

NORTH PRECINCT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Expanding Communication Between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2007

Recorded by William Murray

The monthly NPAC meeting began at 7:03 p.m., with Jack Heavner, presiding.

Topics covered:

Special Presentation Speaker: Stephanie Tschida, Community Court Grant Manager and East Precinct Advisory Council Chair.

In March 2005 City Attorney Thomas Carr and the Court created Community Court that is a community-involved justice initiative. Community Court gives defendants the opportunity to give back to the community where their offenses occurred. Rather than going to jail defendants who enter the program can help themselves in overcoming their own problems as they complete: community service, classes or educational programs and referrals to social service agencies. Tuere L. Sala of Community Court mentioned defendants voluntarily enter the program and have used Community Court as a stepping-stone to complete their GED's, receive an ID and gain meaningful employment.

I. Community Court

Skylor Bagwell, Americorp volunteer and Community Court liaison, meets with defendants after release and supervises community service. Skylor has noticed defendants' attitudes change once they work in the community that creates a sense of ownership in their community. Defendants have completed community service on Saturday mornings on Beacon Hill with the Beacon Alliance, with Colman neighbors, and in the West Seattle Junction. Along with street cleanups, defendants work in food banks and emergency feeding programs assembling food kits. A recent sting operation using Craig's List created opportunities for 96 defendants to perform pre-trial diversion work in the community. Jack Heavner made a motion to partner with Community Court for volunteer opportunities in the North Precinct and the motion was unanimously approved. Please contact Jack to arrange partnering with Community Court with your community group.

II. Precinct Update: Capt. Mike Washburn/Lt. Monson/Sgt. Newsom

Captain Washburn showed slides of December 3rd rainstorm and grounds, which were formerly a bog, surrounding North Precinct under several feet of water including Meridian Avenue North where a BMW sedan became stuck. Facilities removed wet vinyl sheeting in the crawl space because of mold and replaced a broken furnace. As of December 5th North Precinct was heated with eight space heaters. All plumbing fixtures for waste water were backed up due to a suspected sabotage of the public toilets and countermeasures have been taken to avoid further plumbing failures.

A carjacking suspect was chased from north of Seattle and cornered at 50 Northeast and Brooklyn by the SWAT Team. The suspect bashed North Precinct's unmarked SUV. An officer injured his hand exiting the vehicle as the vehicle was struck. A loaded handgun was found in the vehicle and the occupant was arrested for vehicular assault of an officer.

November 1st, the ACT Team on patrol in the University District 6500 block of 15th Northeast arrested a burglar in progress leaving a business.

November 13th, 1800 hours Northeast 41st officers responded to a 911 call for gunshots and screaming. A man was wounded by gunshots to his abdomen and leg in the street and later located at the University of Washington Hospital Emergency room. The case was referred to the Gang Unit.

November 16th, a break-in occurred at an 85th Street business in the early morning. First watch officers responding to a 911 call found evidence of forced entry. An excellent response by first watch officers resulted in an arrest of a suspect with cash and pharmaceutical drugs who confessed to the crime.

November 20th, a North Seattle man purchased a \$1500.00 computer off Craig's List from a man in a North Seattle mall parking lot. The man received a shrink-wrapped box with an original receipt from the seller only to find a large book in place of the computer item. The North ACT team together with the victim arranged a second buy off Craig's List and the seller was arrested in the sting operation. Two sergeants followed through with the sting operation which Captain Washburn called a "nice piece of work."

November 29th, a car traveling at high rate of speed left the roadway at 130th and 5th Northeast to collide with a two-foot diameter tree trunk, which the vehicle knocked to the ground. Officers arrived on scene and extinguished the flames with a passenger inside as the dashboard erupted in flames. The driver was cited with vehicular assault with a .28 blood alcohol level.

Extra emphasis patrols at North Seattle malls during the holidays lead detectives to arrest a jewelry thief who attempted to steal diamonds and jewels inside the store.

View Ridge Neighbors commended CPT Officer Mike Cruzan for his fine work in Magnuson Park. The Aurora Emphasis Team lead by Andy Gordon arrested two people on Aurora near the Fremont neighborhood. Captain Washburn requested communication from neighbors regarding problems in their neighborhood in lieu of calls regarding crimes after the fact. Two University of Washington fraternity houses pledged to go alcohol free and are working with CPT, Sergeant Newsom reports.

Neil Hansen reported evening home burglaries are up and to make your home look occupied with the use of timer lights. When shopping lock bags in trunk when continuing shopping. Protect credit cards while shopping in stores. Be aware of purse-snatchers and pickpockets in crowded malls. After purchasing home electronics break down boxes for recycling since thieves scout neighborhoods on recycling day to see which homes have the newest electronics such as plasma screen televisions. Don't leave receipts in bag if goods are stolen you can report to store and police.

Ed McKenna urged community groups to partner with Community Court and pre-trial diversion programs that are beneficial to Seattle neighborhoods, mentioned rate of recidivism was favorable for the program.

Bernard Harrigan retired December 20th after a 43-year career in Law Enforcement. Bernie expressed his gratitude to the officers of the North Precinct and the NPAC Group which he will miss being a part of. Bernie mentioned North Seattle has been largely ignored for alcohol impact areas such as Bell Town and other areas. Alcohol Enforcement Officer Tom James will work the University District and Officer Dee Johnson is working North Seattle neighborhoods.

Doug Thiel is concerned with the number of homeless veterans in Seattle and is planning in some way to assist these men and women who have served their country and are now largely ignored and live on the streets.

Pete Rogerson will attend the City Wide Advisory meeting on December 11th to hear a presentation on the Neighborhood Policing Plan by Deputy Chief Clark Kimmerer. Pete also attended the Mayor's Conference on Gun Violence. Outreach efforts will target males 18-24 years of age and connect them with social services. Pete quoted a statistic that 60% of guns used in crimes come from 1% of the licensed gun dealers. Please contact Pete with input on gun crime issues.

III. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

No meeting in January

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