



OFFICE OF
**Community
& Civic Life**



Public Safety Action Committee (PSAC) -Thursday, April 11, 2019, 6-8pm
Central Northeast Neighbors, 4415 NE 87th Ave. Portland OR 97220

Meeting Notes

The Public Safety Action Committee (PSAC) meeting is a forum where community members, community partners and City staff come together to collaborate on ways to make their community safer and more engaged. The following is a summary of stakeholder updates and responses to community concerns presented.

Update by Robert King, Mayor Wheeler's new Senior Public Safety Advisor
(Robert.King@portlandoregon.gov, 503-823-4027)

- Mayor Wheeler hired Robert King as his new senior advisor on public safety issues. After 27 years in the Portland Police Bureau, Robert King retired in 2018 as Commander of North Precinct. After an eight-month-long retirement, King returned to public service as a safety officer for the Bureau of Development Services.
- King brings a fresh and new perspective. He is committed to and supportive of the Mayor's goal of building trust between the community and the bureau.
- Mayor Wheeler's office has been exploring a model similar to CAHOOTS in Eugene – a program that sends trained mental health and substance abuse experts to respond to 911 and non-emergency calls that don't necessarily need police intervention.
- It's budget time. It's our time to make our case about programs that are effective and how to best use our resources.
- A collaborative approach gets the work done. King is listening and he's here for the community. King asked what do you want the Mayor to know to help inform policy issues?
- Q: When we ask questions or give advice to the Mayor or police, we think to have the answers, but it always falls into 'we don't have enough police officers.' Tell us what you can do.
- A: We should have a larger police force for the city of our size. We wish we had more and would continue working to retain police officers. We are understaffed at a time there is a great need. We must be willing to do the best we can with the resources we have.
- Q: What's the reason for losing officers?
- A: There are multiple factors impacting PPB's staffing shortage, including an uptick in officer retirements. It's also tougher to recruit and retain officers considering the scrutiny of Portland policing.
- Q: As a long-time Portland resident, the contact I've had with PPB has been positive.

I'm concerned that working people cannot afford housing in the city and I'm upset with the decrease of livability in my neighborhood. I'm also concerned with cyclists in the area who don't stop at all. I'd like to see cyclists regulated.

- Q: Is it true that Washington County Sheriff's Office is no longer supporting PPB? And did the City withdraw from the Joint Terrorism Task Force?
- A: A shooting occurred involving Washington County officers who were called to help in Portland, and resulted in a verdict against Washington County in a civil case. Washington County Sheriff's Office determined that they will no longer authorize its deputies to respond to calls in Portland (SWAT/Crowd control), they will only respond if a case has proven connection to its jurisdiction or if there's a threat to life. Clackamas County Sheriff's Office is contemplating pulling out from supporting PPB due to liability concerns. Portland City Council voted to withdraw the city's police officers from the Joint Terrorism Task Force. A resolution is being prepared so that we can still participate in some ways, but not fully. The decision to withdraw was a council decision.
- Q: What creative solutions are being explored to address what's happening with the drug crisis, which is a major contributor of this housing crisis?
- A: We are looking for other strategies such as the CAHOOTS model. We recognize we need to do more. We need to deal with issues now with the resources that we have. This is the time to speak up and voice your concerns, particularly during this budget season. *NOTE: There are budget events April through June. Portland's elected officials are seeking community input. Participate in the budget process and provide your opinion. For more information see: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/cbo/article/622229>*
- Comment: PPB shouldn't be responding to mental health calls. They should be investigating and providing the resources for folks who have mental health experience. I'd like the Mayor to respond by funding more peer support efforts-and have someone who knows about addictions respond to those calls. PPB should do what they are best at. We should also be supporting youth and promoting positive interactions with police. Programs such as Word is Bond is something we be supporting.
- Comment: I'm also concerned with cyclists in the neighborhood and around NE Tillamook/42nd Ave. They run through crosswalks without stopping. There needs to be some cyclist regulation.
We are also having lots of issues with the Ellington Apartments, which is in the Madison South Neighborhood, and its negatively impacting the Rose City Park neighborhood. I heard gun shots within the last 6 months. They don't have on-site management or security. North Precinct and East Precinct aren't communicating. There's got to be cross communication with East Precinct. I've heard the gun shots and both times I knew where it came from. Look into the Ellington Apartments.
- King: I'm available and an advocate from PPB and the community to create a situation where we can get more done and get more officers. We need to be real and communicate what we are doing and what we will do. So, that we are being responsive while we work on developing programs and getting more officers.
- If you have questions/comments, you can connect with Robert King at Robert.King@portlandoregon.gov and 503-823-4027.

Update by Commander Steinbronn, Portland Police Bureau, North Precinct

(wendi.steinbronn@portlandoregon.gov, 503-823-5700)

- I received two questions from the community from the same person. “1) Now prowlers are covering their faces with bandanas and even an umbrella to thwart the cameras at the front door. What can neighbors do to capture images of miscreants approaching the front door, middle of the night? And 2) What can neighbors safely do to assist police offices in shutting down the drag racing on Swan Island, sometimes Sunday? Photograph license plates, make videos,.....?” I will address these during my update report.
- The top crime issues in North are 1. auto theft and 2. burglary (commercial and residential).
- REDUCE MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT – We continue to battle this as our #1 crime issue in North Precinct. We use automatic license plate reader cars that can scan several license plates in minutes, we focus on the hot spot areas where vehicles are most likely to be stolen from and we use plainclothes officers to spot suspicious activity.
- REDUCE SPEED RACING INCIDENTS – We began this series of missions the first few weekends in March as the racers are out in force again along Marine Drive/Delta Park/Lombard. Just a reminder that speed racing is illegal and dangerous. Many business owners in the affected areas are fed up. We use a combination of Traffic Division units, photo radar vans, and Air Support to stop, cite and arrest violators. Speed Kills!
- As far as, how you can help? You can call in to the Non-Emergency # (503-823-3333) when you know the racers are gathering in an area, especially on a Sunday night. However, if it’s a situation where the racers are shutting down the freeway and someone could get hurt or there’s a fight in progress, call 9-1-1.
- REDUCE COMMERCIAL and RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY – We will begin this mission in a few weeks focusing on hot spot areas and commercial burglaries along the MLK Jr. Blvd Corridor. You can help by calling in suspicious activity/persons.
- REDUCE CAR PROWLERS – We began targeted patrols north of the MODA Center during Trailblazer home games. We were very successful early on and were able to arrest thieves and get the property back to the rightful owner. Two of our officers were able to identify and enter a longer-term investigation involving organized theft of wheels and tires. We used plainclothes, uniform patrol as well as Air Support to identify and capture car prowlers.
- MAINTAIN FOOT PATROLS – We are still engaged in our foot patrols but have cut the frequency in half in order to staff our other projects. We were typically running 8-9 patrols every two weeks and are now running 3-4 every two weeks. We still focus on our most active problem areas such as Holladay Park, Lloyd District, Irvington, Hollywood, Parkrose and Dawson Park.
- SPRING BREAK 2019 – All three (3) precincts combined efforts to patrol City-wide. Patrols were run every day from Friday, March 22nd through Sunday, March 31st. Officers, along with Park Rangers, walked through all major City parks numerous times as well as other points where groups gather to include North Precinct points of interest to include: Lloyd Center Mall, Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd corridor, St. Johns Park and Community Center, North Lombard Transit Station, Holladay Park Transit Station and Jefferson H.S. Many positive community member contacts were made with very few arrests (many for warrants). I hope we were visible and that you may have had occasion to say hello.

- As far as what can be done about prowlers who cover their face, I'd ask why they are coming onto the property in the first place. Are you having packages delivered? If so, and they are being stolen, have them delivered somewhere else (e.g. lockers). Do you have other items that are attractive? I'd recommend neighbors do a little crime prevention. Consider installing video surveillance cameras and implementing additional crime prevention strategies to make your property less vulnerable for crime. *NOTE: The Crime Prevention Program offers assistance with education, community organizing, and training on issues of crime and livability. For more information, visit the Crime Prevention Program, at www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/76205 or 503-823-4064.*
- Q: How can we (the community) help? How can we prevent burglaries? We have community members who are willing to help and go on patrol, keep an extra eye on the street and report issues to the police. In our community when you report you get labeled and you put yourself at risk.
- Comment: In Vancouver, WA, there's a program called Neighbors on Watch. Neighbors are able to do something. They apply and get trained and people get out in the community. They wear a vest and are given a radio so that if they need help they can contact the police. They have about 100 people. They commit to 4 hours every month.
- A: The Office of Community & Civic Life Crime Prevention Program no longer provides Foot Patrol trainings; however, we offer crime prevention trainings on public safety resources, using the 9-1-1 and Non-Emergency Numbers, and effectively reporting crime and non-crime issues. Proactively sign-up and request a training for your neighbors. Proactively connect with your Crime Prevention North Team.

Update by Jonathan Lewis, Program Coordinator, City of Portland, Homelessness/Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP). (jonathan.lewis@portlandoregon.gov, 503-823-3328)

- HUCIRP is a City of Portland-run program that runs the One Point of Contact campsite reporting system and is responsible for campsite clean up coordination and responding to community complaints.
- The City of Portland Response to Homelessness Newsletter can be accessed here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/toolkit/article/711899>
- The Navigation Team is a services- and engagement-focused pilot organized by the Joint Office of Homeless Services to work with individuals engaged in high-impact camping — offering wraparound supports and priority access to shelter to help those individuals transition from the streets and back into housing
- The team works closely with HUCIRP to identify areas that are posted and cleaned repeatedly because of reoccurring high-impact camping activity. The team works with campers in those areas for an extended period of time before an area is again posted and cleaned, in order to improve service connections for the campers and reduce the likelihood that high-impact camping will recur in the area following the cleanup.
- The team started operations in February and is led by Transition Projects, an experienced shelter, housing-placement and outreach provider, in partnership with Central City Concern, an experienced transitional housing, outreach and treatment provider.

- Transition Projects is able to draw on its shelter resources and services network to provide priority access for individuals helped by the Navigation Team. Central City Concern is contributing specialists who are experienced in working with people experiencing mental illness and addiction issues.
- As of this year, the City entered into an agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The City of Portland now has authority to clean up ODOT property. However, when it comes to making environmental changes to ODOT property only ODOT has the authority to make changes to their property.
- You can see a map of the locations reported during a particular week here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/toolkit/74071>

Reminders and announcements

- Upcoming PSAC Meetings:
 - **July 11: Portland Police Bureau North Precinct (449 NE Emerson), 6pm-8pm**
 - **October 10: Central Northeast Neighbors (4415 NE 87th Ave), 6pm-8pm**
- Take advantage of the PSAC pre-meeting/open house time. From 6-6:30pm, there is time for pre-meeting problem-solving. This is an opportunity to discuss specific public safety issues and for networking between community members and City staff, including leadership from the Police Bureau's North Precinct.
- Make your voice heard and participate in the budget process. Provide your opinions and insight to Portland's elected officials: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/cbo/article/622229>
- National Night Out registration opens Monday, April 22. Register your party for free with the Crime Prevention Program at: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/55345>
- Neighbors can proactively work together with others to address public safety issues in their community, and/or hold neighborhood meetings. City staff can be contacted at any point between now and the next PSAC meeting(s).

Additional Resources

- PPB Officers in the Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) Program work full time in their positions and generally do not respond to everyday calls for service. NRTs can address more deeply rooted and complex problems in a neighborhood. To contact your area's NRT officer, contact the North Precinct front desk: 503-823-5700 (9:30 a.m. to 6 pm Closed Weekends and Holidays).
- The Crime Prevention Program offers education, community organizing, and training on issues of crime prevention and livability. For more information, visit the Crime Prevention Program, at www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/76205 or 503-823-4064.
- Visit the City of Portland Homelessness Toolkit website: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/toolkit/article/562206>, to find resources, how you can help, information on the One Point of Contact reporting system, access their Newsletter and more.