



## SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

*Expanding Communication between the Police and Community*

### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

November 7, 2018

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

Please share this information with your neighborhood and business organizations.

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Katy Dwyer presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Judge Ed McKenna, Seattle Municipal Court (SMC)
  - a. SMC is the largest court in the state. It has 7 judges. Ed is the Presiding Judge, overseeing the \$32 million budget and \$40 million revenue. One business need is a new information system. The old one is out of date; it will be expensive to replace, but the benefits are great - more transparency, and ability to make better evidence-based decisions.
  - b. SMC has jurisdiction over misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors and over all violations of the Seattle Municipal Code.
  - c. In 2017 it filed almost 10,000 criminal cases. Assault and theft are the top 2 criminal charges filed - over 4,000.
  - d. SMC has programs and services for: probation (now called SMC Programs and Services); Community Resource Center, specialty courts such as mental health and domestic violence; interpreter services and community outreach.
  - e. SMC is seeing great changes in criminal justice, including new evidence-based best practices for big challenges of increasing homelessness, opioid epidemic, defendants with mental illnesses. It is increasingly difficult work. The following opinions are Judge McKenna's, not representative of SMC:
    - i. SMC is faced with pressure from multiple sources: City Council; Mayor, who controls the budget; changes in public safety practices. Defense attorneys pressure judges to keep jail population down. Since judges are elected, they may feel pressure to keep good ratings of the attorneys, who fill out the King County Bar Association judicial evaluation survey (most of them are defense attorneys.)
    - ii. Ed is concerned about the harm reduction and low barrier approaches to drug addiction. He thinks they make it ok to keep committing crimes. And he believes that it is hard to address mental health needs when people are using drugs and alcohol.

- iii. He thinks Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is not effective regarding recidivism. One criticism he has of LEAD statistics is the conviction rate, which is based on 3 months, a time period too short, since many convictions take a lot longer than that.
  - iv. The SMC's probation program is under fire by citizen group Budget For Justice. BFJ is advocating dis-investment in the local criminal justice system, and in particular cutting the probation program's budget by 90% over 3 years and diverting the money to fund juvenile offender services. Lisa Daugaard spearheads this effort (she also co-chairs the Community Police Commission).
  - v. Ed worries that if the new contract between the City and the Seattle Police Officers Guild is not approved (as the Community Police Commission urges) that de-policing will result.
  - f. Judge McKenna invites us to visit court sometime, and look at SMC online: <https://www.seattle.gov/courts>, and he welcomes questions by email: Ed.McKenna@Seattle.gov
2. Crime Prevention Coordinator: Mary Amberg
- a. Mary has been doing community outreach with some Starbucks stores that are encountering disruptions.
  - b. SPD may do more and smaller Coffee with Cops in various Starbucks stores. Let Mary know if you know a Starbucks that would like to host a Coffee with Cops. Mary.Amberg@Seattle.gov
  - c. The Crime Prevention Coordinators are reaching out to Jewish schools and synagogues to do safety talks after the recent mass shooting in Pittsburgh.
  - d. Reminder that the holidays bring an increase in package thefts. It's best to have packages sent to lockers, UPS stores, your place of work, etc. instead of to your porch.
3. City Attorney's Office: Meagan Westphal - no report
4. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: William Doyle
- a. KC PAO has 72 hours to file violent crimes or get more information. Cases are declined if they don't meet filing standards.
  - b. The opioid crisis has an impact on violent crime, especially with robberies where knives or guns become involved.
  - c. A second degree murder charge was filed for the murder at nearby Eagle Staff Middle School.
  - d. A change in filing standards for narcotics has cases of under 1 gram going to Seattle Municipal Court. KC is not funded by Seattle and the change was due to lack of funding. The funding problem also results in some suspects being let go; KC has to focus on the most violent crimes, like assault, domestic violence, and sexual assault. If you have concerns about this, share them with elected officials

and prosecutors.

5. Community Police Team: A/Sgt Mike Lanz

- a. Sgt Newsom was here unofficially (still recuperating), and she put a plug in for the sock drive. Remember, Fred Meyer has a 2 for 1 sock sale the day after Thanksgiving. Please bring donations of new socks, hat, gloves, scarves, coats to the next NPAC meeting, or to the precinct. Donations up to the end of the year will be distributed to organizations and clinics early in the new year.
- b. Patrol officers have been reaching out to synagogues. SPD has been seeing more anti-semitic bias reports.
- c. SPD has been responding to requests for more police visibility near schools and crosswalks since schools are starting in the dark these days.

6. Business

- a. Membership: If you come regularly and would like to be on the member sign-in checklist instead of using the visitor's sign-in, please email [spd.npac@gmail.com](mailto:spd.npac@gmail.com).
- b. Anastasiya Shevchuk, the new MCPP intern, reminds us that the public safety survey is still open. You can learn about it and take the survey here: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/community-policing/partnership-with-seattle-university>
- c. NPAC President Katy Dwyer encourages everyone to start or join a neighborhood block watch. Not only does knowing your neighbors make for a safer neighborhood, but doing so can enrich your life with new friends.
- d. The December 5 NPAC meeting will not have a guest speaker, but the board is planning an interactive event between members and SPD/city public safety officials. You can add to the social focus by bringing a food treat to share.

7. Precinct Update: Lt Abram Barker

- a. Idris Mosque hosted a dinner in Chief Best's honor. There have been no recent concerns at the mosque, though the sign carrier continues to stand at the corner every Friday afternoon. The mosque is well aware of him and asks people not to call them about him.
- b. Emphasis efforts - Chief Best has authorized 500 hours of overtime for November and December. Now that summer is over, emphasis at Golden Gardens and Magnuson Park are being transferred to Leary Way, Licton Springs, Ballard Commons and Northgate Mall.
- c. Still investigating the three recent early morning sexual assaults near Green Lake.
- d. LEAD has made over 80 social contacts in the north end. Its focus is narcotics and prostitution.
- e. Crime Statistics
  - i. Robbery is up 11% year to date, same as overall city. Seeing some clustering in Northgate, U District, Ballard, Aurora.
  - ii. Aggravated assault is up 7% YTD, less than city overall.

- iii. Arson is down 47%. Usually it's dumpsters.
- iv. Residential burglary was up 2% YTD, whereas the city overall was up 3%.
- v. There was a car prowling spike this month. When shopping, remember not to put packages in the trunk and then leave again.
- vi. Car theft was down 5% in the last 28 days. An average of over 3 cars a day are stolen each day in the north precinct. There is some privacy opposition to SPD using the 3 license plate readers expressed at city council meetings, but SPD hopes to be able to continue using them to identify stolen vehicles.
- vii. Four reports of shots fired in the last 28 days. One was in the Bitter Lake Community Center parking lot around 11 PM.
- viii. Doing fraternity row party patrol after Husky football games. Sometimes there are over 1000 people partying, raising a ruckus.
- ix. A couple officers are extending the U District foot patrols to cover later in the day.

#### 8. Open Forum/Questions

- a. How will new north precinct LEAD communicate with the community? - Still setting this up. It will have an office on Aurora Ave.
- b. Can we have reports on SPD call response times? - Will ask the Captain to report on this every 3 months or so. Rate doesn't change much.
- c. Bike officers work 10 am - 5 pm. They make 60-70 contacts per week. Lately they've been temporarily redeployed to do other work.
- d. Prescription take-back day resulted in 292 pounds collected in the north precinct, almost half of all taken in the city.
- e. Leary Triangle group wonders if the stabbing last month near a Ballard tattoo parlor involved retaliation? - SPD has no information about retaliation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.