



South Park Public Safety Taskforce: Report & Recommendations



Consultant Support
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Introduction

A Neighborhood Still In Need

South Park is a vibrant, close-knit neighborhood in the heart of the Duwamish Valley industrial corridor. Over 4,000 people live, work, study, play, farm, and raise families here, and it is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the City of Seattle. Nearly 38% of South Park residents identify as Latino, 16% as Asian, and 11% as African American (Less than 40% of residents identify as White, as compared to 70% of residents across the City of Seattle). South Park is also a community of immigrants, with approximately 60% of the residents in South Park speaking a language other than English at home.¹

While South Park has much to offer, it has historically faced a number of challenges. That continues to be true to this day. The median household income for residents in South Park is 33% less than the median household income for residents in the City of Seattle. Broken down by race there is an even more dramatic difference, with the median household income for Latinos in South Park being 40% less than the median income in the city.² South Park is also a neighborhood with a large number of families, where 57% of the homes are family households, compared to only 37% of households across the city.³ Yet, 83% of students in South Park are eligible for the free and reduced lunch program, as compared to only 36% citywide.⁴

Because the South Park neighborhood is largely industrial, families are also exposed to higher environmental and health risks, and previous multiple studies have highlighted the toll this takes, particularly on youth and seniors. A study done by the US Department of Health and Human Services found that residents of South Park have an increased cancer risk of up to 4 excess cancer cases per 1,000 residents.⁵ A study conducted by the EPA also found the cancer risk in port areas, such as South Park, are 27 times higher than the national average.

Residents in South Park are also at a higher risk of being a victim of crime, compared to other neighborhoods in the City of Seattle. The overall crime rate in South Park is 169% higher than the national average, and in South Park there is a 1 in 13 chance of becoming a victim of any crime.⁶ Compare this to a sampling of other neighborhoods in the City: in West Seattle the overall crime rate is 26% higher than the national average and you have a 1 in 28 chance of becoming a victim; In Wallingford the overall crime rate is 11% lower than the national average and you have a 1 in 40 chance of becoming a victim of any crime. The South Park neighborhood is only comparable to a handful of other neighborhoods in the City, including the International District, and Georgetown, which sits between two major interstate highways, near the stadiums and at the edge of Downtown.

In the face of many challenges, the residents of South Park have learned over the years about what has worked, and what has not worked, for their community. This taskforce presented an opportunity for the community to focus on the necessary action steps needed to ensure the vitality, safety and well-being of the residents in the neighborhood for the future.

¹ City of Seattle Report. Duwamish Valley Program Racial Equity Outcomes & Metrics.

² Household Income of South Park. <https://statisticalatlas.com/neighborhood/Washington/Seattle/South-Park/Household-Income>

³ Core, L. One Mom's Fight to Make Seattle's Most Polluted Neighborhood Green. 2015. Found at: <http://grist.org/cities/one-moms-fight-to-make-seattles-most-polluted-neighborhood-greener/>

⁴ Seattle Public Schools Report, 2015.

⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Summary of Results of the Duwamish Valley Regional Modeling and Health Risk Assessment.

⁶ <http://www.areavibes.com/seattle-wa/crime/>

About this Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Seattle City Council and the Mayor's office with recommendations that would:

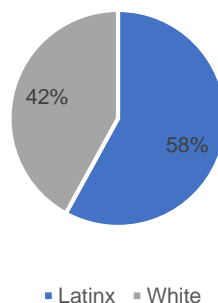
- Provide feedback to improve the safety and well-being of the residents of South Park.
- Build trust by creating meaningful engagement between South Park and city authorities, and reinvigorate partnerships between the city departments and South Park residents and business owners.
- Create a higher degree of project sustainability for community-based initiatives.

Methodology

The South Park Public Safety Taskforce was established in response to the 2016 Statement of Legislative Intent numbered 206-1-A-1. Councilmembers recommended taskforce members to the Mayor's Office, and the Mayor's Office, along with Councilmember Gonzalez and Councilmember Herbold, co-convened the South Park Public Safety Taskforce. A total of seven representatives from several neighborhood organizations were identified to serve as members on the taskforce. Members of the taskforce recommended additional community leaders to join the taskforce. In total, there were 12 members who served on the taskforce. (See Appendix A for a complete list of organizations and taskforce members.)

This group represented small businesses, non-profit organizations, community activists/residents and community leaders. Seven of the taskforce members are current residents of South Park and work in South Park, the remaining five members work or own a business in the neighborhood. Of the taskforce members, 75% were women and a majority identified as Latinx.

Taskforce Members by Race



The Taskforce met a total of four times from May 2017-August 2017, with the goal of finalizing priorities and recommendations around public safety priorities for the community. The timeline of the work was as follows:

- Meeting 1: Taskforce members conducted a "Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats" (SWOT) analysis around public safety issues. For those members who could not attend the first meeting, they met one-on-one with Department of Neighborhoods staff to ensure their feedback was incorporated into the analysis. Additionally, the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and Seattle Fire Department (SFD) were represented during this initial meeting. The SWOT analysis helped to establish the needs, and the assets, of the community, and became the spring-board for the rest of the taskforce's work.

- Meetings 2, 3 and 4: Taskforce members met three additional times. The second and third meetings focused on identifying the most pressing public safety concerns of the community and developing the top priorities of the community, along with how to specifically target those concerns. The final meeting of the taskforce focused on finalizing the recommendations.

Taskforce Outcomes: Priority Areas

Throughout the series of meetings taskforce members provided thoughtful and thorough feedback about what they felt were some of the biggest public safety concerns in the South Park community. Taskforce members framed their concerns, and the strategies in which to address these concerns, into three categories:

- Building a Strong and Resilient Community
- Physical Safety
- Investing in Children & Youth

Under each category, the taskforce members worked to identify their most pressing public safety concerns. Taskforce members then also identified corresponding community driven solutions to those concerns. Taskforce members prioritized the most important issues within each category. The Recommendations section follows the three categories above. Under each section, the recommendation discussed, is the recommendations that members identified as being the most urgent and pressing need. Following that, is a list of other recommended needs, and strategies, as identified by the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Building a Strong and Resilient Community

“The community knows what the needs are, but they don’t have the tools to do it. We often don’t know where to go or who to call, they (community members) don’t know what to do.”

– Carmen Martinez, Taskforce Member



Recommendation A: Fund a Community Public Safety Coordinator

The South Park Public Safety Taskforce's top priority is to help residents, businesses, workers in South Park be better equipped to respond to the needs of their community. Community residents often do not know who to call to report things such as a derelict home, a pile of garbage, or a bad landlord. Additionally, because many of the organizations are volunteer-run they don't have the necessary resources to make connections between the work that is happening.

Taskforce members recommend the City of Seattle fund a something similar to a "community safety coordinator" position. A community advocate who would come from the neighborhood (a resident), be bilingual and have strong ties to South Park, while at the same time being knowledgeable about how city government works. This position would be similar to the one created during the [2006 South Park Action Agenda](#), and similar to the one recommended by the International District Public Safety Taskforce. However, taskforce members recommended that instead of being a city staff position (as it was in 2006), this position would focus on hiring someone from the community. This would ensure that whoever was in this position they would then keep those skills in the community, for the long-term. While this position would not be funded for the long-term, the role would focus on laying the groundwork for the necessary infrastructure needed to connect community residents to the information they need. Additionally, the taskforce members highlighted the need for this coordinator position to be connected to an existing organization or entity in the neighborhood. This would make it easier for them to find funding to support the role for the long-term.

Specifically, the community identified the following roles for the advocate position:

- Convene active organizations in South Park to coordinate efforts. Currently residents, and volunteers, do not have the capacity to make every meeting. Therefore, gaps exist and efforts are not coordinated.
- Provide public safety data to the community and make it accessible to all residents, including having it in multiple languages. Residents want to have data from the Find it, Fix It app, traffic data, and 911 calls in order to get a better understanding of what is and isn't happening in the community.
- Coordinate training opportunities for community members. For example, the police had recently held a training in South Park addressing sex trafficking and they had over 80 parents in attendance at Concord Elementary. The training was so successful because it was relevant to the community, and conducted in Spanish.
- Teach community members how to navigate the different city government systems in order to access services. Ensure that these trainings are also available in different languages.
- Provide communications and information around financial opportunities available to the community (ex. Grants, funding opportunities, etc.)
- Increase and strengthen engagement and communication with the CPT officer and SPD. Currently this relationship feels unresponsive and disingenuous. One task force member emphasized that the CPT officer has a blasé attitude and during the recent community meeting on August 29th, residents complained about the lack of responsiveness, and lack providing service that would make a resident feel safer such as writing up a police report.

| Action Items for Community Advocate Position | Role |
|--|--------------------------|
| The Taskforce requests that the City fund a community advocate for a specified period of time. Neighborhood organizations, and community leaders, will have input on the duties of the role and the qualifications for the role. | City/Community/ Mayor |

Physical Safety

Recommendation B: Improve Pedestrian Safety

Taskforce members identify pedestrian safety as an ongoing problem, specifically linked to infrastructure and vehicle speeding. South Park has a larger percentage of families than the city overall. For children walking to and from the elementary school and the library the pathways are increasingly dangerous, particularly along Cloverdale. Community members report that cars park too close to some of the intersecting streets on Cloverdale, limiting visibility and creating a sense of danger when crossing the street. Additionally, there are some intersections where either crosswalks are not existent, are poorly marked or they do not have enough warning mechanism so that drivers are able to see they are about to approach a crosswalk. Additionally, speeding specifically on Cloverdale is unmonitored and is a frequent occurrence on this street.

| Action Items to Improve Pedestrian Safety | Role |
|---|----------------|
| Install crosswalks at following intersections which do not have crosswalks at all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dallas & 14th/16th. 12 & Cloverdale | City |
| Install signage to alert drivers about pedestrians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10th & Cloverdale; 8th & Cloverdale | City |
| Residents would like to see continued efforts to implement initiative “Vision Zero” in the South Park neighborhood. Taskforce members feel like other parts of the city have had more action taken (crosswalks installed, speeding monitored, etc.) whereas not much has happened in South park | City/Community |



Example: Intersection at S. Cloverdale St & 10th Ave. S. has no crosswalk, yet it is one of the main walkways for children walking to and from Concord Elementary.

Recommendation C: Improve Traffic Safety/Enforcement

Taskforce members repeatedly mentioned that certain corridors in the neighborhood have felt more dangerous because of the large industrial vehicles, including semi-trucks that utilize the streets on a daily basis. South Park has long been an industrial neighborhood with a high volume of semi-truck traffic. However, once the new bridge was built a parking lane on 14th was eliminated. This brought the semi-trucks closer to the buildings in the business district. Some businesses report that semi-truck traffic is loud and when they turn onto Cloverdale (from south bound on 14th) taskforce members report these trucks run dangerously close to the sidewalks (dangerous to pedestrians) and also to the buildings themselves. As mentioned above, speeding in particular on Cloverdale on the way to Highway 99, is of high concern. The community center and library are across the street from one another creating more pedestrian traffic. Residents feel there is little enforcement of speeding including signage, speed trackers or other devices.

| Action Items to Improve Traffic Safety | Role |
|--|-------------------------|
| Research the possibility of traffic calming options for vehicles, particularly large trucks, turning from the South Park Bridge onto Cloverdale. | City/SDOT |
| Reduce speeding, particularly on Cloverdale, from 14th to the 8th St. entrance to Highway 99. Install a speed tracker show how fast people are going. Possibly, more enforcement to target speeders. | City/SDOT/ Community |



Example: Large vehicles turning southbound onto S. Cloverdale St. from the South Park Bridge, often jump the curb and come close to the building, making it dangerous for pedestrians.

Recommendation D: Light Dark Alleys and Crime Hotspots

Taskforce members indicated numerous alley ways that are not lighted properly or effectively. The dark alleyways lead to increased crime activity, drug use, fights, a general lack of safety and even garbage dumping. Another area that taskforce members identified as being unsafe was the area near the skate park, close to the onramp to Highway 99. The skate park was designed with high walls that shield illicit activity and draws dubious activity. The lack of lighting near the area only compounds the safety issues. The neighborhood’s walkability is even further reduced because the 8th Avenue walking trail is incredibly remote and has little to no lighting. Residents feel so unsafe on this trail, they have even nicknamed it the “scary trail.”

| Action Items to Light Dark Alleys and Crime Hotspots | Role |
|---|---------------|
| Light the 8 th Avenue Walking Trail | City/SDOT/SPU |
| From 8 th to 14 th , light the two alleys that run between Cloverdale and Donovan | City/SDOT/SPU |
| Install lighting near the onramp to Highway 99 and the skate park | City/SDOT/SPU |

Recommendation E: Provide more frequent garbage dumping pickup

The taskforce members feel their neighborhood continues to be a “dumping ground.” Despite increased efforts by Seattle Public Utilities to do more frequent pickups, it is still not enough. Taskforce members feel there are several reasons for this. One reason continues to be the presence of drug houses, blighted properties and several unsanctioned homeless encampments that have emerged. The other is that they feel individuals from other neighborhoods come to engage in illegal dumping in the neighborhood because they feel like they can. With such a high need for continued cleanup, taskforce members feel there needs to be a longer-term solution that includes higher frequency of pickups.

| Action Items to Increase Garbage and Waste Removal | Role |
|--|------------------------|
| Work with the community to figure out strategies that help get to the goal of cleaning garbage “hot spots” at least twice a week, for the long term. Particularly in specific areas, such as S. 96 th St. at 4 th Ave S. & 8 th Ave. S. | City/SPU/ Community |
| Work with the community to figure out enforcement mechanisms to ensure that local businesses are also cleaning up | City/SPU/ Community |



Example: Piles of trash in the neighborhood. Taskforce members stated that not only is it a public safety issue, but it becomes a public health issue as well.

Investing in Children and Youth

Recommendation F: Fund opportunities for children and youth in the community

Taskforce members indicated that as a community with a high percentage of families, young people in South Park face many challenges. Many youth are living in poverty, are youth of color, and many are immigrants. Nearly 60% of the families in South Park don't speak English as their primary language making it even more difficult to engage with parents.

Taskforce members expressed the feeling that young people often turn to gangs and criminal activity as a way to feel connected, and we know that youth of color are at a much higher risk of entering juvenile detention, as evidenced by the fact that in 2014, 77% of Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) admissions in King County were of non-White youth.⁷



⁷ https://www.uwkc.org/wp-content/uploads/ftp/RacialDisparityDataReport_Nov2015.pdf

Taskforce members felt strongly that children and young people in the neighborhood needed to have more options available to them to get them engaged in a positive way. One taskforce member, who works with youth in the community, stated:

“our young people are great at connecting and doing outreach with our families. We need to invest in them.”

Equally important is early investment in young children to get them ready for the future. Taskforce members feel that providing more affordable and accessible program—summer, before and after school program for young kids will provide a stronger foundation for families and children. Currently, the programs that are offered are not affordable to many families, and there are not an adequate number of scholarships.

| Action Items to Invest in Children and Youth | Role |
|---|----------------------|
| <p>Redirect priorities of current staffing at the community center to meet the needs of the young people. Example: There used to be a South Park Action Agenda (SPAA) community position that focused on the late-night activities and to open up the community center space when the community needed it. The position still exists, but it changed it is more focused on supporting general operations at the community center. No longer meets the needs of the community/youth</p> | City/Community |
| <p>Work with the community to find ways to make the community center more accessible to residents. The space should be more affordable and flexible to meet the community needs (like using it for community meetings, drop in childcare). Example of the current challenge: residents wrote a \$12,000 grant to the city to do a basketball league with youth and almost all of the grant went right back to the community center (\$10,000) to just rent the community center space.</p> | City/Parks/Community |
| <p>Have a police liaison to work with the youth to provide crime safety, crime prevention training. Youth can be the ambassadors to the community, with the proper training. Example: When this has happened, it was very successful. For example, Youthcorps and Seattle Police Activities League working together, it was intentional and successful.</p> | City/Community/SPD |
| <p>Fund monetary compensations for the youth to work in the community. Example: Pay the youth to work on doing the beautification and the cleanup of the neighborhood. (Payment forms could be in Visa gift cards, grocery store gift cards etc. Need to be cognizant of the worry that families feel about immigration status.)</p> | City/Community |

Provide more scholarships for the community center activities and make it more accessible. The criteria for scholarships is challenging for youth who may be undocumented, or low-income. Additionally, there is not nearly enough to meet the needs of the community.

City/Parks/
Community

Additional Community Needs Identified by the Taskforce

While the taskforce members focused on identifying recommendations to address what they felt were some of the community's more pressing needs, they also highlighted other areas which were important to consider as the City moves forward.

1. Funding for translation

A majority of the families in the neighborhood don't speak English as their primary language. Often times children have to act as translators for their parents and parents find it challenging to connect due to language barriers. The taskforce members wanted to highlight the need for translation of materials. One taskforce member brought up an example of the "find it, fix it" app from the City. She mentioned it is helpful and a good tool, but it is only in one language.

2. Connecting back with the community

The taskforce members expressed the desire to not just connect with city departments in the planning phases, but to also be informed of the results. They want to have some mechanism to hold themselves and others accountable to results. For example, the find it, fix it app was mentioned again and a taskforce member stated "*how do we know if we report something that it gets fixed? Where is the data to tell us what gets fixed and what doesn't from what gets reported?*"

3. Supporting the businesses and the beautification of the business district

Taskforce members indicated that the businesses could always use extra support, both in having more training around public safety and helping them to overcome the issues they've been struggling with, such as an increase in homelessness, drug use, garbage and the gangs. Business owners indicated that currently they are having to deal with these issues on their own.

4. Bringing a feeling of pride to the neighborhood

The community wants to invest in, or build up some "identity pride" campaigns (ex. "we are South Park, we are proud of SP"). They would like to showcase the pride in the neighborhood, and bring it out and make it aware so that people can feel connected to the community, and see the value of being in this community and taking care of it collectively. Feeling like they should be invested in the cleanup, the reporting of crime, the reduction of safety threats.

5. Recognizing the multiple municipalities involved in the neighborhood

South Park falls under the jurisdiction of King County, along with the City of Seattle, because of the portion that is unincorporated in the community. Taskforce members indicated this continues to be a challenge in getting things accomplished. For example, one taskforce member brought up the communication issues with King County Sheriff's and SPD. She recognized there is an agreement between the two entities, but that

structural pathways for results (like finding a way to facilitate ongoing communication between the two entities) are lacking.

Response to Recent Public Safety Incidents and Community Meeting

During the time the Taskforce was convening the community experienced a series of highly visible break-in's and costly vandalism to local businesses. Businesses reported their windows being smashed, graffiti, and a report of a homemade explosive device being thrown into one of the businesses.

On August 29, 2017, the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) convened a community meeting where representatives of several city departments including SPD, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (SDCI) were present to hear about the safety concerns from the community, residents and businesses and to report back their departments actions in the community. Additionally, Councilmembers Gonzalez and Herbold were also in attendance.

The meeting room was standing room only, with many others who were not able to fit into the room, and the estimated attendance was well over 100 community members. City staff from each department addressed the crowd to inform them of efforts that have been happening in the neighborhood, and then after each presentation it was opened up to community members for questions.

What was evident in the conversation, was a clear sense of frustration from the residents about the ongoing crime in their neighborhood. Residents brought up the following issues:

- Developers have bought properties in the neighborhood, as a result many of the low-income residents who were living in those homes previously have been pushed out with nowhere to go. Community members observed that some of those individuals are on the streets, leading to an increase in homelessness.
- Residents complained that the homeless encampments (next to Arrowhead Gardens) have brought an increase in crime, along with more trash/junk.
- In general, residents feel recent placement of homeless encampments, has brought an increase in crime and drug use in the neighborhood. Community members chimed that there are no additional services for South Park to absorb the new impact homeless people bring.
- Residents complained about a lack of action from SPD, particularly from officers who are responding to the calls. Several community members were very upset that when police were called, in some cases, officers did not file a report and/or expressed a lack of empathy. Two residents reported specific incidences when officers were dismissive, and unwilling to take action when they were called out.

It was clear community members are frustrated and angry. As related to this report, participants at the community called out many of the same issues that were already addressed by members of the taskforce including:

- lighting in the alleys
- more police presence and engagement
- garbage dumping
- lack of knowledge of who to call for assistance

Equally important is the sentiment by community members that there is inequity in services compared to more affluent communities. One resident asked about how money is allocated across neighborhoods. For others frustration is cumulative as they are faced with the reality that these issues are not new and have been happening for over a decade. Many community members feel that if these issues had been happening in a more affluent neighborhood the results would be different. Community members want to see action, action that is resourced, visible and results-driven.

Conclusion

Taskforce members feel that South Park has often been under-resourced, and often times forgotten about. Primarily this is because they recognize that the need is sizeable in the community and it is ongoing. The community feels as if they have been struggling with many of the same challenges for decades now. This is often undermined by the public perception that this is just how things are in the South Park neighborhood, which often leads to inaction.

Eleven years ago, in 2006, the neighborhood saw a surge of youth violence and when a [16-year](#) old boy was shot and killed, the neighborhood demanded action. At that time, the City convened a group of community and business leaders, service providers, and residents to launch a planning effort. [The South Park Action Agenda \(SPAA\)](#) emerged as a community driven partnership with the City of Seattle and the neighborhood with the goal of improving the South Park neighborhood.

The 2006 Action Agenda was one of the last times residents and community members in South Park had an opportunity to be heard by those that represent them in city government. More than a decade later many of the taskforce members have now had the opportunity to reflect on that initiative. Many positive outcomes emerged from those efforts, and many taskforce members still remember some of those successes. The creation of this public safety Taskforce has given the community a voice again and has re-energized them. The Taskforce is hopeful that their voice will be heard and that this process will have positive outcomes.

As resources for initiatives like these tend to be cyclical, the taskforce members now want to focus on finding solutions that will build the long-term resilience and capacity of the community. This is why many of their recommendations focus on building the capacity of community residents, and investing in children and youth. Taskforce members recognize the need now to find long-term solutions to ensure the safety and well-being of their community.

Appendix A: List of Taskforce Members and Community Organizations Represented

Duwamish Valley Youth Corps:

Paulina Lopez, *Community Engagement and Outreach Manager*
Carmen Martinez, *DVYC Coordinator*
South Park Residents

South Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA):

Lora Suggs, *President*
South Park Resident

Sea Mar Community Care Center and Medical Clinic:

Jorge Madrazo, *Vice President of Community Relations*

South Park Senior Center & South Park Resident

Dagmar Cronn, *Acting Director Senior Center,*

South Park Retail Merchants Association (SPRMA)

Rocio Arriaga
Reynaldo Franco

Latino Community Fund:

Jose Manuel Vasquez, *Director of Leadership and Programs*
Former South Park Resident

South Park Information and Resource Center(SPIARC)

Recommended Contact:

Analia Bertoni, *Program Manager*
South Park Resident

Seattle Neighborhood Group

Linda Spain and Jake Hallenkamp

Concord Elementary PTA President & South Park Resident

Robin Schwartz

City of Seattle Staff Support

- Dionne Foster
- Christa Dumpsy, DON representative
- Brianna Thomas, CM González
- Newell Aldrich, CM Herbold staff

Additional support

A special thank you to Marissa Chávez for playing the role of note taker and contributing to writing this report.

Appendix C: Results of SWOT Analysis

South Park Values/Guiding principles (As developed through the SWOT Analysis)

- Secure community free of hate
- Safe and Welcoming for all
- Everyone who lives, works, plays in South Park feels safe (without fear for safety)
- Create stronger community involvement
- Create respect and celebrate diversity
- South Park to feel clean and safe for all
- Trust
- Meaningful engagement
- Inclusivity

- Strong communications and relationships with community and city
 - Understanding of where police responsibility starts
 - Increase trust
 - Ensure inclusivity of community so they have adequate feedback into the process
 - Create liaison /outreach for the non-English speaking community
 - Robust community services officer program with people from the community and SPD
 - Block watch/business watch support
 - Open communication and visibility from SPD about what they are doing to prevent crime
 - Provide CPTED, 911, Police academy training
 - Driver license training

- Community and greenspace development that will create a walkable business district
 - Youth development/Jobs for youth with livable wages
 - Local employment opportunities
 - Business opportunities; small business opportunities
 - Affordable housing and ownership opportunities
 - Access to parks, greenwalls, murals, tree canopy
 - Create urban gardens for community gardens
 - Create more community meeting space
 - Beautify streets, bigger crosswalks, better sidewalks and parks
 - Resolve homeless encampment issues and deal with unsanctioned: more bathrooms, toilet paper, meal programs, deal with encampments
 - Affordability
 - Better air quality

➤ Physically Safe Community

- Free of gang activity
- Deal with frequent gun shot issues
- Free for drugs and needles/address drug houses
- Deal with slumlords/subletting/address houses with no plumbing, illegal dumping, stolen bikes
- Develop a sustainable safety plan
- Safe community space for youth and children
- Lighting in business corridor and community center
- Cameras on streets and business
- Police visibility
- Daily clean ups or at least 1-2x/week pick up
- Traffic Safety at Concord Elementary

Appendix D: Meeting Notes

South Park Public Safety Taskforce

July 6, 2017

Meeting 1

In attendance: Lora Suggs, Carmen Martinez, Dagmar Cronn, Linda Spain, Paulina Lopez, Rocio Arriaga (Merchants Association), Reynaldo Franco Christa Dumpsy from DON, Dionne Foster from the Mayor's office and CM Lisa Herbold

Background Recap:

This is part of a SP public safety taskforce to provide recommendations to the city council and the mayor around issues of public safety.

It will be tied to the budget process, and CM Herbold and Gonzalez want to try and find funding for the recommendations that come out of this meeting

The project will be done by September

The goal is to highlight the recommendations and/or priorities that the community would like to seek funding for.

Discussion on what else should be included in the Values:

Diversity/social equity in all the ways (age, races, etc.)

Discussion on priorities and recommendations:

The taskforce members discussed two main things. First, what was missing from the list that had been generated as possible priorities in the previous meeting. Second, they started to focus on what recommendations they felt needed prioritization and what areas were of main concern. There were several themes that emerged from the conversation, and most recommendations fell under these three broad categories.

1. Building Resilient and Strong Communities
2. Police & Physical Safety
3. Investing in Youth

Residents wanted to increase public safety by ensuring that they could: build the capacity of their own community to better respond to issues of safety, have physical improvements made to the neighborhood to make it safer, build better relationships with the City and SPD, and ensure that there were avenues for young people in the community to be engaged in order to foster a sense of engagement and community for families.

The following are some strategies that emerged under each category.

Building Resilient & Strong Communities

- We need somebody to work on bringing on people from different cultures/languages into the work around safety. Need to better at communicating all of what is happening.

People don't know what's happening. For example, the neighborhood has not been able to participate in a hub drill because they can't get enough people. SPAA then SPIARC has gotten funding from DON/City to pay for Lora to organize around the South Park Action agenda and then manage programs at SPIARC

Strategy: Need to financially support someone in the neighborhood to build the relationships, do the recruitment, do the outreach. Make it their focus to bring in the neighbors.

- Having a dedicated staff person in the City, someone who can do the interaction with all the different communities and get results. Also who will hold the city accountable to meeting goals/outcomes. Ex. Andres Mantilla/Claudia Arana from the Mayor Nickels' office to be the liaison/advocate. The action agenda approved in 2006, with the liaisons, put SP on the "map." Having those paid positions that were allocated to SP made the most difference. It should be two positions. Someone from the city, and then someone from the neighborhood, who work together in collaboration.

Strategy: South Park liaison from the City staff to address community needs

- The need to provide tools to build resilience, the community knows what the needs are, but they don't have the tools to do it. They don't know where to go or who to call, they don't know what to do. Some sort of way to clarify what resources are available (ex. Firefighters can help with a lot) but then need to come up with some sort of way to distribute. (ex. Use existing resources, Nuestro Barrio. Going door to door to ask four assets based questions about the neighborhood, which would also enable them to share community and other important info). You need a tiered system of what the complaint is and what the response is. If you see illegal dumping, where do you go first, then you go somewhere else if that doesn't help. All this needs to be in different languages as well. Kids are currently the translators for their parents.

Strategy: Collateral pieces, something that outlines who you call, in different language, and figure out a way to distribute. Need to have the resources to distribute it.

- Business district and community as a whole: always the businesses can use more training around public safety. Issues the businesses have been struggling with: homeless, drugs, garbage and the gangs. Supporting the beautification of the business district, up to now the businesses have been doing it on their own. There is a consistent amount of trash that gets dumped in the neighborhood because it feels acceptable to do this.

Strategy: Have dedicated funding to support the beautification efforts, including identifying locations to install green walls.

- The community wants to invest in, or build up some identity pride campaigns (ex. "we are South Park, we are proud of SP", etc.). Want to invest in the campaign to showcase the pride in the neighborhood, and bring it out and make it aware so that people can feel connected to the community, and see the value of being in this community and

taking care of it collectively. Feeling like they should be invested in the cleanup, the reporting of crime, the reduction of safety threats.

Strategy: Dedicate resources to fund the community to develop their own “campaign” and provide funding to execute it. Funding for a sign/arch that says “welcome to South Park” at the entrance.

- People from outside the neighborhood bring in trash and do a lot of illegal dumping, along with the drug houses/unsanctioned homeless encampments. Don’t want the community to look like a dumping ground. We already suffer from the broken window syndrome. We need to do more. SP has an agreement with SPU for extra large item pickups. This doesn’t happen. The need is for an automatic bi weekly (at least) route and litter control, more garbage cans and detention work crews often. Broken window syndrome

Strategy: Beautify streets, possibly community can inform the routes to highlight the biggest dumping areas in partnership with SPU and get more frequent cleanups.

- It’s a public health/safety issue. The ongoing trash/dumping is a consistent issue.
Strategy: Need a sustainable way to address cleanups, starting with under the freeway, and how to do it frequently and long term. Cleanup efforts need to be ongoing, not just once, because the neighborhood needs it.

Police & Physical Safety

- Pedestrian safety and traffic control is a big problem in terms of safety, especially for kids coming from the school – particularly on . Cars also park too close to some of the intersecting streets on Cloverdale and you can’t see when you need to cross so it becomes dangerous.

Strategy: Address safety on Cloverdale. Examples: Better signage, bigger crosswalks, blinking lights at the crosswalks when someone needs to cross. Appropriate parking restrictions to increase visibility.

- Lighting in the alleys, lighting in the onramp near the skate park. These places are hotspots for crime and are a threat to public safety. The problem right now is that adjacent property owner has to pay for the installation of the lighting, and that’s not equitable because South Park residents can’t afford that. They have identified already the hot spots where crime is bad.

Strategy: Prioritize those crime hotspots to put lighting in the alleys & by the onramp at the skatepark

- The Find It, Fix It is good, but it’s only in one language. Also, there is no mechanism to see the data and connect it to results. The date could be used to influence more usage and in areas that may not be used very frequently.

Strategy: Make Find It, Fix It accessible (i.e. languages, and also get data from it to show that if you report something, what percentage of things are taken care of)

- Policing – need to figure out better stats, like how many 911 calls are coming out of South park, and having more targeted police interaction. Office Diaz came into South Park talking about sex slavery, had 80 parents show up, and the training was all in Spanish.
Strategy: More targeted outreach/collaboration with police around specific risk factors, rather than generic stats. More safety training with kids with firefighters, to target specific actions that families can take.
- CPT officers. There is currently a big disconnect between the CPT officer and the community.
Strategy: In the future, have representatives of the community have input during the hiring process of the CPT officers. Currently, they need to have a mechanism to better build the relationships with current CPT officer.
- King County should be better communicating with SPD because of the unincorporated area. There’s an agreement, but there should be a better schedule of communication that makes it structural and ongoing communication.
Strategy: Create some sort of scheduled, regular communication efforts between SPD and King County Sheriffs.

Investing in Youth

- Very effective to have youth be the ambassadors. Police liaison to work with the youth, crime safety, crime prevention. Building the relationships between the two. Do some informational work with their parents, is very successful. For example, Youthcorp and PAL working together. It’s intentional.
Strategy: SPD is already supporting the youth on the baseball league, try to make that the bridge to move them into the next step of trainings, relationship building with Youth and then training the youth to do the community outreach to families.
- More free activities for youth, stuff at the community center but they are expensive.
Strategy: There needs to be more funding for providers/the City to bring in programs for youth that are offered at low/no cost to young people (ex. SPARC needs to pay \$12K rent for the basketball league, that’s an exorbitant cost for them.)
- Our youth are great at connecting and doing outreach with our families. We need to invest in them do help maintain the safety/outreach work. For example, pay the youth to work on doing the beautification and the cleanup of the neighborhood.
Strategy: Funding to provide jobs to the youth, to do the public safety/community building work.

Follow up Item:

Was there a report/evaluation that came out from the South Park Action Agenda in 2006? (F/U about the report that was done)

If you could see one thing happen immediately, what is the one thing you really want to see done (personal priority of taskforce members):

- Beautification and cleaning- on a regular, consistent basis.
- Lit alleyways
- Flashing lights on Cloverdale/speedbumps to slow traffic down
- Pride campaign for the neighborhood and outside
- Signs across the whole community (“welcome”, South Park arc, signs to the information center, etc.)
- Hire 50 undocumented youth and start at age 12 to cleanup, beautify, etc.
- Safety plan for the community that had deliverables
- Marketing/campaign by the youth

Additional notes from phone conversations:

From Jose Vazquez: mentioned that Heidi Hall from the office of economic development already plays a liaison between South Park business and the department.

The information center a good place for the extra person. The question is how do we provide capacity to do this? A combination of having someone internally in the city and a community member is a good combination to have.

The retail merchants association already has a business plan to for a PR campaign that includes street beautification as a priority for the merchants.

SDOT has granted funding for two gateway signs on 14th and money for Money façade work such as greenwalls or rain garden. Money for community for PR campaign.

Another issue is truck traffic and Pedestrian safety. Trailers use South Park a short cut to marginal way and I-5. The turn on Cloverdale on 14th is tight and trucks often go on the sidewalk putting pedestrian in danger and damaging the corner building. We need to do something about speed and truck size. How can the city resolve this? There are issues with county and city boundaries. buses, air quality issues, maybe limit the truck size, it's a Have the city help with how this can be resolved.

The 2006 Action Plan, have a new conversation to for what the identity is for South park

Funding for job opportunities—Technical job opportunity. Teaming up with the Georgetown campus. A job board, someone to manager he job board.

Better relationships with the police department.

**South Park Taskforce
Meeting Notes
7.17.17
Meeting 2**

In attendance: Linda Spain (Seattle Neighborhood Group); Reynaldo Franco (SP Retail Merchant's Assoc); Carmen Martinez (resident, manager for SP Neighborhood Center, Duwamish Youth Corps); Rocio Arriaga (coordinator South Park Merchants Association, business owner); Jake (Seattle Neighborhood Group, Duwamish); Robin Schwartz (Concord Elementary PTA president, SP resident); Jose Vasquez (Latino Community Fund; board member South Park Association, long time resident) Lora Suggs (SP Neighborhood Association; resident); Analia Bertoni (SPAIRC, resident); Paulina Lopez (resident DRCC); Jorge Madrazo (SeaMar); Christa Dumpsy, (DON staff)

Goals for today: Finalize priorities

This is an opportunity for us to recommend to the Seattle City Council and the Mayor for some things they could fund in the budget.

Mayor announces his budget in September, Council works on the budget between October and November. Provide input on what the needs of the community are.

***Correction to the notes from the last meeting:**

SDOT has only secured funding for the gateway signs (ex. The "welcome" signs) and facades (community murals or signage, we still haven't figured out exactly what it will look like).

However, there is no funding for extensive beautification, greenwalls, etc. which is led by the merchants, but will hire with a consultant to get community input.

Building strong and resilient communities: Priorities

(1) Staffing to support the community through the funding of one position of an advocate/organizer/community builder role. That role would do encompass the following:

- Building capacity on an existing organization to do the work – fund a position. A community advocate, but someone located in the community. Modeled after an organizer position, they should be doing outreach. (*Note: Seattle Housing Authority uses a model like this in their public housing complexes, their staff position is titled a "Community Builder"*)
- They would work in the community.
- The position would help to execute all of the strategies that were listed, the staff person would be the one who is managing the relationship building, outreach, and communication to the community.
- Need a point person in the city to work with collaboratively on all the things. Need to identify who that would be. (Alberto's position) - continue supporting that position.
- Hire someone from the community, should be trusted by the community (not necessarily need to be bilingual, because there are so many languages spoken). Someone who is trusted and visible by the community.

- Part of this role would be to help people figure out how to “plug in” and navigate the different systems. One thing this person could do is to create a resource (an informational sheet with city resources, public safety, etc).
- Serve in an outreach role, to visit with constituents and to attend all of the meetings and be the conduit of the information.
- Despite the fact that there is a lot going on in the community, but most are small organizations and/or volunteers and don’t have the capacity to do the outreach and connections.
- The community advocate can be someone who collects common issues. Someone who sees what’s happening the “1,000 foot level” to see the whole. Would provide a more holistic approach. Invest in a more coordinated effort to bring the organizations’ together to help them figure out who to move forward in a more collective way. Coordinate once a month meeting to bring together the different organizations. (SPARC wants to be that, wanted to be that umbrella that connects everything)
- Their focus would really be on the people who aren’t engaged. We see the same faces at the meetings already. But this position would be to go out and engage with those individuals who aren’t showing up.
- Role should also be to collect data
- The community has been having this conversation for a while now. Not a new need. The funding was for the action agenda for a few years.
- Trainings: they could coordinate those.

Outcome of this staff person: to build the capacity of the community; coordinating the different agencies/organizations

Police & Physical Safety: Priorities

The highest priorities are:

(1) Traffic mitigation to make the streets more safe

- Dangerous traffic turning (especially at 14th and Cloverdale), there’s a lot of big trucks turning from 14th and onto Cloverdale. They jump the curb and almost hit the building.
- Accountability to help catch the speeders; some more enforcement. To help catch people who speed. But need to make sure it’s balanced to make sure that families don’t just get a bunch of tickets that are costly and ends up hurting low-income community residents
- Crosswalks:
 - (Dallas & 14th/16th) no crosswalks exist
 - drivers don’t respect the crosswalks. They need some more accountability to slow people down
 - 10th & Cloverdale; 12 & Cloverdale need an actual crosswalks painted there; 8th & Cloverdale needs to have more visible crosswalks (lights overhead, bigger signage) that has lots of kid traffic
 - Paint the crosswalks vibrantly to make it more attractive

- SDOT just finished a speed study and said it wasn't a "priority" and they are moving on, it didn't meet the threshold. Find out better ways to help advocate that SDOT work with the community to implement "Initiative zero"
- A sign that says "stop for pedestrians" at Dallas & 14th and others
- The crosswalks don't have the countdown signs, or the beeping sounds, etc.

(2) Lighting

- Alleys (from 8th to 14th the two alleys that run between Cloverdale and Donovan)
- The 8th avenue trail (the "scary trail")
- Light at the onramp near the skate park

(3) Garbage pickup

- They need to do at least twice a week extra routes to pick up the extra garbage (96th where it goes down to 4th and 8th). Hot spot areas where they are always dumping on, find the hot spots and try to have some enforcement to stop it. Going to the root of the problem. Monitor the problem areas in some way. Surveillance of some sort. If it's not SPU, then it has to be paid. Someone to coordinate the pickups, and to pay to do the pickups.
- Some law or rule enforcement to make sure that the owners should be responsible for cleaning up after rats (the food mart, the taco truck, etc).

Investing in Youth Priorities

(1) Out of school programming for kids to help implement the strategies that were listed in the previous sections, but funding these programs needs to be culturally competent:

- More dedicated funding to South Park to help implement these programs. But you can't ask for social security numbers from kids or parents. Need to have limited or no barriers to participation. Have to ensure that we don't need to make SSN as a requirement to get the money. If we want to be a "sanctuary city" then we need to live it in our policies.
- Some general support to organizations that go to support and pay youth. Maybe grant to organizations the money, think of creative ways to get around it. Maybe look at orca cards/visa gift cards or other ways to get around the ssn issue. If we give to organizations, we need to figure out a way to make sure the community can hold them accountable to outcomes. Have some sort of a community council that can play that accountability role.
- Youth ambassadors with SPD. Building a relationship with SPD
- Some of this already exists in the neighborhood, but it needs to be supported/expanded.

(2) Dedicate funding to have more affordable spaces for youth and community to do the programming.

- Community center has a lot of space that is not being used in a smart way. It's a big space. And it's too expensive to use. Example: residents wrote a grant to the city to do a basketball with youth and almost all of the grant went right back to

the community center (\$10,000) to just rent the community center space. Make the space more affordable, change the criteria in how you apply to get scholarships. Rework the space maybe to make it meet the need of the community (like drop in childcare).

(3) Redirect the priorities of current staffing to meet the needs of the youth.

- For example, there used to be a SPAA community position – “recreation program specialist” position. It was focused on the late night activities, to open up the space when the community needed it. To be the person in the community. to just do what the community asks for. That position still exists, but it changed to be more focused on just supporting general operating at the community center. No longer meets the needs of the community/youth.

(4) We need to invest in bigger conversations with the community around education/early learning. This should be a long-term focus that gets invested in.

- Needs to also call out Early Learning. A big challenge is providing quality childcare. A brainstorm in the community to figure out how to create those spaces. We don't have a space for the 0-5. Quality drop in childcare is a high priority for families/parents. Childcare is a big burden that parents find it difficult to participate in these meetings. Get DEEL to show up and help provide a solution. Community members can't be the sole advocate. (Note: Sea-Mar is opening a community cultural center across the bridge. They will have community space.)
- Building a youth mentorship program – more of a long term focus in terms of sustainability.

Next Steps

Schedule one last meeting to make sure that it still lines up with what everyone said.

Questions: Should we schedule a community panel, invite SPD, SDOT, representatives from mayo office and city council, SPU to talk with them about the proposed ideas?

If this is done, it needs to be done very strategically what we're asking for and have some data to backup. Previous events like this only turned into complaining session. We don't want this. Often time government officials will always counter our complaint. Need to put it in the conversation about why this is important. Need to make a case to counter why status quo isn't working for SP.

(Create something visual that shows where things landed for the group).

South Park Taskforce Meeting Notes
August 10
Meeting 3

In attendance: Robin Schwartz, Rocio; Jose Vasquez; Dagmar Crohn; Carmen; Laura; Christa; Gabi and Marissa

Agenda for the day

Review of Recommendations under each priority area

Recent SP Crime

Highlight Problem Areas on Map

Traffic Calming Measures – SDOT your voice your choice funding that SP got awarded. Priorities that were outlined in the award don't (on face value) appear to line up with what community has asked for

Crime Updates & General Issues

DON has been fielding lots of inquiries from the community. Organizing a meeting with Dept leaders (Tues Aug 29) and community. They will have SPD, economic development, SDOT, department directors will be there to talk with the community and to share about the work they are doing already in the community. Trying to get the word out to get community members to attend. Will update what they are already working on (like the traffic mitigation, etc.). will have snacks, childcare and translation. Community request: There's a need to have the different city people be better coordinated and in touch with each other.

Christa can be the key point person in the city. She's become a "de facto" point of contact. Will be a liaison. Has resources already available to hand out to the community. The information guide to help find the help someone needs. There is also one number (684-CITY) that you can call and they will get to the appropriate department. At least for the remainder of 2107 Christa will be the South Park liaison.

Side note: need to start working with the two mayoral candidates campaigns to get them introduced to the needs of the community and invite them to come work with the community.

Updates about the recent crime issue. Community experienced some recent vandalism. The belief is that it was targeted. Some vandalism to newer businesses on 14th. Burdick brewery, a winery, la Toscanera (new Italian coffee) Muy Machos taco truck (broken window, stolen canopy); the coffee shop had a molatoff cocktail thrown at it and caught on fire. Had serious, expensive to businesses damage done. Community feels like the response has been lackluster. They don't see the presence. Not a lot of police, not a lot of investigation that they can see. The only response they get is "they're working on it." Want better engagement from the police, better relationships. (CPT – community police team, South Park is part of Delridge, white center, west Seattle and each precinct has a crime prevention coordinator, liaison for the neighborhoods for the police.)

South Park received a current SDOT grant to do some traffic mitigation – the current recommendations at 8th and Cloverdale. ("Your voice, your choice" coordinator). Not sure if it lines up with what they've said. We also need to check this against the asks of the taskforce to see what the city is already doing.

Taskforce recommendations for the report:

- How are we going to make the proposal stand out from what the city has already provided? We need to highlight how what we are asking for is different from what they are doing now.
- Need in the report that the neighborhood feels neglected for a long time and that needs to get in the report. Need to incorporate that into the introduction.
- Look up the number of kids in South park per capita, compared to the rest of the City. And include in the report to highlight the amount of kids.
- Evaluation & Accountability
 - When the original action agenda was created, the Mayor at that time sent it out to the departments and each department had to send back to the Mayor what they were going to do to help South park. There was someone in the mayor's office to make sure each person was accountable. Lisa Herbold has said she is meeting with departments to try and hold them accountable. We need to get that kind of mechanism to hold people accountable.
 - The idea of a follow up evaluation – how can we make the sure community has some power to hold them accountable. We need the capacity to make sure that say SPARC can continue to have the conversations with the community and to hold them accountable. Provide some funding to SPARC to make sure that we highlight the funding request to get some funding to SPARC.
- These are the things that we are hearing loud and clear from community:
 - Need a community person, who is from the community, located in the community, full time and to find other resources that are not limited to City of Seattle. The issue is that some groups are operating in silos. And no one has the time or energy to connect all of the dots between all of the efforts.
 - Instead of hiring a person, a community advocate, can the city give us money to hire someone to do some grant writing, or give them a grant writer from city staff. Or this person they hire should be someone who can do grant writing.

Follow up to the specific recommendations:

For the trucks on Cloverdale

Consider reissuing that parking lane that got taken away (on Cloverdale) right after you get off the SP bridge.

Dallas is being treated as an arteria (a five way corner) needs to slow down.

On the south side of the street under the overpass on the bridge, need a rail between the sidewalk and the street. It's also very dark.

10th & Cloverdale needs blinking light...or else say this is what the problem is and ask SDOT what's the best way to fix it.

12th & 8th is getting a crosswalk under the "your voice your choice."

Merchants association are doing a DON grant on 14th and Cloverdale to do a big, colorful crosswalk at that intersection. Need to work together to make sure the efforts are coordinated.

Police, in 2015 responded to some crime. They had more bike patrols assigned they had a bigger presence. They were supposed to be here long term. They were here for only a few months and they left. Their needs to be a more long term commitment. What is the ratio of bike officers between South Park and west Seattle.

Highlight the success of funding Carmen in that role in previous years. She has lots of activities, but needs incentives to help get the kids involved.

Highlight the need around neighborhood community center to be more flexible/lower cost.

Next steps:

Hearing at city hall about recommendation on sept 13.

Will send out an email to the group to see who'd like to join in the effort to meet with the incoming political candidates for mayor and city council.