

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b>	City Council Goal #5 Update - Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Community
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Community Services Division
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Rob Beem, Community Services Division Manager
<b>ACTION:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

**PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:**

This item updates the City Council on work done in 2014 in response to Council Goal #5: "Promote and enhance the City's safe community and neighborhood programs and initiatives." At the City Council's Annual Strategic Planning Workshop, staff provided a high level summary of action taken on work plan items relating to this goal. This update provides additional detail and takes a special focus on activities that build and strengthen connection between the City and the Shoreline community.

**RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There are no financial impacts in providing this update to Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

No action is Required. Staff recommends that the Council discuss the Safe Neighborhood/Safe Community Update and ask questions of the Community Services Division and Shoreline Police staff.

Approved By:            City Manager *DT*    City Attorney *MK*

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report compliments information presented to Council at its Annual Strategic Planning Workshop in February, the Annual Traffic Report presented on March 30th, and tonight's Annual Police Services Report. The focus of this report is on the elements of staff's Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Communities work that engage residents, strengthen relationships and trust, and address specific issues which affect peoples' feelings of safety.

## **BACKGROUND**

Council's Goal #5: "Promote and enhance the City's safe community and neighborhood programs and initiatives," was initially established in 2013 and continues as one of the City's 2015-2017 goals. This goal focuses on the City's progress on activities and initiatives that improve residents' sense of safety and security.

The recently adopted 2015-16 Goals frame this goal with the following statement:

*Maintaining a safe community is the City's highest priority. The 2014 Citizen Survey reflected that 92% of respondents felt safe in their neighborhood during the day and 80% had an overall feeling of safety in Shoreline. These results are reflective of statistics from medium-sized cities across the United States, and it was a slight increase from previous citizen surveys conducted by the City. The City is continuing a concentrated work plan to enhance our public safety communication and crime prevention efforts to ensure that our residents and businesses continue to find Shoreline a safe place to live, work, and play.*

To implement this goal staff has initiated activities that build on the City's strengths of strong connections to our neighborhoods, effective Police services and a history of close working relationships among City staff across all departments.

## **DISCUSSION**

In late 2013, City staff pulled together a cross departmental team made up of Police, Community Services (Neighborhoods, Emergency Management and Customer Response Team), Parks Recreation and Cultural Services, Traffic, Planning and Community Development, Communications, and City Manager's Office staff. This team is responsible for integrating work being done to implement the City's Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Communities work plan. The team coordinates ongoing work and develops solutions and initiatives to address persistent or new concerns.

Tonight's review of the work to implement this goal is divided into four areas: Increased Safety Through Community Connection and Engagement; Safe Parks, Safe Mobility and Focused Interventions.

### **Safety Through Community Connection and Engagement**

In 2013, the City shifted a position in the Police Department to focus on crime prevention and problem solving initiatives and launched a new program, Shoreline Watch (<http://shorelinewa.gov/government/departments/police-department/crime->

[prevention/shoreline-watch](#)). Each of these steps was taken to increase the level of interaction residents had with Police. This in turn will promote stronger connections among residents and will ensure that residents and Police have the opportunity to engage in an ongoing dialog about topics of local concern. The new Community Outreach/Problem Solving (COPS) officer, Officer Steve Perry, now heads the City's Shoreline Watch and crime prevention efforts.

### **Shoreline Watch**

Shoreline Watch is the new way neighbors and Police come together for crime prevention. This program replaces and updates the City's long standing participation in Block Watch. Shoreline Watch engages Shoreline officers with a broad array of community groups to help to build familiarity with law enforcement, to learn about specific crime prevention and safety strategies and to make important connections to each other. Topics frequently covered include residential security, the value of watching your neighborhood, recognizing and reporting suspicious behavior, preventing or reporting mail theft and local traffic enforcement issues. Through Shoreline Watch Police attended 52 community events engaging with groups as varied as the Cub Scouts and the Council of Neighborhoods in 2014.

### **National Night Out Against Crime**

In addition to these efforts, National Night Out Against Crime continues to be a major event across the City. On August 6th, 2014 Shoreline was awash with hot grills, pot-luck salads and neighbors meeting neighbors in yards and closed streets for the annual National Night Out Against Crime. This event has grown substantially in the past several years and again in 2014 set a record for participation. There were 67 block parties taking place in every neighborhood across the City. This event engaged an estimated 2,775 residents. Police and City staff visits all events to deliver crime prevention messaging and to connect with residents so they understand the range of services the City offers, such as Shoreline Watch and Map Your Neighborhood. The increasing popularity of this event is indicative of the strong connection that exists among neighbors in Shoreline.

### **Ready Neighborhood**

The same messages and activities that deter crime also help prepare for an emergency. Whether it is snow, a power outage, a big wind storm or earthquake preparation; understanding who is there to help you are keys to making it through an emergency event. The City's Emergency Management Program's offer assistance to neighbors through their Ready Neighborhood Program (<http://cityofshoreline.com/home/showdocument?id=5243>). In 2014, staff worked with 23 neighbors in support of their efforts to organize and prepare for emergencies.

### **Alert Shoreline**

2014 also saw the full roll out of Alert Shoreline, the City's new mass communication system. Though this system is most frequently seen as a vehicle to communicate about ongoing City activities, like City Council and Planning Commission agendas and Parks and Recreation events, it has a very specific role in community safety. Staff now has the ability to send out tailored messages to specific areas of the City and to select audiences for those messages. If there is an immediate public safety concern, such as a school lock down or a traffic accident with a lengthy road closure, Alert Shoreline

allows the City to send a text or email to those who have signed up to receive that specific message. Thankfully, there have been very few times where this need arose this past year.

Staff has also developed protocols to communicate with key partners, such as METRO, local schools and Shoreline Community College, using Alert Shoreline, as an emergency or police incident is unfolding in order to keep our key City partners and institutions informed and able to take actions to ensure the safety of their students and customers.

### **Nurturing Trust**

Shoreline and Lake Forest Park Police partnered in conducting two workshops with the Spanish speaking community called Nurturing Trust. The five-class workshops were held in November 2014 and again in March 2015, and 30 parents participated in each session. The workshops focused on positive parental discipline, domestic violence, child abuse, bullying, drugs in the community and leadership (Attachment A is the flyer that was produced for the March 2015 workshop). The workshops were facilitated by Shoreline Police Community Service Officer Dalia Corona, with a specific instructor leading each class. The workshops were advertised through Spanish-speaking radio and television channels. These workshops have been very successful in helping build trust between Shoreline Police and this underrepresented community, and Shoreline and Lake Forest Park Police are interested in exploring ways to continue these workshops in the future.

### **Safety Fair**

In the spirit of innovation, staff held the Zombie Safety Fair in conjunction with the City's annual Monster Mash Dash, the fun run that takes place in October around Halloween. This event brought together Police, Emergency Management, Shoreline Fire, the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers and 25 other vendors focused on emergency preparedness and community safety. Attendees were able to get information and tools that helped them heighten their personal safety and to be better prepared in the event of an emergency or disaster. Going forward staff will provide emergency management and community safety messaging by participating in other community events such as the Richmond Beach Community Association Strawberry Festival and Swingin' Summer's Eve.

### **Emergency Preparedness Collaboration**

As an element of staff's on-going work to prepare for emergencies, staff meets regularly with partners across the City, including utilities, Shoreline Fire, METRO, the Washington State Public Health Lab, CERT and Auxiliary Communication Services (ACS) volunteers and schools to establish communication protocols and to conduct drills that hone our response abilities. These partners all regularly attend the City's Emergency Management Council. A continued focus on emergency management best practices and coordination at the Emergency Management Council has been highlighted by Council as one of the Action Steps under this ongoing 2015-2017 Council Goal.

Additionally, last fall, Shoreline Police and Lake Forest Park Police jointly conducted an active shooter response drill in a school building. Following that tactical exercise staff opened the Emergency Operations Center for a drill that tested our broader community

response and management of such a situation. Following the drill staff worked with the Shoreline Public Schools to refine their procedures for family reunification and communication among the responders. At that time, staff had no idea that the lessons from these drills would be put to the use in real life early in 2015 with the incident that originated at Meridian Park Elementary School.

All of these efforts taken together provide a broad menu of ways for citizens to connect to the City and law enforcement in a partnership that can address fears and anxieties and will provide more rapid and better informed responses in emergencies.

### **Safe Parks**

January of 2014 brought in changes in park operation and park design that will improve safety and security for park users. Shoreline Police began locking park gates and restrooms at night, and this change in procedure has been a success. Not only does this procedure have some cost savings, having a nightly presence and check of activity brings an extra measure of security to parks across the City

Park and Police staff have also been working together to review park and recreation facilities to enhance the safety and security for the community. They are using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) as strategies to evaluate our facilities. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts. CPTED principles of design affect elements of the built environment ranging from being able to easily see into and throughout a site, creating better defined public space, controlling entrance and exit points, and maintenance as an expression of ownership of property. Working together, these design elements create an opportunity for the community to keep good eyes on a park and call 911 if they perceive suspicious criminal behavior.

In May 2014, Park and Police staff conducted a CPTED site survey at Northcrest Park. After conducting the survey, staff met with the Ridgecrest Neighborhood through the fall to solicit concerns around public safety and develop a proposal of site improvements for the park. These were recommended for approval by the PRCS/Tree Board in December. Some identified improvements that are being implemented in 2015 include installing a new play area that allows for better visibility into the park from the 170<sup>th</sup> street entrance, clearing vegetation away from pathways, trails, entry fences including limbing trees at entry points, adding park entry signage at all three main entry points and organizing volunteer work parties to remove invasive plants from the park's forest canopy.

In the summer of 2014, Park and Police staff also completed CPTED surveys of the Spartan Recreation Center, the Richmond Highlands Recreation Center, and the Shoreline Pool. Enhancing outdoor security lighting, creating clear line of site from parking areas to main entry points and creating more secure front desk environments were all reviewed. Some vegetation improvements were made at the Richmond Highlands Recreation Center that fall. More improvements are identified for future capital projects.

Echo Lake Park saw the most dramatic application of CPTED principles as this park underwent a complete renovation in 2014. The CPTED design principles mentioned

above were used in designing the park's redevelopment. In addition to improving sight lines, the design included the new playground in an area that was not utilized by many park users. This new activity will increase the frequency of young children and families using the playground with the intent of increasing the opportunities to detect, and thus deter, undesirable activities.

The Park and Police staff will continue to conduct these reviews of other park and recreation facilities, share results with the City Council, and put needed improvements forward for review in the Capital Improvement Program budgeting process.

### **Safe Mobility**

On March 30, Public Works and Police presented the Annual Traffic Report to the City Council. A new and significant finding of this report was that distracted driving is the major contributing factor to unsafe driving and accidents. As was noted, this issue will receive more attention from Police and Public Works in the future.

The past year saw significant activity to improve pedestrian, bicycle and traffic safety. The City completed six meetings under the support of the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program. This established program brings together Public Works and residents to work to identify and develop solutions that address local traffic concerns such as speeding, pedestrian safety and traffic control. In 2014 the six meetings were held in the North City, Ridgecrest and Richmond Highlands neighborhoods. This program has worked in all areas of the City over the past decade and will continue in the coming year.

Pedestrian access and safety continues to be a priority. In 2014, the 195<sup>th</sup> St. Trail was extended to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. Public Works continued its work to identify Safe School routes and updated the routes for all schools in the City.

To improve traffic flow the City implemented a new traffic signal coordination system along Aurora and updated 45 (map) signals there and around the City. We now have the ability to more quickly adjust signal timing as needed. These adjustments also included modifications to pedestrian walk times which improve safety and meet industry standards. Staff also applied for and received two grants to address local traffic safety concerns. One of these will be for intersection improvements at Meridian and 155<sup>th</sup> (\$352,385) and the other is for radar speed sign installations at five locations around the City (\$119,514.)

Finally, in response to parking, traffic, and other concerns raised by residents living along 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Public Works, Economic Development, Community Services, Police and Planning staff met with residents and the management from the Polaris Apartments. Through a series of meetings and discussions, the group came up with a set of actions that have eased the community concerns, including new signage and striping to better define parking areas. An effort was also made to inform Polaris residents about the changes and about what constituted permissible parking. A flyer was developed and distributed by Polaris to its residents (Attachment B). Staff continues to monitor the situation, and later this year, staff will be reviewing the lessons learned in a effort to develop a longer-range set of steps to take to manage similar scenarios where new, multi-family residences are located next to existing single-family areas.

## **Focused Interventions**

### **Interurban Trail**

As the Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Community Team met over the course of 2014, issues associated with the Interurban Trail also became a focus of attention. These issues included camping along and adjacent to the trail, drug and alcohol use, and a general sense of disorder. Staff heard from residents that they felt unsafe using the Trail, especially on the southern end of the trail.

The Team addressed these issues from a variety of perspectives. Community Services staff worked with Westminster Neighborhood representatives to pinpoint problems, more clearly define problem spots and generate a range of ideas for increasing use of the Trail. Parks staff increased the emphasis of their maintenance of the Trail, particularly near the 145<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. Shoreline Police also increased their presence along the trail through drive-bys and foot patrols.

An additional and significant improvement in the area came as the result of a private residential property adjacent to the trail redeveloping. The development cleared out an area where outdoor camps had been set up routinely. Reports indicate that these efforts have been successful in lessening the unsafe activity. As the weather improves this spring and into the summer, these increased efforts will continue.

### **Chronic Nuisance Ordinance**

The City Council adopted two measures that will improve the City's ability to focus resources to address some nagging issues. The Chronic Nuisance Ordinance gives Police and Code Enforcement/Customer Response Team the tools necessary to effectively address nuisance properties. These are properties that have a history of frequent calls for Police Services and repeat code violations. The City now can, and has, intervened to either help or to compel a property owner to eliminate the nuisance and return the property to a standard that is more of an asset than a liability to the surrounding neighborhood. To date, one property in the Highland Terrace Neighborhood has been declared a Chronic Nuisance. Earlier this year, due to an attempted arson at the site, the City was able to move ahead and post the house as uninhabitable. The work done in advance paved the way for this swift action. The neighborhood is now freed from an ongoing nuisance and safety hazard.

### **Stay Out of Drug Areas (SODA)**

The second measure, Stay Out of Drug Areas (SODA) allows the Police, in conjunction with the courts, to more effectively address problems associated with the sale of street drugs in the City's defined SODA area. A similar tool was used effectively to address prostitution issues shortly after incorporation. Pursuant to the SODA ordinance, a judge may issue an order that prohibits an individual from lingering in the designated area in Shoreline. This area extends roughly along the Interurban Trail and Aurora Avenue through Shoreline, including Aurora Village, Echo Lake Park and Aurora Square. Police believe that SODA will result in significant reductions in street drug activity and associated crime. To date, no SODA orders have been issued.

### **COUNCIL GOAL ADDRESSED**

This item addresses Council Goal #5 - Promote and enhance the City's safe community and neighborhood programs and initiatives.

### **RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There are no financial impacts in providing this update to Council.

### **SUMMARY**

The Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Community Team has integrated a broad range of activities that enhance residents' real and perceived level of safety. The Team members increased connection to one another has resulted in more rapid and better coordinated set of activities. We have seen success in our general outreach efforts as well as our work to target specific issues.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

No action is Required. Staff recommends that the Council discuss the Safe Neighborhood/Safe Community Update and ask questions of the Community Services Division and Shoreline Police staff.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Nurturing Trust Flyer  
Attachment B: 12th Avenue NE Flyer





# NURTURING TRUST - WITH FAMILY, WITH COMMUNITY

## Workshops for Parents

Join a series of 5 FREE workshops in Spanish where you will learn how to form a safe community for your children!

Participants completing the entire course of study will receive a certificate. There is no cost. **The workshops are for parents only.**

Workshops include child care.

Refreshments will be served.

### RSVP

Space is limited –register by calling (206) 801-2719 or email [dahlia.corona@kingcounty.gov](mailto:dahlia.corona@kingcounty.gov) with your name and phone number.



## WORKSHOP SERIES II

**TIME:** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Shoreline City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 17500 Midvale Avenue N

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

**Positive Discipline and Effective Communication Skills:** Learn skills about parenting strategies and effective communication styles; Ximena Grollmus, M.E.d.; Lupita Zamora, CPDPE

### THURSDAY, MARCH 12

**Domestic Violence and Child Abuse:** Awareness, how it affects our communities and law enforcement intervention; Dahlia Corona, Community Service Officer, Shoreline Police Department

### THURSDAY, MARCH 19

**Bullying:** The signs and effects of bullying and prevention strategies; Dahlia Corona, Community Service Officer, Shoreline Police Department

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

**Drugs in our Community:** The effects of drugs and the laws; Chris Kieland, Street Crimes Detective, Shoreline Police Department

### THURSDAY, APRIL 2 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

**Leadership:** Lupita Zamora, CPDPE

**Commitment for Success – Supporting our Children:** Giselle Carcamo, Presenter

**Graduation: Chief Shawn Ledford and Chief Steve Sutton;** Shoreline Police and Lake Forest Park Police



## Parking on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

You may have noticed some changes to roadway striping and parking restriction signs on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. These changes are in response to parking problems observed along the street from NE 175<sup>th</sup> Street to NE 180<sup>th</sup> Street. Unlawful parking inconveniences residents and can cause significant safety issues; we greatly appreciate your attention to these newly installed signs and markings and general obedience to parking laws.

Shoreline Police has been notified of these recent revisions and the ongoing parking problems and officers have been asked to step up parking enforcement on the street so be sure you know the rules before you park your car on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. **Here are just a few parking laws that you can be ticketed for:**

- Double parking (parking beside another vehicle on the side of the road)
- Parking in front of or within five feet of a driveway
- Parking within fifteen feet of a fire hydrant
- Parking next to mail boxes
- Parking within 30 feet from a stop sign
- Parking any place where signs prohibit it

**Polaris Residents: Consider purchasing a reserved on-site parking spot for just \$25/month!**

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Kendra Dedinsky, Acting City Traffic Engineer, at [kdedinsky@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:kdedinsky@shorelinewa.gov) or (206) 801-2432 if you have any questions.