

***Southeast Seattle Crime Prevention Council - Southeast Weed & Seed  
Meeting Notes from Wednesday, February 7, 2007***

**Call to order: 7:00 pm** by Mariana Quarnstrom, with 57 in attendance, asking members to consider the impact on our police resources if White Center is to be annexed by Seattle.

**King County Superior Court Juvenile Probation – Tony Peguero**

Tony Peguero supervises juvenile probation counselors (JPC's) south of the shipping canal, central, southeast, and all of West Seattle. JPC's previously handled 50-60 clients per caseworker. Now the maximum is 25. Juvenile Probation is part of a statewide program. They use a risk assessment tool that asks 103 questions to prevent recidivism. Questions assess strengths, weaknesses, assets, risks, and reduce risk factor.

Drug Court graduation will be televised February 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

[www.metrokc.gov/KCTV/Schedule/SCHEDULE.asp](http://www.metrokc.gov/KCTV/Schedule/SCHEDULE.asp). This is positive because kids become kids again. Bed space saved in institution system or those who need to find housing.

Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Aggressive Replacement Training (ART), and other free in-home services are offered to those in the system. Once qualify it's there as long as they want it. Business owners help by providing jobs. The goal is to try to get youth back into society.

Roland Akers works with Drug Court as a mentor for the Drug & Outreach Program. He has been a resident of Seattle for 50 years in Columbia City. He's worked recovery for 20 years. Mr. Akers is involved with Gang Prevention at Skyway Baptist Church. Personal experience enables him to connect with youth. Gang members don't scare him, because he can see pain and frustration they carry.

Roland Akers worked Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) for 12 years as a Chemical Dependency Coordinator. A lot of gang activity is drug induced. Most kids are high when they commit crimes. JRA will hook up them up with community services, and they are sent to treatment immediately, if on drugs. KC drug court system is used as a model, not just statewide, but nationally. Judge Clark is trying to push visibility of King County up on radar.

The community is being reached out to now, because 40% people in the state of Washington are African-Americans, but they make up 50% of the population in state penitentiaries. This is a community problem. If the youth don't have access to services now, they are going straight to jail. When they get out they will come back to this neighborhood. Many of the youth hanging out on Henderson were in system - if not in jail.

*SV: You said you need community help...How?* There is a meeting once a month at Skyway Church. Some people have offered jobs or work training programs. Come to drug court.

*TA: Gang and drug use becoming more of a problem. When you have re-offenders being reintroduced, what do you do?* The youth are worked up as best they can, but some will be incarcerated and put in detention. Unfortunately some are lost.

Adam Myers of Juvenile Court informed: the court system is addressing why kids are doing what they are doing. They are being tracked from sanction all the way through sentencing. If have drug problem, get drug counseling it's a family thing. Sometimes you have to cut off hand. 15-year-old kids are using oxy cotton, shern, heroine, and crack.

*TA: I'm concerned that kids are in and out of jails so quick; there is no time for the prosecutor/SPD to make case.* In drug court the prosecutor, police, community liaison, and chemical dependency are involved in the process.

*For Tony: What age of kids? And how do get into court? How many incidents before get put in system?* No kid can get more than what can happen to adult. Omnibus hearings are next day. If over weekend, can have a phone hearing. Detention hearings take place next business day. That's when determined what sentencing. It used to be that youth could be held up to 30 days, but there are more restrictions now and many cases go through community diversion.

On the civil side, a parent can seek the support of the court by filing an at risk youth position for kids behaving badly (not criminal, but on the way).

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**Action:** If have extra couple of hours, volunteer at a school.

**Gun Control Legislation – Julien Loh, Office of Policy Management**

Handouts were distributed: Efforts taken by the City; Summary of State legislation; and the Resolution.

Chief Kerlikowske and Mayor Nickels are working on Gun Control Legislation at State level to prevent felons from getting guns. This new legislation aligns itself with what is currently known as the Brady Bill. There are three parts to this legislation address 1) the Gun Show Loophole, where no background checks are required during gun shows. The new legislation will require a background check at gun shows. 2) Assault Weapons, Looking at banning sale of assault weapons 'not used for hunting animals, but for hunting people'. And 3) Safe Storage (aka the Whiney Graves Bill), which would require safe storage of fire arms. This allows family members in rage, or those with suicidal tendencies, a moment of pause before using a gun. Over 18 states have enacted this legislation, including Texas. The mayors of Boston and New York also support this. There is a public hearing February 8<sup>th</sup>. Pamela Green is trying to coordinate transportation to Olympia.

Questions/Concerns

- *If safe storage passes, how monitored? If crimes are committed, owners will be held responsible if access wasn't restricted. This is a pro-active measure.*
- *What are assault weapons? Uzis, Tech-9's, M-16's, guns with high volume cartridges.*
- *Will the mayor be accountable with a number of police officers if we support this? The city has hired 69 officers in the past and committed to hiring another 20 in the budget for this year. In spring of 2007 the Mayor will present a policy plan formerly known as Geo-policing, which addresses police response and hiring of additional staff.*
- *NF made a statement that the Executive Committee is glad to make room for the mayor and his associates, but requests the mayor is open as well. And with reservation, the EC will recommend the support of the resolution if it doesn't distract from the real issue [of the need for more police staffing]. Julien goes to more CPC's and Precinct committees.*
- *RA commented on his disapproval of the mayor, especially given DESC, and his lack of support to allow SSCPC to sit in on the Good Neighbor Agreement. Julien will deliver message.*
- *We have to go to a state store to buy liquor, how come we can buy guns at a gun show? People who sale at gun shows are Federal Fire Arms license dealers.*
- *Let's add issue more no gun shows in WA State.*

**Weed & Seed Hot Spot Areas – Barb Biondo & CPT Mike Alphin**

**The Car Wash** – Major complaints are narcotic activities, along with drinking, noise and code complaints. The car wash has been in operation for 15-20 years. With help of ROSA, Ofc. Alphin started a CPT project, and has been meeting monthly with Ruth and Robert Washington. They didn't have a business license, but do now. They had only had city license. They've been taught about proper screening of employees. The car wash has a couple of months to come into compliance with legal drainage requirements. Previously, wastewater was going to Lake Washington, which is illegal. Right now have a temporary system. The new drainage system will require a significant investment by the property owners, who are also known to be in arrears on Property Taxes.

**Admiral Apartments** – while the car wash was shut down, nuisances ventured to Admiral Apt. They are working on securing doors, and getting proper lighting. Some evictions have been made. Carl Hagland is the owner, and is being encouraged to participate in Landlord Training.

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*Did laws change – if you can prove drug activity, can you evict someone?* With house or apartment a search warrant is needed; then abatement can begin. A certain amount of letters in certain time may also assist an eviction. The city attorney liaison stated, “Abatement is very timely.”

**Rainier & Henderson** – Primary complaints at Rainier Beach Library are youth loitering, youth violence, and attempted muggings. To improve security the library installed clear the glass so staff can see clearly into lobby. External lighting improvements will be made and a security camera will be installed at the main entrance. SPD has focused police resources at Rainier & Henderson through use of the mobile precinct and with Weed and Seed funded foot patrols with emphasis at SAARS. A Youth Violence Prevention meeting, once a month, facilitated by Suni Tolton.

Mapes Creek Walkway – last summer the walkway was strewn with litter, the pathway overgrown and a convenient place for illegal activity to occur making it unsafe for pedestrians to use after dark RBM and Weed and Seed helped facilitate development of a maintenance plan where city maintains walkway and community participates as steward of walkway.

**Lake Washington Apartments** – Priscilla Call of SEED shared updates on security improvements. Things are slowed due too contract for fence. It will take three weeks to develop and 5 weeks to develop barrier landscaping on the side. They were close to installing the guard shack, when the contractor quit. Negotiated prices jumped from \$34,000-\$74,000. The original operating budget they thought to be enough for the increase maintenance was \$450,000, in whole, for the year. Cuts had to be made to security and some other maintenance. They didn’t get grant from the Community Trade & Economic Development department. But they also applied for ½ million dollars in replacement reserves. It looks good, but have not yet heard back. They’ve requested a waiver of debt payment. SEED has a payment = \$72,000 saved for operating budget. *Is closing or selling the apartments an option?* The city funds SEED to purchase has so many. 50 years loans would have to be paid back, plus penalty. Additionally they would have to build 360 units of low-income housing. *Is it possible to sign over to more responsible managers?* There are currently over 40 vacancies, because of better screening, and they’re getting tougher on evicting. Basic maintenance, gutters and doors are being worked on. *Complaints were made about the difficulty getting officers; because of they are being drawn away to the apartments.*

### **SPD Reports**

- In response to complaints received from Hillman City & Columbia City on prostitution, plain-clothed police officers, attempted a sting operation on Tuesday. Four CPT officers were out in the morning and afternoon, but it was quiet.
- Beacon Hill – Still recovering from large narcotics bust in January
- Significant crime increase in the south end. It’s up 55% this year. Rest of city had increase but we’re disproportionately higher. Also is this an ongoing. Addictions and mental health play a role. There is no rehab in detention. The three strikes rule only applies to violent crimes, not property.  
**Action:** Call police when you see people or cars involved in suspicious activity. Take notes about what you saw. If goes to trial you’ll have to identify a montage of people or in person. If a car is associated with a person, describe what car looked like. If possible get license number.  
**Action:** From a distance ask, “What are you doing?”
- Adam Myers: There are two parts: 1) Community effort and 2) Prosecution. The prosecutors have no time to follow through. DOC looking at how effective is their monitoring level, so they have enough time to go out on field.
- CPT Patrol is short, because the have to help answer calls. That takes away from regular CPT duties.

*Southwest Seattle Crime Prevention Council - Southwest Weed & Seed  
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**Community Concerns**

- Ray Akers had burglary and lost got \$15,000 worth of goods. He added more security. In July he suffered what is not technically a home invasion. This last weekend people were on his property. In July, he called 911 and they were there in a snap. Last week, police are not getting there, in a timely manner.
- Ron shared his experience about his attempted mugging at Rainier Beach Library. While he was in the restroom, a teenager said to him, “Look at me or you’re dead.” Ron proceeded to wash hands and the boy said, “I’m gonna pat you down.” Within second he was patting Ron down. Ron sent a letter to Seattle Public Libraries (SPL). SPL made quick response. However he viewed the response as reasons why can do what he was asking. In the response SPL said, ‘by middle of January camera will be in stalled.’ The issue of the bike rack placement was brought up. Ron asked kids he works why haven’t [bad] kids in Othello gone after him. The youth responded, “They know who you are.”
- Adam, from the Late Night program, had confusion about officers’ presence at the program. They have always had officers in the past. He heard there wouldn’t be any in February, but two came last week. Officers are needed at late night as a deterrent.
- If we don’t invest in programs for youth, there will be nothing for them to do. An opinion was offered that SEED’s development on Rainier should have restaurant and movie theatre. **Action:** Write the Mayor’s office and the City. David Della is the Parks chair. He is also on the Education committee. Ask committee to open up schools for multi-generation activities.
- It was reminded that Peter Steinbrueck said, ‘there’s money in general budget for police.’ \$15,000,000 was in the budget last year. Our officer proposal will take a tenth of that.
- Hillman City Business Association announced their Town Hall Meeting for February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Neale Frothingham made a motion to support the Gun Control Legislation. Motion seconded by Matt Hendel. The motion passed with one opposition.

**Adjournment:** 8:50 pm

Next meeting March 7, 2007 at SE Senior Center.