory repartee between Suzie and Doug Thiel about how far they go back in NPAC.

XII. New Business - none

XIII. Next Month's Agenda

- a Guest speaker will be Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.