

## North Highline Unincorporated Area Council

**Minutes 11-3-2011**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

**Council Members Present:** Pat Price, Ron Johnson, Christine Waldman, Barbara Dobkin, Richard Miller, Rebecca Lopes, Jessica Stoneback , Liz Giba and Patrick Mosley.

**Absent:** Doug Harrell, & Stephen Porter

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda accepted as amended – John Wilson of WA State Liquor Board unable to attend, will be replaced by Capt. Susan Blaker. Also, Major Graddon unable to attend.

**Approval of Minutes:** none ready for approval, at this time.

**Public Announcements:** Hope VI Meeting at Greenbridge will be on Tuesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>; Community Safety Meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at Boys & Girls Club Bldg. at Greenbridge; the WC Library Guild's Annual Holiday Bazaar will be Sat. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the KC Comprehensive Plan will continue to have public review of the draft form until December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Mike Martin, City of Burien:** Deputy Myers' assignment is good news, Burien City Manager stated & mentioned a role that Myers played in the review of whether Burien should go solo in police services provision. "That's a real score for you guys," he said, while acknowledging Burien was sorry to see him go. Mike went on to tell about their upcoming work on the Budget, and named new hires the city will be making. He said a decision is close on a proposed auto mall where the Lora Lake Apartments were, and he's "cautiously optimistic." It would consolidate all of Burien's auto dealers in one area, taking them off 1st Avenue. It means they would be have 30 or 40 acres on 1st Avenue for other retail development. He's working with the Port of Seattle on that. Regarding annexation, he urged people not to be too worried about Governor Gregoire's proposal to eliminate the sales-tax credit, and said that he has conferred with other cities that have been involved. This would involve changing the law. He says 120 cities signed a letter to the governor saying they were disappointed in that proposal and others that were in her budget. Burien cannot go forward with annexation without the sales-tax credit, however, he reiterated. He said that in the meantime, though, the annexation process is proceeding – they have filed their "notice of intent" with the Boundary Review Board. Asked about the Boundary Review timeline, he said "it's conceivable we could have a public hearing before Christmas" but isn't sure the board will move that quickly, saying January is more likely. He thinks summer or fall are the most likely annexation election dates.

**King County Sheriff's Office, Capt. Joe Hodgson:** said "We're quite proud of him," & promptly introduced **Deputy BJ Myer** - stated that his background includes two military deployments, & service with KCSO since 2007, he is a well-respected, high-performing deputy who's earned the respect of his supervisors and his peers. The thing that probably impressed us the most about him is his wide perspective on White Center ... He recognized that while there's a time and a place for heavy law enforcement, you have to get to root causes .. that's the one

strength we latched onto. Deputy Myer discussed what he had learned so far. He says he'll focus on using traditional law enforcement as well as working with other agencies, maybe doing creative problem solving on specific issues around here. The best way to get information to him, if someone sees or hears something is by email: [benjamin.myers@kingcounty.gov](mailto:benjamin.myers@kingcounty.gov)

**King County Prosecuting Attorney, Dan Satterburg:** offered some background on his office/staff, including the fact that 230 of the 480 employees are lawyers. Then he went into some words about "Operation Center of Attention," and its origins a few months back as part of a national program targeting "hot spots." For 90 days we had some outstanding undercover police officers and agents working the streets, and the epicenter was south of Roxbury on 16th - they came to town and started making friends, and very soon were led up the ladder to make major drug deals. He said many of the 53 suspects are in custody and charged, and some are still being pursued. On a separate topic, President Barbara asked about medical-marijuana businesses in White Center. He recounted the ongoing state of flux in state/local law, and the fact that marijuana continues to be against federal law. Barbara explained that the local businesses weren't just "dispensaries," but include a lounge where "you can go in and listen to jazz and smoke pot," as well as a "farmers' market." Mr. Satterberg noted it's not legal to smoke marijuana in public even if you have a medical certificate. Christine asked why the crackdown in Eastern Washington, involving the U.S. Attorney on that side of the mountains, couldn't be replicated here. "It could," Mr. Satterberg noted, but said it's also a matter of "police priorities," which marijuana has not been in King County. Bottom line, he had no answer for the concern, and Barbara said that we feel as if we've been "left to fend for ourselves". But he invited the Sheriff's Office to talk with his office about "what you see on your tours." He promised to return and "continue this conversation."

**U.S. Attorney's Office, Thomas Bates:** took on some of the questions that had been asked previously: "The task force that did this operation remains" he said, urging people to continue to report what they see. That includes his office; he said "odds and ends are still coming up," and in fact, just this week another suspect was arrested in connection with a "7-gun buy" and had made a court appearance. "Things continue," he stressed, adding that landlords are indeed on notice about what's going on in their buildings, and that other actions are being taken to make sure "the business core is flying right." He went on to explain where the various arrests stand at this time. He stated "Continue to think of me as someone you can come to with ideas, and needs," and he will do his best to "be very honest" in terms of whether there are connections to be made or help to be offered – or not.

**Wa. State Liquor Control Board:** Lt. Woodrow Perkins said they had been working several cases on 16th SW even before being asked to be part of Operation Center of Attention. He mentioned that Papa's was cited for two more violations recently, one just last Friday, for providing liquor to intoxicated persons. "Right now we are in the process of reviewing reports," but he's not sure if other violations will be found. Burien, Tukwila, and East Marginal Way establishments were examined as well as White Center businesses, he said. Regarding license revocation, Capt. Susan Blaker stepped in. She says the "request for non-renewal" has been forwarded back to local investigators who are sending a report for possible action, and that there was something of a timing problem, since Papa's had recently renewed its license. The issue of what kind of review and notification ensue when a license is up for renewal generated some

additional discussion. Council members, and audience asked for more clarification on the procedures to revoke licenses of problem businesses. Lt. Perkins explained the very cumbersome process, and **Karen Freeman**, present from King County Executive **Dow Constantine**'s office, admitted that they are "learning a lot" about how it all works. She committed to be a better contact in the King County Executive's Office for us. Captain Blaker offered the fact that her officers carry massive caseloads, each responsible for 452 licensed premises.

**Treasurer:** Ron reported a balance of \$1834+.

**Committee Reports: Arts & Parks** – Christine reported that Steve Cox Memorial Park tennis-court renovations could be done this month, and the courts are expected to be open to the public shortly, even if there are a few final touches remaining to be done in spring. Rebecca will check in with Parks again about the status of the promised Flag Pole.

**Transportation:** Ron brought up the issue of the "tiered" plan for how roads will be handled – and noted he had met a county employee who's losing their job. He asked Freeman, on behalf of the county executive's office, about problems that will be inevitable; she said it's "regrettable" that budgetary matters have come to this, but that they're working with the County Council on the budget right now, and once that is finalized, they hope to be able to talk with groups like NHUAC about how things will really work in the future.

**Unfinished Business:** President Barbara stated that the permit has finally been procured for flower-bed planting on 16th. She put out an early pitch for volunteers – she is going to need people and cannot do it alone. Future of our council discussed briefly – regarding changing our insurance coverage to include primarily Liability. This will save considerable money, leaving us some of our funds left for transition into next year when we will no longer have a contract, or budget with King County.

A discussion ensued regarding providing David, who has been filming and editing NHUAC meetings, as well as other community events in preparation for putting a film together about North Highline, a one time payment of \$200 to cover his time and the use of his editing equipment. There was concern from some council members about using tax payer money to pay David, but it was brought up that in the past someone had been paid to take and transcribe minutes, and that this was no different. At this point we did not have enough council present to take a vote. This discussion will continue at the December meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 pm Pat Price, Secretary Pro Tem**