



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

July 2, 2014

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

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

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Ron Smith, President of Seattle Police Officers' Guild
 - a. Ron has been with SPD for 20 years, and became president of SPOG in February.
 - b. SPOG represents over 1250 officers, detectives and sergeants. As a union, it protects the benefits, working conditions, training and equipment of its members.
 - c. It also negotiates the contract with the city of Seattle. The current contract ends 12/31/2014.
 - d. Works with SPD chiefs and precinct commanders on workplace grievances, violations of the labor contract, personnel issues, etc.
 - e. It also makes funds available to families facing life threatening illnesses, sponsors children's athletic leagues, and participates in many charitable events.
 - f. Check out its Facebook page (Seattle Police Officers Guild), Twitter account (@spog1952), and website (<http://www.seattlepoliceguild.org>).
 - g. During the recruitment process Ron was very impressed with our new Chief, Kathleen O'Toole.
 - h. Dept of Justice investigation and findings
 - i. SPOG did not support the lawsuit against the new use of force policy that 123 officers filed, though the lawsuit does have some valid points about it. SPOG advised the officers to discuss their issues with the Community Police Commission, but that advice was not taken. Many officers who signed were from the North Precinct, perhaps because two of the main organizers (one an expert in use of force) belong to the NP.
 - ii. Chief O'Toole will appoint a work group to review the policy. It will also be reviewed after 6 months. DOJ, the Community Police Commission and perhaps City Council members will be reviewing it.
 - iii. Ron believes that more supervision, which the policy calls for, is a good thing.
 - iv. One problem with the policy is that there is so much paperwork that it takes several officers off the street to complete it. Perhaps every precinct should have an administrative sergeant to do paperwork so the other sergeant can return to the street.
 - v. A use of force committee is working on reviewing and fixing the new

process.

- vi. Bottom line, police have the right to use force when it is 1) reasonable; 2) necessary; 3) proportional.
- vii. SPOG is not against reform, but it didn't like the DOJ report; it doesn't think it is accurate. It thinks DOJ's 20% improper use of force is very high. A UW professor looked at the same data and found 1.2%. It believes DOJ's interview process selected for those who complained.
- viii. SPOG is cooperating with DOJ. It learned that Los Angeles's similar process was protracted by resistance that turned out to be a waste of time.
- ix. Answering a question on technology, Ron thinks a new computer system will not really help streamline the paperwork problem the new policy is creating. There is just a lot of data to enter and review.
- i. Answering a question on drug testing, Ron would support random steroid testing of officers like the army does.

2. Precinct Update: Capt. David Emerick

- a. Crime statistics for the first 6 months of this year are largely consistent with last year, except car thefts and prowls are up 50%. NP is working on this issue, recently arresting 5 people who accounted for 50 offences. 1990's models Toyota, Honda and Subaru are special risks due to how easy it is to use a shaved key to start them. Get a club or kill switch to deter car thefts. There is a little group of people on mountain bikes who are doing car prowls and burglaries right now.
- b. Burglaries are down 10% in the same period.
- c. U District is looking good. Emphasis is on clearing out the open air drug dealers in collaboration with King County Metro, which can act if there is crime in or near its bus shelters like the problem area on University Way and 50th.
- d. Golden Gardens had some assaults so SPD is starting weekend emphasis patrols. In other places as well (until overtime budget runs out), there will be weekend emphasis where large groups of people congregate in the summer.
- e. Ballard Commons will get a couple officers working overtime.
- f. A night bike team was started - 3 officers and a sergeant.
- g. In the autumn 40 officers will be finishing training, so there should be some new officers in North Precinct.
- h. The new Police Chief O'Toole has cited 4 top priorities:
 - i. Focused and proactive crime reduction using evidence-based methods to reduce the most serious neighborhood crime problems;
 - ii. Positive change in the culture at SPD and attitudes related to the practice of collecting and reporting the required data for the six new policies developed as part of the Settlement Agreement;
 - iii. Building community relationships in all neighborhoods with a consistent visible presence;
 - iv. Prioritize build out of the Business Intelligence System.
- i. NP has been doing outreach to prostitutes to let them know about community court and social services available to them.

3. Crime Prevention Report: Elizabeth Scott
 - a. Car prowling is a crime of opportunity. Reduce the opportunity with these tips:
 - i. Lock car doors and windows
 - ii. Park in a lighted area (2/3 of prowls are done at night)
 - iii. Don't leave things in the car
 - iv. Disable the interior trunk lock so if they do get inside, they can't get in the trunk
 - v. If you're going to put stuff in the trunk, do it before you get to where you park so people don't see you do it
 - b. A secure parking lot does not prevent car prowls, so do the above!
 - c. Auto theft can be done in 1 minute. Don't leave your car running and don't leave your keys in the car.
 - d. Most car thefts are done for transportation these days, and 86% are recovered in a week.
 - e. National Night Out is Tuesday August 5th. Tell your neighbors to register - registrations are down this year.
4. City Attorney's Office: Brendan Brophy
 - a. The July 8 opening of marijuana retail stores is not going to be a huge event - probably only 1 store is opening, on 4th Ave S. Applications are still coming in and being reviewed.
 - b. Vice had a successful operation by bike officers to inform prostitutes of social services.
 - c. Preparing for July 4th. Making events private gives officers more tools. And coordination between several agencies helps.
5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Luke Larson
 - a. ID theft was the most reported crime last year. Washington State has an aggressive stand on ID theft - lots of laws written. Conviction has 'big consequences'. KC Prosecuting Attorney's Office has a financial fraud unit. Last year 87 people were charged for 599 felonies.
 - b. If you see someone rifling mail boxes, call 911 and you could be thwarting ID theft.
6. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent
 - a. A guy on parole living at N137th & Burke Ave N was supposed to be living in Bellevue. When DOC went to the house, a bunch of criminals were in the house. Arrested a woman, and the guy in violation.
7. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom
 - a. This month's handout is on Car Prowl Prevention (attached).
 - b. Night Out has only 245 NP registrations so far - register your event! If you want to collect socks at Night Out, ask Dianne for a Sock Collection poster.
 - c. Regarding mail fraud, if you want a locking mailbox, get a metal one. The plastic ones can be pried. Lowe's, Home Depot, etc. carry locking mail boxes.

8. Liquor Control Board: Woodrow Perkins
 - a. Office is still short-staffed, and thus the priorities are still:
 - i. Investigation of complaints (such as disorderly conduct, over-serving)
 - ii. Youth access to alcohol, tobacco and marijuana
 - iii. Public safety

9. Committee Reports
 - a. Issues: Curtis Gehrke - none
 - b. Membership: Inga Manskopf - please give Inga any roster changes.

10. Member Organization Profile - Cowen Park Neighborhood Association, Doug Thiel
 - a. Dominated by the 8.6 acre park, bounded by NE 62nd, Brooklyn, 15th Ave NE, & Ravenna Blvd.
 - b. Ravenna ravine runs through the park. It also has kids' play facilities.
 - c. Problems include people hanging out at night. If you live next to a park
 - i. Maintain the park (trim shrubs, etc.) so SPD can see into the park.
 - ii. Get to know people in Parks Department and work with them. If you need contacts, ask Doug.
 - iii. Work with the SPD Community Police Team in your sector right when issues crop up so they don't balloon out of hand.
 - iv. Coordinate Parks Dept and SPD so everyone knows what everyone else is doing about the issues.

11. Old Business
 - a. Captain's issues project (we need a name for this)
 - i. The crime and drug team met. Next meeting is 7/17 6 pm at the NP building. It is working on a specific drug dealing project.
 - ii. Social services team is waiting for its SPD member to return to good health and will start meeting in a week or two.

12. New Business
 - a. Chief O'Toole wants to continue Precinct Picnics, with a twist. She wants them to be taken to problem areas - to take back the places from the bad guys. August 23rd there will be a picnic at University Heights Center.

13. Next Month's agenda
 - a. There is no meeting in August due to Night Out the day before.
 - b. Next meeting is September 3rd, and the speaker is to be decided.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.