

***Southeast Seattle Crime Prevention Council - Southeast Weed & Seed  
Meeting Notes from Wed., December 6, 2006***

**Call to order: 7:00 pm** by Mariana Quarnstrom with 57 in attendance

Moment of silence was observed for the loss of Deputy Steve Cox.

**Rainier Safety Traffic Corridor Project – Lt. Mike Nolan**

The Rainier Safety Corridor Project & the Red Light Ticketing Camera Project are two different things. Rainier Safety Corridor Project (RTS) is State funded through WA Traffic Safety. There are 3 key aspects of the project.

1. Engineering – SDOT (has the largest budget)
2. Education – SDOT
3. Enforcement (has the smallest budget). Another 10 month before it's done.

Enforcement includes overtime cops for DUI/DRI driving and speeding focus. 314 traffic tickets have been given – mostly DUI and red light violations.

Engineering aspect includes putting in islands in center lanes between Rainier & Henderson and city limits. Pole mounted speed-readers will be added in about the center of that area. Both are to be done by the end of 2007 (not sure which quarter).

*Do we have more DUI than other precincts?* Not necessarily. Usually people are coming from downtown or a friend's house. The Education aspect includes a series of questions for a DUI arrested. Where is the last place you drank at?

*Speeding on Rainier and Rose Street hasn't seen any change. What's being done?* Hopefully the speed-readers will have some effect.

*Juneau/Lake Washington (Seward Park & Juneau) entry to park has no crosswalks and no curb levels. People are not stopping for turns. People are not stopping for stop signs...even bicycles. It's usually the worst in the morning and all day on weekends.*

Community Traffic Complaint - Traffic officers will study and if see there is an engineering solution and will try to implement it.

*Lake Washington Blvd 6:30-9am, becomes a freeway with cars traveling at 40-50 mph.*

*Southbound the problem also revitalizes around 3pm. Bikes are not really well lit.*

*Is the increase of traffic on Rainier Ave because of the construction on MLK Jr. Way?*

Absolutely.

**Red Light Camera Ticketing is a City Pilot Project - Ofc. Dean Shirey**

In the last four months 1826 tickets and \$830,000 have generated from the Orcas Street stop sign. Tickets are not issued for "California stops".

*If one car goes through a red light and two more follow, who gets the ticket?* All three get ticketed. The camera will fire up to 5 times in rapid succession. The computer senses by your speed if you will run light. First flash is when vehicle reaches or approaches stop line. The Stop Line is the leading edge of crosswalk. Pictures are not taken of people, just back of car only. Tickets are sent to the registered owner of the vehicle.

*Will cars, already in intersection [making left turn] when light changes, be ticketed?* No ticket. The camera recordings have same security level as Cray Company. Videos may not be altered. A real life police officer has to review video.

Right now 15% of tickets are being rejected due to bad lighting or the picture is not crisp. If the police officers reviewing the tape are the least uncomfortable, they don't issue ticket. 0% has been successfully contested.

*Can speed be enforced by red light cameras?* Only in a school speed zone. Tabs or speeding can't be enforced through the red light camera.

With the red light camera 100% of money goes to City (10% Parks, 90% general funds). If you want that 10% back [in the general fund] you can ask for it. Traffic signal violations are the biggest complaints. The second most dangerous collision is red light running, only after DUI.

*If there is a surplus where does it go?* It most likely goes to collision reduction.

Low numbers are 33% - high 80% surplus.

SPD asks it's self: Did we prevent collisions? Did it pay for itself?

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*What's the cost for installation?* Free installation. The cameras are on lease from Salt Lake City, UT.

**Peter Steinbrueck – Police Staffing follow-up and Community Renewal Area**

Chair Urban Development & Planning Committee, on Public Safety Committee, and Vice Chair of Planning

- Acknowledgement was given to Captain Byers and other officers for their community partnership in Public Safety. Thanks and acknowledgment was also given to: Mariana Quarnstrom, Neale Frothingham, all SSCPC, and all others for Public Safety Advocacy and assistance in getting more police officers. He offered encouragement to keep effort going for 5-year plan for police staffing to plan ahead.
- Peter Steinbrueck asking for Mar 31, 2007 for a report of what police staffing should be.
- Steinbrueck remarked on a previous report written by Peter Harris who wrote report, who made it sound like there is no [safety] crisis. Councilmember Steinbrueck felt it was selective and judgmental and implied that police officers have no impact on public safety. Harris' report argues that people are still moving here. The mayor reinforces the argument by referring to Seattle the "safest city".

**CRA – Community Renewal Act [Area]**

Peter Steinbrueck spoke about his father's involvement with Urban Renewal in the 1960's the city wanted to tear down Pike Place Market. It was deemed blight – there were rats. The community stood up to City Council and told them how they wanted the money used. Urban Renewal Law fostered in 2002 and renamed CRA.

Councilmember Steinbrueck acknowledges that no one wants to be called blighted, but there are problems to address: Poverty, Jobs/Apprenticeships, Training, Small Business Support, Schools. He would put the SE Action Agenda Goals in this order: 1) Public Safety/walks Beacon, 2) Education – Prevention, Internships/ Job Development, 3) Business/Job Creation, 3) Physical Development – Acknowledge distress areas 3) Arts/Culture/Public Space  
Don't need condemnation. Eminent Domain should only be used for extreme cases (Parks & Libraries), and as method of last resort.

Rainier Valley's community assets are: Sense of place, Sense of belonging, Diversity, Family oriented, and People who need & want employment opportunities.

*RA: Special objectives area were rendered toothless in 2004. ...Almost all of medium sized apt. complexes in Housing Authority: SEAA – Mayor's Agenda, CRA, DADU, SNII, HIA, Multi-Family housing.* If concern is gentrification, then one of the checks is subsidized housing.

Garden communities being turned into multi-purpose is a plus. Not to say it will be smooth.

*TA: What is the point of this CRA discussion – 30 sec. overview?* City Council has never been briefed on this SNII Planning group. It was mostly made up of investors and developers, one SEDC member as voice of the people, and city officers.

**ACTION:** Send message to council. Sally Clark is chair.

*RM: Concerned about public policies people don't know about. Not every area is eligible for CRA and therefore not concerned with subsidized housing. HIA doesn't track section 8.*

*MQ: Requested a special meeting to discuss numbers on subsidized housing. They said no.*

Councilmembers McIver (financial chair) and Sally Clark (neighborhood person) were suggested.

**Weed & Seed**

- Barb worked with Fontanelle Apartments on lighting another CPTED issues. She is also working with RBMA to establish a community plan, which includes Mapes Creek Walkway.
- Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition is working on designing community banners with youth 13-18yr from January 22<sup>nd</sup>-March. Youth might get stipends.
- Police Continue foot beat in Rainier Beach businesses
- Ofc. Alphin gave surveys to ROSA. Will have a community meeting with them next Monday to talk about progress.

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- There will be a follow up meeting with Lake Washington Apartments to see where they are in regards to community promises for physical safety features on Monday. Police and the city met with joint owners managers 2-3 months ago. SEED is part owner, but they have money invested in the management company.

*Who pays for police to go to private entities?* Its part of Mark Solomon's job, so you [tax payers] pay for it.

*What are their contractual responsibilities?* Right now they've made promises with us and we'll see what happens. There are no contractual responsibilities. Owners are receiving other funding pressures from the Office of Housing Acts.

**SPD Reports**

- Priority is violent crime - known DOC offenders/gang members/guns. Got to stay the course. Overall philosophy is violence reduction.
- DOC/NCI team - two officers paired with DOC officers, every week, are getting drug and gun arrests, because go after the heavy offenders.
- More officers placed on night shift. Lt. Davis has assigned O-9 cars: the dedication of one, 2-officer car to just make on-sight arrests. There hasn't been a day where the 0-9 cars have gone out and not brought back a drug/gun arrest.
- *Are the O-9 officers in an unmarked car? What about putting them on foot-beat?* O-9 fully marked, because then they can go to hot [911] calls if things get short.
- This precinct consistently writes the most traffic tickets. Captain Byers promises to keep that priority. He will not promise to move all the officers to Lake Washington Blvd. The main focus is on the Rainier corridor.
- This year there is State Initiative on pedestrian enforcement (see Mark Solomon's last newsletter). Be careful when crossing the street.
- Barometer of things have gotten quieter in Rainier Beach reflected in the number of calls about break-ins in Lakewood/Seward Park and the number of criminals in the street. O-9 officers get out of cars and get in face. There is some foot patrol going on. When the weather turns, will get bike units out.
- There is a problem group of 3 linked with burglaries and a number of crimes round Rainier.
- *Are getting help you need from prosecutor's office?*  
Good point- each of the last 3 officers in killed King County, were killed by DOC offenders. Not just a prosecutor problem. It's bad when citizens are killed, but when they kill police, no one's safe. The problem is with system.
- *Remind community how many officers are on 2<sup>nd</sup> watch?* 1<sup>st</sup> Watch = 9-11 officers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Watch = 10-12, 3<sup>rd</sup> Watch =10-12/12-15 with extra (most violent incidents occur at night.)
- SE Precinct boundaries are City limits.
- Mt. Baker burglaries – there was a meeting 3 weeks ago on increase in burglaries – have used W&S funds to look into issue, because offenders live in the Weed & Seed area. Suspects belong Hyphie Boys –Dale Block Gang – Cloverdale & Rainier. Additional suspects are two adult males. SPD is waiting for fingerprints, hopefully can connect. Also have witnesses who have seen them, but can't identify picture montage.
- *Can give SPD give residents a picture of a suspect?* Lt. Koutsky will look into that. Call 911 if suspicious activity.
- *911- says don't tie up line. It's a matter of time before a break-ins occurs when someone's home and ups the crime. How long for turnover?* More evidence is needed to get people off the street.

**Community Concerns**

Poll to see if community would rather hear about Narc-Stat or Graffiti in February. Community agreed on Narc-Stat.

**Adjournment:** 8:46 pm

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No meeting in January. Next meeting February 7, 2007 at SE Senior Center.