



Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2015

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

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

Topics covered:

1. Precinct Update: Captain Sean O'Donnell / CPT Officer Mike Lanz
 - a. North Precinct (NP) is projected to acquire 1-2 new officers per month through the end of this year. SPD hiring director says hiring into next year looks good; there are good candidates in the pipeline. No telling how much attrition due to retirements - people don't tend to divulge their retirement plans until imminent.
 - b. NP is experiencing higher numbers of crimes against persons than of crimes against property, though overall there's been a drop in both since the end of summer as people go back to school, etc. The following statistics are for September:
 - i. Crimes against persons are up 24%. In 45% of these crimes the victims are associated in some way with their assailants. Nightlife hours assaults are higher but not closely related to the venues (bars, etc.). The two rapes reported actually occurred outside of the NP. Some of what would be coded shoplifting crimes turn into robberies when business staff confront the thieves and fighting ensues. SPD is conducting safety and prevention education classes for businesses. The next one is at the Fremont Fred Meyer on October 22. Contact joe.bender@seattle.gov for more information.
 - ii. It's been hard to find patterns in the street robberies. An emphasis was done in June-July but wasn't effective. University Way in the U District has been a problem.
 - iii. Property crimes are down 13%, including car prowls down 17% and car theft down 42%. Having another patrol car with license plate reading software helps.
 - c. SPD is starting a Real Time Crime Center, a high-tech hub that will evaluate criminal activity as it occurs and try to use historical data and statistics to help ID criminals and solve crimes rapidly.
 - d. Some incidents in the last month:
 - i. Duck and NSC bus accident on Aurora Bridge.
 - ii. Chinese president's visit took a lot of NP officers out of the precinct for three days, but they were backfilled by officers from other watches.

- iii. 15 year old who left Children's Hospital and barricaded self in house with guns was taken into custody.
 - iv. Officer shooting of knife-wielding car-prowler at NE 98th & Roosevelt Way NE.
 - v. U District Safeway robbery and stabbing. Bike patrol responded and took suspect into custody. Possible 3rd strike for him.
 - vi. UW animal rights demonstration where 300-400 people marched off campus. Officers herded them back onto campus in collaboration with UW Police.
 - e. Recent University Way strategy, 'buy & slide', resulted in 20 arrests of drug dealers. Starting in June, Narcotics and NP officers, with some assistance by UW police, identified sellers, but didn't arrest them until they learned their MOs and built strong cases over 3 months. Sept 15 they arrested 20 of the 24 ID'ed. Strategy adapted from downtown's 9 ½ block strategy. Some of the arrested will probably go to drug court instead of jail. Will be provisions such as having to Stay Out of Drug Areas (SODA), defined as NE43rd St to 52nd and 12th Ave NE to 15th. Important to work with the prosecutors to get the right help or jail time. SPD is building bonds with U District service providers. Bike and foot patrol officers pass out flyers about social services. One challenge is that people over 25 who have aged out of a lot of the services stay in the U District and don't want to go downtown where the adult services are. For more ongoing strategy, have added a walking beat in morning, and a little bit in the afternoon.
2. Focus group discussion - The past NP Captain set up four focus groups comprised of an SPD officer and NPAC members to respond to NP citizens' public safety fears collected in a 2014 survey. Two of the groups are active and two inactive groups have been morphed into one. If you are interested in being in any of the groups please contact spd.npac@gmail.com to be put in touch with the lead. We will start having regular updates from these groups at each meeting.
- a. *Drugs and anti-crime* - meets 6 PM, 3rd Thursday of the month in the NP Captain's office. Took care of the Burke house problem! Has helped with complaints on NextDoor about a house at 137th & Erickson. If you have a specific drug or crime problem, this group can help.
 - b. *Social services* - meets 6 PM 4th Wednesday of the month in NP Lt. Sackman's office. It's more about policy issues and advocating city for social services that can help SPD improve public safety than for solving specific problems in the neighborhood. Sent letter to KC Councilperson Rod Dembrowski advocating increased funding for Crisis Solutions Center's Mobile Crisis Team and for a team to be located in the NP.
 - c. *Mobility/safety* - not active, has a couple members, but needs a lead to get things moving. Deals with specific problems related to pedestrian and traffic safety such as street lighting needs, freight routes, crosswalks. If you have a problem you'd like help addressing, or would like to lead this group, contact spd.npac@gmail.com or mention it at the next NPAC meeting.

3. Crime Prevention Report: new coordinator hire is still in vetting phase.
4. City Attorney's Office: Brendan Brophy - no report
5. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: Amanda Froh
 - a. Amanda is an elder abuse prosecutor. Works with three SPD detectives and a sergeant to investigate elder crimes.
 - b. Kudos to NP for making strong cases on the U District open air drug busts mentioned above, such that many of them were held instead of getting bail. The presumption is that bail will be granted unless it can be shown why they shouldn't get it. SPD showed why.
 - c. Vast majority of drug cases go to drug court instead of incarceration.
6. Department of Corrections: Jeff Sargent
 - a. Robber out of prison was doing ok, but then ran into old buddies and started to slide, missing work, etc. Jeff had encounter with him, searched apartment and the guy was arrested for violating parole.
 - b. Jeff saw Level III (high risk of reoffending) sex abuser reporting to his probation officer, then saw him at Orion Motel. Guy was reporting that he lived with his wife in Kent, but was really living at Orion. Found prostitutes and paraphernalia in his motel room; back in jail looking at possible 2 years.
 - c. 80% of DOC job is social work, but the above stories illustrate that sometimes some folks just have to be jailed.
7. Community Police Team: Dianne Newsom
 - a. Bring socks for the sock drive next month! Actually, bring new socks, gloves, hats and scarves. We collected over 5200 items last year! Our goal is 6000 this year. See attached flyer you may distribute.
 - b. See attached handout on Halloween safety.
8. Liquor and Cannabis Board: Paul Vanderwulp - no report
9. Member Organization Profile - no report
10. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership: Michael Cuadra - please sign in on the sign-in sheet.
 - b. Focus Groups - see item 2, above
 - c. Issues: Curtis Gehrke - none
11. Old Business
 - a. Executive Board is fine tuning the process for keeping the Board in the loop about any advocacy letters sent out by committees, and is making small changes to section 5.5 of the NPAC bylaws. Will bring the changes to the next meeting for ratification.
12. New Business

- a. Executive Board sent a letter to the Mayor advocating SPD budget increase to hire thirty additional officers. The Board asked about and the Council did approve sending the letter to each City Council member. We will email a Word version of the letter so anyone can use it as a template if they want their organization to also advocate.
- b. SPD Intern Karmen Schuur is conducting focus groups, funded by Seattle Police Foundation, to learn how citizens feel about the SPD Community Policing initiative, including perceptions of crime and safety issues, perceptions of police legitimacy etc. They last about an hour or so and we try to shoot for 7-12 people per group. If you or your group would like to participate, please contact Karmen at schuurk@seattleu.edu.

13. Next Month's Agenda

- a. We are planning to bring someone from SPD Communication to discuss its use of social media such as the SPD Blog, NextDoor, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Feel free to poll your neighbors about what they'd like SPD social media interactions to look like and bring questions to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.