

## North Highline Unincorporated Area Council

### Minutes 7-1-2010

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

**Council Members Present:** Pat Price, Heidi Johnson, Jessica Stoneback, Ron Johnson, Christine Waldman, Rebecca Lopes, Patrick Mosley, Barbara Dobkin, Richard Miller, Stephen Porter, Doug Harrell;

**Absent:** none

**Approval of Agenda:** Ron moved to add two items under new business: the UAC Forum, and the purchase of a printer for the council, approved and seconded, as amended – all approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** June minutes approved. April and May minutes still in the works.

**Public Announcements:** Bob Price asks about possible gift or collection for Deputy Jeff Hancock to show our appreciation, as he is leaving our area. Pat gave July 24<sup>th</sup> as date of the next Greater White Center – South Delridge Community Safety Coalition meeting at DSHS Building in White Center, starts at 6 pm. Gill Loring read his statement: believes that the Sheriff's Office is withholding information from the public, and not giving us the complete story on Deputy Jeff Hancock leaving our area, and will therefore be reviewing his own support of additional funding sources sought for the Sheriff's office.

**Report from Mike Martin, Burien City Manager:** Burien City Hall North has issued its first business license. Major road-paving program is about to start, with \$9 million in bonds to be sold in August, which is when they'll start the "overlay" work – Ambaum's the first road that'll be done, from the northern border (112th) to 156<sup>th</sup>. Burien's budget cycle is beginning and they do NOT anticipate layoffs or furlough days. Message to city employees, says Martin: "We're suffering through the same thing as everybody else, but we don't have the drama." The long and short of it is we are Okay. He will recommend a Cost of Living Adjustment for employees this year, as they had none last year. He was in Washington DC last week, as part of a Lobby for funding to build 2 legs on our 518 and 509 interchange. It looks good that we should get this \$4 to \$5 million dollars during the next year. A "community survey" will go out in July asking Burien residents "big questions," such as "do you feel safe" – "We're not looking for data, we're looking to find out how people feel." Burien is trying to move its car lots off 1st Avenue South into a new "car park" and looking for other dealers to join the project.

**KC Sheriff Report:** First, regarding Club Evo – which Captain Cole described casually as "riots in the street" – he says, "We're having a ... challenge, with Club Evo" and mentioned a meeting back on Tuesday. "The bottom line is, we have a number of agencies that have their hands in sort of regulatory situations with Club Evo – licensing, taxing, code enforcement, us ... from a very open and objective perspective, every one of those groups has a violation or something to investigate with that business, so we came together to say, what can we do about

this?" He described it as "an attractive nuisance" drawing "people from outside our area ... who don't have the same ownership of the area, and are causing a lot of problems." He estimates there were 60 cars that recent Friday night, "and we were hosing everybody down with our industrial-strength drums of pepper spray. ... These are volatile situations and we can't tolerate that happening every Friday and Saturday night."

Liz Giba asked about the Fire Marshal regulation. Capt. Cole clarified the reason the Fire Marshal violations didn't keep the club closed: "There are alternatives to sprinklers ... like a physical fire watch, and that's the agreement was made, and that's why they were allowed to reopen." Geoffrey "Mac" McElroy asked the Captain, "So, what can we as a community do?" Capt. Cole offered two suggestions: "Talk to the owner of Club Evo ... and start writing letters to (the different entities that can enforce the laws that are being violated)." He says "we're putting everything into it that we can" and says "we're basically putting our entire Gang Unit into it on Friday and Saturday nights," though "there are other gang problems in King County we'd like to deal with."

Major Graddon also confirmed that deputies are no longer allowed to hire on for "off-duty work" at Evo because it would be a conflict of interest given the alleged violations there.

Capt. Cole has also revealed he is now focusing on Burien and has been replaced with Capt. Pat Buschley for the White Center (etc.) area.

Maj. Graddon talked about Deputy Hancock's move and the letter that was distributed today, saying he felt it's self-explanatory. He says it is an intense job and jobs like the White Center position can really burn out a Deputy. "I support him 110 percent in stepping off the storefront position" Personally & professionally, this is the right thing for Jeff. "he would love to work day shift Vashon because of where he lives and his family considerations ... we are reaching a compromise so we have been able to accommodate him to a degree ... he's working some Vashon, some mainland ... he's soon going to get to go to his second-choice shift, graveyard, which will make it much more convenient with his five children, one on the way .. Have we had complaints investigated up here? Certainly. A recent sustained complaint? No. As commander of the precinct ... I make the decision and this is the outcome of things that he is facing in his life."

He also mentions that all the storefront deputies have had to move out of the storefronts because of a personnel shortage, "We've had to pull them out of the storefront positions to do reactive patrol ... while still trying to stay involved with the community ... I don't know how soon that situation is going to change" – he mentions that budgetary considerations remain paramount, and they're hearing that up to 70 more positions could be cut in unincorporated areas, in which case, "We won't have storefronts at all."

Maj. Graddon says he doesn't know why some people feel they've been lied to regarding this situation. He acknowledges that Deputy Hancock "has done a remarkable job." He talked about what it was like for Deputy Hancock to fill Deputy Steve Cox's shoes, and says he has done it maybe too well. He uses the word "addiction" – and how law-enforcement officers may get too caught up in your work. He said, "When you have a dependency that starts to form when you

feel he is the only thing between you and rampant crime in the streets ... then Carl and I haven't done our jobs ... it's not safe for him to continue to draw that much out of himself for the community. ... This is where we find ourselves. I have not lessened my commitment to this community. ... I'm still standing in front of you tonight, I didn't have to, I could have handed this off, but this is important to me, you are important to me." "Our Gang Team has a problem Solving Assignment on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor." Captain Joe Hodgeson will be in charge of Operations, and we can email Deputy Jerry Meyers.

Council member Patrick Mosley brings up the point that Dep. Hancock did not ask to leave White Center patrol, just the storefront. Maj. Graddon said yes, Hancock could patrol this area, but "I want to make sure that we are not still sucking the life out of him ... there's a healthiness issue that we need to be mindful of. He's not leaving the precinct, he's still an asset, he's still part of our police force out here as much as all of our folks are." Capt. Cole affirms, "He's not restricted from patrolling White Center – it's his choice (not to)."

Mosley follows up, "My concern with someone who's put as much into the community as he can, the next officer is going to be starting from square one." Maj. Graddon acknowledges that's correct, but says Hancock's "not the only person responsible for taking care of business" – another deputy who's patrolling the area, for example, has been in White Center for several months and, they say, is doing well.

McElroy asked if there will be a replacement – for now, no, says Maj. Graddon, because of the staffing uncertainties; he wants to see how July goes – he doesn't want to get someone attached to the storefront when it might even be temporary. The captain and major are applauded after the Q/A ends.

Council member Barbara Dobkin says she takes the bus home and has seen an increasing number of problems – an assault, open drinking, prostitution. Capt. Cole says he hears anecdotes about this but not enough people are calling in to report it – so they're not on record – but that's "really important for us to get the calls." They "may not be able to roll on it right away – but in order for us to make an argument to the King County Council that we can't operate at the staffing level they've given us, we have to get the 911 calls." The captain says not to worry about which line you call – emergency or non-emergency – they're answered by the same people, who will make the decision on routing. "I say that to everybody – YOU GOTTA CALL US ... you won't be a nuisance." Ron Johnson asked about Block Watch – per Capt. Cole, letters went out yesterday to all registered Block Watch Captains in the Unincorporated area.

Later in the meeting, Christine suggested that during White Center Jubilee Days, the NHUAC booth offer people the chance to write messages of thanks to Deputy Hancock. So at WCJD, be on the lookout for that.

**KING COUNTY BROWNFIELDS: Lucy Auster, King County:** The county team briefing the council, regarding the \$400,000 Grant King County will be receiving, says it's a redevelopment project, not just a cleanup project. The project has a three-year grant, and they're now working to figure out what the sites are going to be. They're also pointing out that they are developing information on sites' history so that if you want to buy property and it has history –

say, as a gas station – there’s a way you can find out. (They also note that they’re continuing to look into the Hicks Lake situation, which had drawn some questions previously, regarding what its true level of toxicity actually is – the Brownfield’s team says they would be looking for actual toxic substances, not something like algae, but research continues). So how do people get involved with the program ?, WCCDA’s Virgil asks. There’s not a formal process, the team replies – but they’d be happy to meet with WCCDA or anyone else who’s interested, to talk more about possibilities. Lucy introduced Joanne Labaw of EPA, and Emery Bayley of ECOSS, Environmental Coalition of South Seattle. Joanne has Contractors onboard to do stuff more than the scope of King County’s Grant. Emery is the “prospector” to look for properties.

**Treasurer:** expenses were read, and balance is now \$9386.82, per Ron Johnson.

**Correspondence:** Ron Johnson read a letter from King County Executive Dow Constantine regarding the UAC Forum, to be held on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Also, read a letter from the county library system pointing out that they are postponing capital improvement projects in this area until annexation – whether Seattle or otherwise – for the adjoining area is settled, because that raises questions about what area the library ultimately will serve. The library system will continue to provide operational support, the letter goes on to say.

**Committee Reports: Parks** – Christine thanked the council members who helped with the flower plantings at Steve Cox Memorial Park last month.

**Outreach** – Heidi announced that articles are needed for our Newsletter, that we will have to hand out at our booth at White Center Jubilee Days. Rebecca reported that our space is confirmed, and help is needed to be at the booth all weekend of July 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Heidi will keep track of who can work which shift, we all need to email her with schedule.

**Transportation** – Ron reported on the closing of the South Park Bridge on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**UAC Forum** – Christine asks for input, as she has to speak representing us. She requests that we all think of local success stories, and current issues for her to share. We can all carpool to the Forum, as directors of various King County Depts. will be present and we can speak to them.

Ron brings up that our council needs to invest in a printer for our President to use for Agendas and other copies. Barbara offers to donate one, so we do not need to purchase it.

Jessica suggests we purchase a Video Camera for Council use, Patrick volunteered to research this possible purchase for us.

**Meeting Adjourned,**

**Pat Price, Secretary**