



SPD North Precinct Advisory Council

Expanding Communication between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 2019

Recorded by Nancy Rauhauser

Please share this information with your neighbors and neighborhood and business organizations.

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Kurt Kapusuzoglu presiding.

Topics covered:

1. Special Presentation Speaker: Ben Noble, Director of City Budget Office.
 - a. Website: <http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment/>. Email Ben any time at Ben.Noble@Seattle.gov. He answers his email!
 - b. Seattle's budget is \$5.9 billion. By law it must be adopted by December 2 and it must be balanced, or to be exact, the revenues must at least be equal to spending.
 - c. Over half the budget is for **utilities and transportation** (56% proposed for 2019). Their revenue is from billing rates and a little bit from selling water and electricity to nearby municipalities. Each budget is over \$1 billion.
 - d. The **general fund** portion of the budget is about \$1.3 billion. Of that, about 53% is for public safety (police and fire protection). Its revenue is from taxes on the utility bills; sales tax; property tax; business (B&O) taxes; other (fees, fines, etc.)
 - e. **Budget process** is for each year, and every 2 years a biennial plan is made.
 - i. January/February - Budget Office (BO) establishes baseline budget by asking departments, then making adjustments such as for inflation, one-time costs, etc.
 - ii. February/March - Mayor provides initial budget guidance to departments, via general sense of resources, and mayor's priorities.
 - iii. March/April - BO reviews department submittals, consults with mayor and provides feedback.
 - iv. April - Key milestone is revenue forecast by looking at the economy, etc.
 - v. June/July - BO reviews final department budget submittals with the mayor.
 - vi. August - Updated revenue forecast.
 - vii. August/September - Mayor makes final budget decisions.
 - viii. September - Mayor submits budget to city council for consideration. Two documents are submitted: an operating budget and a capital improvement program. Public hearings are held, and council members

may meet one-on-one with constituents. Good time to make your opinions on the budget known! City council may make changes. The mayor can approve the Council's budget, veto it, or let it become law without his or her signature.

ix. **Budget for North Precinct building**

1. City acknowledges the need in the north precinct and has indicated willingness to accept debt and maybe have a levy to pay off the debt over a long time.
2. A \$160 million budget was worked out for the original design, but that was not approved by the city council. A new design is being worked on, but Ben doesn't think it will be substantially less than the original one, due to the need for it to be strong and secure. It's being designed to be the 'last building standing' in a disaster.
3. Meanwhile, the budget has paid for some improvements to the old precinct building until a new one can be built.
4. Mayor has a team working on North Precinct and the other precincts' needs. It may be easier to make the request for funds if it is clear that the whole city will benefit.
5. The city is considering the issue of splitting the precinct into 2, or making some satellite precincts in the north end.

2. **Crime Prevention Coordinator: Mary Amberg**

a. **CPC job**

- i. By day, Mary does security assessments at residences, businesses, schools. If you would like this free service, contact her at Mary.Amberg@Seattle.gov.
- ii. By night, she attends community meetings to help set up block watches, talk about crime prevention, etc.

b. **Electronic key fobs**

- i. Thieves have started to use devices to boost your key fob signals so they can steal your car or prowl it without the actual key. In your home, consider storing your fob in a metal box or special RFID signal blocker bag.

c. **Catfishing**

- i. Deceptive on-line activity where a person creates a false identity on social media, often with the intent to steal money.
- ii. Don't give away personal information; be suspicious if someone contacts you out of the blue; don't give strangers money; ask for proof of identity.

- d. There is a free mental health first aid all-day training class scheduled September 28 at Lake City Community Center. Learn how to help a friend, family member or neighbor in need. Register by emailing elarson@valleycities.org.

3. **City Attorney's Office: Meagan Westphal - no report; on maternity leave!**

4. King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: Amanda Froh
 - a. New program, King County Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team funded through the KC Veterans and Senior Services levy. Its purpose is to assist law enforcement with elder abuse cases not getting resolved, being stuck in the system. Creative solutions.

5. Community Police Team: Sgt. Dianne Newsom
 - a. CPT deals with such things as livability issues, LEAD referrals, landlord-tenant issues, the criminal trespass program, long term problems in the community that 911 calls aren't solving. Team works with community members to explore creative solutions.
 - b. CPT collects socks annually from NPAC and others to give to social service organizations to distribute to their clients.

6. Business
 - a. SPD awarded NPAC member Josephine Pompey a 2019 Outstanding Citizen plaque. Congratulations!
 - b. 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.

7. Precinct Update: Captain Eric Sano
 - a. The pre-summer emphasis effort in south Ballard, Fremont and Golden Gardens, that put more police in those areas using overtime, had some success.
 - b. There have been many shootings so far this year. Many have been around Aurora Ave, between Green Lake to NE 130th St or NE 145th St. The captain suspects that pimps are fighting for territory since backpage and other sites were shut down. There are a lot of prostitutes on Aurora since then. The captain is mobilizing numerous units to focus on this issue and area. If you find spent bullet casings, call 911 to have SPD to come pick them up.
 - c. Year-to-date the city has seen 21 homicides. Ten of them were in our precinct. Of the 6 in NP that were by gun, all 6 were in the Aurora corridor, between 85th & 130th.
 - d. Encampments
 - i. Navigation Team cleaned up the big tent encampment under I5 by NE 50th St. but some have come back already. City can't force folks to accept services and shelter. If they don't, during a sweep people can either take their stuff elsewhere, or let SPD store their stuff for later pickup.
 - ii. A sweep of the encampment at the intersection of I-5 & I-90 will happen soon. Where will they go?
 - iii. If you see an encampment that is on a back-to-school route, contact your Community Police Team officer. Also, report it with Find It Fix It.
 - e. Though encampments and RVs sometimes bring crime, SPD is focused on

identifying the chronic prolific offenders among them and go after them for their crimes, not because they are homeless.

- f. LEAD update - it is expanding to south King County. Since it is covered by HIPAA rules, due to privacy a lot of information cannot be shared with the public. What can be reported is that there have been over 200 referrals in the north precinct, whereas the forecast was for 50. There is a meeting once a month for all service providers involved. Tracy Gillespie is the LEAD manager in our precinct.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.