

NORTH PRECINCT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Expanding Communication Between the Police and Community

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2008

Recorded by William Murray

The monthly North Precinct Advisory Council meeting for May began at 7:04 p.m., with Jack Heavner, presiding. The following topics were covered:

I. Special Presentation Speaker: Assistant Chief James Pugel

Assistant Chief Pugel spoke of the Seattle Police Incident and Electronic Dispatch Records Project, or SPIDER which was launched in January. SPIDER replaces a 16-year old dispatch and records system with a new model that is paperless, more efficient and linked to a broader array of regional and national databases, Pugel said. With SPIDER the Department has switched to a new format for police reports which was intended to help track crime data. Most officers have been issued new laptops which enable them to file reports electronically from the field instead of having to return to the Precinct.

Assistant Chief Pugel spoke about the Department's aggressive hiring campaign to hire 100 officers in 2008 and 90 in 2009, which could gain 105 officers above present strength which will enable more free time for officers to proactively fight crime. The need for a new North Precinct was also discussed since North Precinct was originally designed to accommodate 150 officers and presently has 230 officers assigned. Assistant Chief Pugel's preferences for a new North Precinct site would be centrally located, at least four acres in size, and not sited with a new Seattle Municipal Jail.

Our second Special Presentation Speaker was William Beebe, Director of Security Northgate Mall. Mr. Beebe has worked ten years for IPC International which contracts security services for Northgate Mall. Mr. Beebe has been instrumental in obtaining training and additional hours for Mall security personnel and spoke of the 113 camera surveillance system in use at Northgate Mall. The camera system is capable of reading auto licenses anywhere on Northgate Mall property even at night and was useful to Seattle Police during a recent crime.

II. Precinct Update: Captain Mike Washburn/Lieutenant Monson/

Sergeant Newsom

Captain Washburn discussed a major marijuana growing operation that was dismantled by North Precinct officers on April 15, 2008. The marijuana grower utilized three North Seattle homes in which 430 plants, 48 pounds of marijuana, \$397,000.00 cash, two cars and one boat were seized along with several bank accounts.

Officer Kip Strong addressed the freshman class at Roosevelt High School regarding the detrimental effects of underage drinking and drug usage. On April 15th, a bank robbery occurred in the University District and the armed suspect was later apprehended in a private residence nearby. A series of robberies occurred in the University District involving five to seven East African male suspects. One robbery victim was stabbed in the stomach, and in a separate incident a female University of Washington student was accosted by two robbers who were chased and apprehended by University of Washington Police on May 1st.

The picnic at North Precinct will be held on June 28th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the North Precinct and will feature food, fun, and games, free to all community members. The event is sponsored by the Seattle Police Foundation.

Sergeant Newsom reported that North Precinct officers were involved in crowd control for the May Day rally. In April, Sergeant Newsom trained Seattle's new Park Rangers for Security details in downtown parks. The Park Rangers will not be dispatched to North Seattle parks at this time.

III. Crime Prevention Report

Neil Hansen spoke of the planned Seattle Night Out scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2008. Contact Neil at 684.4689 for more information.

IV. City Attorney's Office

Ed McKenna noted that Seattle has fallen to number 16 in the nation for auto thefts and complimented the King County Prosecutor's Office for their great work in prosecuting auto thieves. Ed discussed a proposed craft distillery license and the implications.

V. Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.