

## Community Task Force Community Workshop #2

5:30-8:30 pm at Southlake School, 8601 Rainier Ave S.

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

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### *SPD Panel Notes*

#### **Moderators:**

- Mariko Lockhart
- Raphael Mondesir

#### **A. Out of area perpetrators**

- In the past, gang members were more identifiable
- now, many gang members from out of Seattle come here to party, hang out, etc... (Central district, South end)
- they have higher mobility than before
- patrol perspective:
  - a good portion of people SPD deal with are not from here (RB) (up to no good, gang members etc...)... When they are stopped by SPD we find that they are from surrounding towns (Kent, Burien, Skyway etc...)
- How is that different from before?
  - it's always been that way
  - the question of outsiders originated in prior discussions and a need to augment data already made available by SPD
  - crime is more frequent around main arterials and transit system (light rail)

#### **B. typical police reaction toward theft: business Vs. person**

- there is a lot of organized retail theft
- thieves know the parameters pertinent to specific kinds of theft and they play the game
  - theft of amounts less than \$250 --> it's a misdemeanor (petty theft), tried in municipal court
  - amounts over \$250 get more serious consideration and harsher sentences
  - people can be classified as "trespassers" and not be allowed back in the store for 1 year

#### **C. Typical items involved and how they are fenced**

- typical items in retails theft includes (but not limited to): meat, baby food, tide (detergent)
- the prosecutor decides how to charge
  - if someone is apprehended and they cooperate: we have a case of theft
  - if they resist: we have a case of robbery
- \*\* most crimes are NOT reported to SPD (missing in data) \*\*
- the rate is 100 burglaries per month in the South precinct
- high theft items are marked with a special sticker at Safeway.
- items are fenced at different spots around the RB community (usually by addicts and other substance abusers)
- smaller stores (including restaurants) will sometimes purchase stolen goods
- approximately there are 10 times more people involved in stealing those items than there are people buying them

- some of these thefts /fencing activities is organized crime

**D. connection of theft to drug use?**

- usually these items are not stolen for personal use
- what do we do with substance abusers with a very long rap sheet -- 40 or 60 arrests? what's a plausible recourse?

**E. gang activity across the 5 hotspots**

patrol perspective:

- unless we know them personally we don't know their gang affiliation
- not as prevalent as in the 1980's -- but they are still active. it's just that their activities are more under the radar.
  - safeway: connected to drug activity
  - light rail: theft of personal electronics; gang activity; independent operators
  - Rainier and Henderson: "straight up gang activity". Shootings are mostly gang driven ("shooting gallery")
  - Rose street: n/a
  - Lake Washington Apts.: combination of gangs + burglars + independent operators + car prowlers

**F. what are some of the more specific locations where incidents occur around these 5 hot spots?**

- light rail: perpetrators travel in groups and find targets (anybody with electronic devices: ipod, iphone/smartphone, ipad. etc..)
  - they're looking for items that can be easily fenced afterwards
  - they will either strike on the bus/train or wait for the potential victim(s) to get off or even follow them after they get off.
- Rainier & Henderson:
  - crimes connected to areas around the schools
  - gang activity is prevalent there
- community center:
  - some people will be there for illegitimate purposes (potentially looking for targets)
- Jack in the box:
  - facilitates gathering (there were a couple of homicides there last summer)
- 9400 block: smoke shops and barbershops
  - Barbershop:
    - several shootings last summer
  - sale of narcotics out of a residence
    - when the narcotic ring was dismantled: most of the other criminal activities stopped!
  - a prostitution ring
- Lake Washington Apts.:
  - most incidents are probably cause dby outsiders.
  - some residents may be running illegitimate businesses (that foster incidents and crimes)
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- Night clubs:
  - sale of stolen liquor
  - shootings (ex. shooting at domino's pizza)

**G. Regarding the Mapes Creek walkway (aka “The cut”)**

- two (2) addresses are used for police calls:
  1. north end: 52nd and Henderson
  2. south end: 9200 52nd ave south
- calls are mostly about disorders (quality of life)

**H. Safety measures during festivities for Chinese New Year**

- no special measures envisioned by SPD ... but this coincides with super bowl weekend

**I. concerns with crime reporting and timely police response**

- call center priorities: decided and sorted by dispatcher
- call priority queue:
  - a. priority #1: life or death situations
  - b. priority #2: something happening right now (but not life or death)
  - c. priority #3: something that has already happened
    - suspect is no longer on the crime scene
    - issue is under investigation

**J. Concluding comments**

- additional tasks take huge amounts of time from police officers (reviewing cctv, follow up with witnesses, etc.)
- police response can be improved with better crime reporting
- what about working together? what are we doing to improve cooperation?
  - people underutilize “911”
  - they doubt it’s an emergency so they don’t call
  - chances are if you’re debating whether or not to call 911 you should probably just go ahead and call
  - but be ready to answer questions.. we can’t help you if you don’t tell us what’s going on.
  - this is not for the police to pry in your lives: it’s for informational purposes
  - give details beyond just a hunch or hearsay