

King Neighborhood Association Meeting  
King Neighborhood Facility  
4815 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
<http://kingneighborhood.org>  
<http://kingneighborhood.wordpress.com>

October 13, 2010 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**List of attendees** (at end of minutes)

Quorum met.

**Agenda** (Exhibit 1)

**Updates**

Teri Phillips updated King on the Emerson Street Gardens project – the working group overseeing the project meets tomorrow, with upcoming projects at the site to include soil decontamination, new water pipes, and the building of a shed. Volunteers are welcome – the planting of winter beds begins this weekend.

Maureen Mimiaga updated on the Safeway redesign. The city instructed Safeway to hew as closely to design standards for landscaping as they pursue external improvements on their MLK store, as well as covered parking for bikes, with a minimum of sixteen spaces for bikes. Safeway also agreed at King's request to make a donation to Friends of Trees.

Maureen also updated on King's action in response to slow police response to 911 calls placed during an incident in late summer. The neighborhood association sent to Mayor Sam Adams thanking the police for their hard work, as well as requesting that officers be assigned to the neighborhood 24/7 and response time should be improved. (Exhibit 2) In response, King NA received a letter from City Commissioner Amanda Fritz (Exhibit 3) and another from James Ferraris, Commander of the North Precinct, Portland Police Bureau (Exhibit 4). Commander Ferraris, in his letter, states that "North Precinct has consistent and stable police staffing to provide police services to our neighborhoods." Commander Ferraris will join the November KNA meeting to discuss police staffing, response times, and anything else King residents have to discuss with him.

**Minutes from previous meetings**

The minutes from September 8 were approved.

**Standing reports**

**Update from Portland Police**

Officer Bren posed the question: how can the Police Bureau serve King neighborhood more effectively? He reported that there has been a 50% drop in residential burglaries recently, after substantial progress on investigations and arrests. Recently, a person pled guilty to 44 burglaries, all in the North precinct, and received a ten-year sentence.

Officer Bren noted that there are fewer specialized research units with the Bureau now, and a move towards community policing: getting to know neighbors, as a way to boost effectiveness

of on-the-ground policing. The County District Attorney's office recently announced that due to lack of funds, low-level felonies will be treated as violations.

Paige noted that NECN's public safety committee is going to be revived, and wondered about contradictory responses from the police bureau about staffing levels in North precinct.

### Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

NECN is taking applications for a small grants program for community projects, and for graffiti abatement projects. It will be holding a 'local leaders institute' on November 12/13.

### Discussion/presentation topics

#### Last Thursday on Alberta

Rick Sills presented statistics he obtained from the North precinct showing that calls to police are considerably higher on Last Thursday (LT) than several other Thursdays chosen for comparison. Officer Bren noted that these call tallies for LT don't include actions taken by the police who are already on the scene and encounter situations in progress. September's LT was quieter and possibly had fewer attendees, according to both residents and Officer Bren. The city has hired a private security company to provide approximately thirty uniformed security patrols during LT.

Officer Bren said there is also increased staffing at LT now by Portland Police, including foot and bike patrols. Rick Sills said he believed most problems occur after LT has closed and people are hanging around in the area; Officer Bren said his experience is that people generally leave when LT ends, and there are complaints after 10:30 to 11 pm are few. One officer is available after 11 pm on Alberta, and spends the majority of non-crisis time on or near the street.

Questions posed by residents: are the police ticketing people who park illegally? Paige noted that residents as far south as Prescott are complaining about parking problems. Rick Sills wondered who residents can complain to about Last Thursday. Barbara noted that some businesses on Alberta depend on LT revenue; a couple of folks noted that there are businesses who are unhappy with LT and find it inhibits customers from entering their shops. The city shuts down Alberta Street during LT at Tri-met's request.

Paige noted that no NA has asked NECN to take any sort of position on Last Thursday, and NECN is unable to do so unless a NA requests it to.

Rick, Alan, David, and Teri agreed to form a Last Thursday working committee for King NA, in order to gather information and find ways to assert a voice in LT operations, as well as sound out other NAs (Concordia, Vernon, Sabin) for their points of view on Last Thursday.

#### 822 NE Emerson

Joe Sneed presented his proposal for a community arts project at 822 NE Emerson, on the lot next to the Emerson Street Garden. Joe is working with the da Vinci Arts School to develop a more detailed proposal for the site, which he hopes to develop into a multifaceted community

space involving art, local history, and sustainable agriculture. He is inviting the community at large to supply ideas, volunteer time and energy to the project; he sees it growing organically from dialogue between community partners.

Motion to write a letter of support of the outlines of the 822 NE Emerson project to NECN approved.

### Filling open board positions at King NA

At-large board member #1 Leslie Cormier is on record as stating she wishes to resign her seat, pending an available replacement. The King NA board voted to accept Leslie's resignation. Maureen Mimiaga asked to be appointed to replace Leslie as an at-large board member; the KNA board voted to appoint Maureen to the remainder of Leslie's term.

Treasurer, Chair, co-chair, and one at-large board position all remain empty.

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Alan Silver introduced a proposal to change the King NA by-laws, noting that a proposal must be introduced at a meeting a month before it can be voted on. The proposed change to the by-law reads:

Proposed: to remove Article VII C2 (which reads 'Candidates for the office of the Chair must have served on the Board for at least one year preceding their election to the position of Chair.') so that there would be no special requirements that must be met in order to elect the Chair. Article VII C1 ('Only persons eligible for membership shall be qualified to hold an elected or appointed position. Persons removed from the board are not eligible for board service in the future.') would still apply.

A couple of people wondered whether there oughtn't still be a requirement that a person running for Chair have some experience and familiarity with King NA's operations; Paige noted that this can be part of the criteria for deciding on a candidate without it needing to be enshrined in the by-laws.

King NA to vote on the proposed change to its by-laws at the November KNA meeting.

### Voter-owned Elections

Jake Oken-Berg with Voter-owned Elections/Yes on 26-108 discussed ballot measure 26-108, which retains public financing for city elections. For the past three election cycles, candidates who collect 1000 contributions of five dollars from local residents qualify for such financing; Jake described the financing as an encouragement for candidates to come to neighborhoods and present themselves, and to interact with people one-on-one.

Spencer Burton noted that he was a candidate for city commissioner and wouldn't have been able to run without public financing. He stated that it's important for the diversity of the city's representative leadership to have folks with different visions but who may not have a lot of money to run a campaign.

Motion to approve endorse voter-owned elections approved.

### Upcoming

Alan announced that at November's meeting, representatives from Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives; North Precinct Commander Jim Ferraris; and North Precinct District Attorney James Hayden will be joining us.

### **Attendees**

Alan Silver, *KNA Secretary*  
David Lomax, *KNA At-large board member*  
Irek Wielgosz, *KNA At-large board member*  
Maureen Mimiaga, *King At-large board member*  
Janice Lucas, *KNA At-large board member*  
Rick Sills, *King resident*  
Shoshana Cohen, *NECN and King resident*  
Lauren Vitti, *Umpqua Bank*  
Officer Bren, *Portland Police Bureau*  
Windy Ford, *King resident*  
Matthew Ford, *King resident*  
Teri Teves, *King resident*  
Joe Sneed, *artist and organizer of 822 NE Emerson*  
Percy Hampton, *King resident*  
Kathy Hampton, *King resident*  
Spencer Burton, *Boise resident*  
Barbara Conable, *NECN*  
Jake Oken-Berg, *Voter-owned Elections*  
Simone Brooks, *King resident*  
Teri Phillips, *King resident*  
Francene Grewe, *NECN and King resident*

The King Neighborhood Association  
King Neighborhood Facility  
4815 NE 7th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97211  
[info@kingneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kingneighborhood.org)  
September 9, 2010

Mayor Sam Adams  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Room 340  
Portland, OR 97204  
Dear Mayor Adams,

This message comes with support by unanimous vote at the King Neighborhood Association's meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We, the members of the KNA, are extremely concerned about recent gang activity and violence in our neighborhood, and are dismayed to report yet another incidence of gunfire that occurred at NE 10<sup>th</sup> and Alberta on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

While, fortunately, nobody was seriously hurt during that time, the incident brought to light some disheartening facts. First let me state the members of this association **applaud and sincerely appreciate the valiant work our local Portland Police officers do on a daily basis**. This being said, we are very concerned about the safety of our community, and the weakening of police services to our area, which seems to have been plagued with incidences of unrest in recent months. Specifically we'd like to call to your attention two issues:

- 1) Officer response times.** Several citizens called 911 at the onset of the incident, when several young adults engaged in combat in the street. Police did not arrive on the scene until several calls had been made, from different sources. What began as a verbal conflict escalated into gunshots fired in the air. We understand that officers are now, at times, spread thin in order to cover broadened territory and realize this may contribute to delayed response times; however, in this case a more timely police response might have prevented the incident in question from worsening into gunfire. This leads us to our second concern.
- 2) Lack of 24-hour staffing at the North Precinct.** It is our understanding that between the hours of 1:00-7:00 am District 630 within the North Precinct is not staffed with an on-duty officer. Officers that are called to the area may need to travel some distance to tend to the situation. One police officer responding to the shooting last Monday was quoted as saying, "It's crazy since so much goes on in this district." Evidence of gang related activity appears to be growing in this neighborhood with signs of tagging, obvious drug deals in broad daylight and shootings, of which this incident is just one of several in the last 2 months. **In light of these facts it seems vital to ensure that the North Precinct has consistent and stable 24-hour staffing.**

We ask you, Mayor Adams, as Police Commissioner, to adequately staff the North Precinct to allow our hard-working police officers to be able to respond to urgent situations faster, at all hours of the day, without having to travel vast distances across the North Precinct's coverage area. We call attention to what appears to be increased gang and violent activity in the North/Northeast part of the city. **We again thank the police officers in our area and all over Portland for their tireless and continuing efforts.**

Sincerely,  
The Members of the King Neighborhood Association



## CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



### Bureau of Police

Sam Adams, Mayor  
Michael Reese, Chief of Police

1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue • Portland, OR 97204 • Phone: 503-823-0000 • Fax: 503-823-0342

Integrity • Compassion • Accountability • Respect • Excellence • Service

September 27, 2010

King Neighborhood Association  
4815 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97211

Dear Members of the King Neighborhood Association:

Chief Reese received your September 9<sup>th</sup> letter to Mayor Adams and asked me to respond to you. First, I appreciate the fact that you are asking questions of your police department. It is important that we communicate freely and transparently, so that the Police Bureau can give our community the best service possible. We also appreciate the support given by the residents of the King Neighborhood. North Precinct has long enjoyed a productive and positive relationship with the King Neighborhood.

As to your concern about officer response times, the Police Bureau's goal for arrival on emergency or priority calls for service is five minutes or less from the time a police unit is dispatched on a call. I asked our Crime Analysis Unit to look at response times in the King Neighborhood from January 2010 through September 2010. Overall, the numbers suggest that we are meeting that goal. For example, our average response time for emergency 911 calls for service in District 630 during that period is 3.5 minutes.

Looking into the incident described in your letter, I believe that it occurred on Monday, September 6, 2010, and involved a call about a large group of people fighting in the street at NE 9<sup>th</sup> and Alberta and that multiple shots had been fired. In reviewing the call records, this particular call was received at 9:08 pm resulting in officers being immediately dispatched. The first of more than ten police units arrived on scene at 9:10 pm, within two minutes after the call was dispatched. Officers remained on scene after an arrest was made, conducting an investigation until nearly midnight. In addition, police units had responded to that location on two disturbance calls within the hour preceding the fight/shooting call; in those two cases, no one wanted police contact so officers cleared those calls.

I would like to address your second concern about the perception of a lack of twenty-four hour staffing at North Precinct. As a direct result of last year's precinct restructure, there are now more police officers assigned to patrol the neighborhoods of the "new" North Precinct than previously when the "old" North and Northeast Precincts existed. Police officers are on duty twenty four hours a day in the North Precinct patrol districts. While there are twenty patrol districts that define North Precinct's territory, not every district is filled every shift of every day. These patrol districts are filled commensurate with call load and activity. That said, staffing will

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increase and decrease dependent on time of day and calls for service. In other words, during peak call times, more patrol districts are filled or concentrated to cover a smaller geographic area with more officers to handle the increased call load. During lighter call load periods, such as the period of 1:00 am to 7:00 am, patrol districts are expanded or cover a larger geographic area with fewer officers to cover the decreased call load.

While District 630 may not be a consistently assigned district because of a reduced call load from 1:00 am to 7:00 am, officers from neighboring patrol districts are expected to patrol that area within the staffing model described above. I have reviewed the officer activity for District 630 during those hours for the month of August. I found several dozen self initiated activities logged by officers in District 630 from 1:00 am to 7:00 am. That tells me that officers are present and active in your neighborhood. Let me assure you, North Precinct has consistent and stable police staffing to provide police service to our neighborhoods.

I hope I have adequately addressed your concerns. I am happy to attend a future monthly meeting of the King Neighborhood Association to answer any further questions residents may have, in addition to our patrol officers and Neighborhood Response Team officers who attend. I can be reached at (503) 823-5700 or by email at [jim.ferraris@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:jim.ferraris@portlandoregon.gov).

Sincerely,



**JAMES C. FERRARIS**  
Commander  
North Precinct

JCF/nm

cc: Chief Reese  
AC O'Dea  
Captain Modica  
Lieutenant Smith  
File

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CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

**Amanda Fritz, Commissioner**  
1221 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 220  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
(503) 823-3008  
amanda@ci.portland.or.us

September 29, 2010

King Neighborhood Association  
4815 NE Seventh Avenue  
Portland, OR 97211

Dear Members of the King Neighborhood Association,

Thank you for copying me on your letter to Mayor Adams dated September 9, 2010, regarding police staffing in NE Portland and the former North Precinct. My understanding is that although the North Precinct office is no longer open at all times, staffing by officers in the districts of North and NE Portland is supposed to remain at previous levels.

Please keep me informed about your work and discussions with Mayor Adams on this important matter. I appreciate your advocacy.

Sincerely,

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner, City of Portland