

E-NEWSLETTER

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What works for kids: Solving the School to Prison Pipeline Puzzle

The “School-to-Prison Pipeline” pushes kids out of school and into the criminal justice system, into our controversial youth jails. It results from our collective failure to grow kids that can pass third grade reading achievement tests and an ineffective punitive discipline system. Without a common understanding of the racialized problem and community-wide agreement on corrective strategies, our efforts will fall short. We need a shared community-wide and universal goal to serve the social, emotional, and academic whole child with an emphasis on increased literacy and reformed school discipline practices.

1. Vaccinate against illiteracy.

Those who love reading understand the importance of books for kids. The University of Nevada and the University of Tennessee recently published studies showing that kids who have books at home – *particularly books they chose* – do better in school and stay in school longer. In King County, Washington, at-risk schools that sent kids home with 12 books for the summer all made 5-10% gains in meeting state reading standards compared with the average loss of one point for all Seattle Public Schools children, and two points for low income children in Seattle. Like small pox and polio, there is a vaccine for illiteracy: 12 books a summer.

2. Implement Community-Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support

In Oakland, Tacoma, Seattle, and across the nation, a better behavior management system called “Positive Behavior Intervention and Support” is taking root. It sets positive expectations and behaviors, and it creates positive relationships between adults and students, instead of a punitive system of rules and punishments. Its shared expectations provide consistent teaching and recognition of positive behaviors and uses common procedures to prevent problem behavior. In Oakland and Tacoma, teacher job satisfaction is up and school discipline issues are down, and the whole community embraces the new model in partnership to be kind, be safe, and be responsible.

3. Implement Restorative Justice Practices Community-Wide.

“Restorative Justice” practices focus on the needs of people, victims, offenders and community – with welcome circles, peace circles, conflict resolution circles and support circles. Restorative Justice supports relationships, the response to harm, and

individual support. There is one-at-a-time talking that emphasizes patience and listening to each person, and there is conventional back-and-forth conversation. Relational responses to negative behavior in our racialized schools, justice system, and communities reduce negative behavior, and they foster an environment conducive to learning in school. It builds relationships and community. It is, in short, a way of living to be mirrored in the classroom, the board room, the home, and other community forums.

4. Always Use Trauma Informed Practices.

Childhood trauma is a life-threatening experience. It can be the death of a friend or family member, homelessness, or other significant tragedy that threatens a young person's survival. "Adverse Childhood Experiences" is another measure for children dealing with violence, poverty, drug addiction, neglect, malnutrition or racial oppression. These children need trauma-informed care, including an understanding of the dynamics of our racialized culture, both historically over generations and as manifested in institutional racialization today. In some schools, over half the kids are dealing with multiple traumas and/or Adverse Childhood Experiences. They need help to be safe and heal. Whether the child is ours, in our kid's class or in the school across town, we all benefit when children experiencing trauma and "Adverse Childhood Experiences" are cared for appropriately, stay engaged in school, and avoid the criminal justice system.

5. Always Use Culturally Responsive Services

All service providers must embody culturally responsive and culturally proficient practices. In Seattle, juvenile domestic violence (often familial violence as opposed to intimate partner violence) is on the rise. Yet we have very few services for children and families struggling with domestic violence. One King County program, Step-Up, is available after a juvenile is arrested or convicted. But we need to serve these families earlier and more frequently - before children enter the criminal justice system - in our communities, schools, and places of worship. When we address domestic violence in our youth in a culturally responsive manner by diverting youth and families into services designed by them for them we prevent future violence and crime of all types.

In Oakland, it took community leaders a year to develop common goals. In Tacoma, they are committed to a 10-year implementation plan to complete their reforms. Let's not waste another day. Our cities' police chiefs, mayors, school officials, and communities need to get on the same community-centered page today.

Darby DuComb is Deputy City Attorney for Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes and former Board Member of Page Ahead - www.pageahead.org, a children's literacy organization in Washington State.

Justice at the hands of a Good Samaritan

At 5:50 p.m. on May 7, 2015, a woman driving home noticed a commotion on South Graham Street. Little did she know that she would soon perform an act that potentially saved lives.

The woman became aware of a chorus of honks as her car came to a standstill behind backed-up traffic. Looking ahead, she saw a car blocking the roadway -- the cause of the delay. The Good Samaritan did what no other driver had done -- she sprang into action.

Pulling her own car up beside the vehicle blocking westbound traffic near a gas station, she discovered a woman slouched over the wheel who appeared to be heavily intoxicated. Thinking quickly, the Good Samaritan

parked her own car and took control of the other woman's vehicle. She steered it off the road, away from oncoming traffic, and parked it. Then she confiscated the intoxicated woman's keys and called 911. The Good Samaritan stayed on the scene until police arrived.

When SPD Officer Jacob Nelson answered the call, he encountered a familiar face: The drunk behind the wheel would soon be arrested for her 10th DUI, a series that began in 1983. (Prior to this case, the defendant likely had been ordered to obtain treatment multiple times.) With slurred speech and minimal coordination, she refused to participate in both a standardized field sobriety test and a breathalyzer test. She was arrested at the scene.

CAO's Criminal Division charged her with the misdemeanor crime of "being in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence" (Revised Code of Washington 46.61.504). Assistant city prosecutor Mindy Longanecker was assigned to the case, which came to depend on the Good Samaritan being the key witness at trial.

The defendant had only one defense to raise that could save her from conviction.

According to Washington law, a civilian who is intoxicated while driving can use the defense of being safely off the roadway. This means that if the defendant had been able to safely maneuver the car off the road by *herself*, under state law she could not be convicted. Because the Good Samaritan had been the one to move the car out of the roadway, this defense would not likely prevail in court.

The prosecution now hinged on the Good Samaritan's willingness to testify.

"The woman was extremely tentative about coming forth as a witness. She did not want to get anyone in trouble," Longanecker recalled. "I think what ended up making her choose to testify was the fact that the witness recognized Officer Johnson, who was involved in the case, and respected him."

As trial got under way in Seattle Municipal Court, Longanecker said, she concentrated first on selecting the best jurors: "Generally, I look for jurors who seem to support the law at issue." In this case, Washington's DUI laws would need to be supported by the jurors. Additionally, Longanecker recounted a method she used while selecting jurors. "I remember in this case I wore my red high heels the day of jury selection and asked (the jurors) if they found out that the crime they were sitting on was the crime of wearing red shoes, and witnesses testified that I'd worn red shoes, and the Court gave them instructions that this was illegal, would they be able to convict? (All credit goes to (fellow prosecutor) Miriam Norman; I blatantly borrowed this from her voir dire)," Longanecker said.

At trial Aug. 18-19 last year, the jury returned a guilty verdict. The defendant was sentenced to 364 days in jail and received a full \$5,000 fine. The court later suspended \$4,150 of that amount. Currently, the defendant is still in the process of paying back the remaining \$850. Due to the "good time" benefit that all defendants receive, it is likely that the defendant also had one third of her jail time shaved off.

Because the Good Samaritan/witness intervened when no one else did, no one was hurt that night. "In the end (the witness) did the right thing. She moved the car, called 911, and testified," Longanecker said.



Mindy Longanecker



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Picnics in the Precinct!

Picnics in the Precincts are fun activities we hold every year that provide an opportunity for the business and residential communities in each of Seattle's five precincts to come together and enjoy a day of celebration with their local police. They are great opportunities for people to be introduced to the department in a relaxed, non-law enforcement environment, meet their local police officers, enjoy free food, entertainment and raffle prizes, and get information on how to get involved in preventing crime in their community.

The Picnics include booths hosted by groups and agencies that engage in crime prevention activities, and/or provide services in the community. Please contact us at the email address or number above to reserve a booth now. On behalf of the Seattle Police Foundation and the Seattle Police Department we look forward to another fun and safe summer. Together, we can continue to promote a safe and vibrant community.

- **Saturday July 9th, 11am to 4pm - North Precinct**

Community Picnic @ Ballard Seafood Fest, Ballard Commons Park, 5701 22nd Ave NW

- **Saturday July 16th, 1pm to 4pm - East Precinct Community Picnic @ Powell Barnett Park, 352 Martin Luther King Jr Way**

- **Tuesday, August 2nd, 5pm to 8pm - West Precinct** Community Picnic /National Night Out @ *Occidental Square, S Main St & Occidental Ave S*
- **Saturday, August 13th, 11am to 3pm - Southwest Precinct** Community Picnic @ *Delridge Day, Delridge Community Center, 4501 Delridge Way SW*
- **Saturday, August 13th, 1:30pm to 4:30pm - South Precinct** Community Picnic @ *Rainier Valley Heritage Festival & Parade, Columbia Park, Corner of S Alaska Street and Rainier Avenue S*

Reserve a Booth Today

If you would like to host an informational booth at one of the Precinct Community Picnics this year, please contact Diana Pilon at Diane.Pilon@Seattle.gov or 206-386-1996. There is no charge for hosting a booth.

We hope to see you there!
Seattle Neighborhood Group
info@sngi.org
206-323-9666

Landlord Training Workshop

We offer workshops for property owners and managers that give them the information and tools needed to create and maintain safe rental housing. All workshops are offered at very low cost, and cover important skills.

Click [here](#) for more information.



SNG is offering free crime prevention presentations!

Our Crime Prevention Education Team works mostly with Seattle communities, immigrants, seniors, and low-income housing. The presentations topics include: **Personal Safety, Vehicle Security, Suspicious Activity, 911 Basics & Interpretation, ID Theft & Fraud**

Click [here](#) for more information.

The mission of Seattle Neighborhood Group is to prevent crime and build community through partnerships with residents, businesses, law enforcement and other organizations.

Seattle Neighborhood Group | 206-323-9666 | info@sngi.org | www.sngi.org

CAO staff trades computers for paintbrushes



On **Friday, May 13**, from **9:00 am to 4:00 pm**, some 25 people from the Law Department participated in our spring Race and Social Justice Initiative Volunteer Event. Staff prepped and repainted the office and certain common areas of The Frye Apartments, located in Pioneer Square at 223 Yesler Way. The Frye Apartments is a large low-income/homeless housing facility that includes more than 200 studio and one-bedroom apartments; it is operated by the Low Income Housing Institute. More information about The Frye Apartments and the LIHI is available at: <https://lihi.org/properties/frye-apartments/>. It was a great turnout!



EVENTS

- 6/14** Pete will speak at the UW Law Marijuana Conference.
- 6/17-18** Cannabis Conference at the Four Seasons, Vancouver, BC
- 6/24** Pete will speak at the Washington Leadership Institute.
- 7/8-10** Fifth Annual Local Progress National Convening; register [here](#).
- 7/28** Pete is a guest speaker at the Washington Quarterly Cannabis Caucus.

LINKS TO NEWS STORIES

05/11 The path clears towards permanent police reform. Maybe. – The cloud that has hung low over the head of Seattle's police reform efforts is this: while progress has surely been made, none of it is codified through legislation, especially regarding questions of civilian oversight. (Crosscut)

<http://crosscut.com/2016/05/the-path-may-clear-toward-true-police-reform/>

05/12 Cyclist struck by then-Seattle Councilmember Sally Clark to get \$400,000 settlement – The Seattle City Attorney's Office determined Sally Clark was on city business in Tacoma, with her insurance primary and the city's obligation secondary. But her policy covered only up to \$25,000. (The Seattle Times)

http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/cyclist-struck-by-ex-seattle-councilmember-sally-clark-to-get-400000-settlement/?utm_content=buffer54856&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=owned_buffer

05/12 City of Seattle appeals UW More Hall Annex demolition decision – The city is appealing a decision by a Superior Court judge that the University of Washington doesn't have to follow the city's landmarks preservation law. (The Seattle Times)

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/city-of-seattle-appeals-uw-more-hall-annex-demolition-decision/>

05/13 City of Seattle keeping quiet on how much it collected from first gun taxes – Seattle has collected the first round of taxes after passing a gun tax last year. But the city will not reveal any information about it.. (MY Northwest)

<http://mynorthwest.com/290216/seattle-collects-its-first-gun-taxes-but-you-cant-see-them/>

05/17 City charges 8 illegal pot couriers – Eight illegal pot-delivery couriers were charged with misdemeanors by Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes after King County's top prosecutor declined to file felony charges against them. (The Seattle Times)

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/marijuana/city-charges-8-illegal-pot-couriers/>

05/17 City charges 8 people for illegal marijuana delivery services – City Attorney Pete Holmes announced criminal charges Tuesday against eight people arrested last month for illegally selling marijuana through delivery services. (Q13 FOX)

<http://q13fox.com/2016/05/17/city-charges-8-people-for-illegal-marijuana-delivery-services/>

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To view the SCAO's annual reports, please click here:

[http://www.seattle.gov/
cityattorney/news/reports](http://www.seattle.gov/cityattorney/news/reports)

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

If you have suggestions for stories or comments on how we can make this newsletter better, please email kimberly.mills@seattle.gov.

To SUBSCRIBE to this newsletter click here: CITYATTORNEYNEWSLETTER-subscribe-request@talk2.seattle.gov

The Seattle City Attorney's Office is committed to providing the City of Seattle with the highest caliber legal advice to help protect the health, safety, welfare, and civil rights of all.

The City Attorney's Office has four divisions:

The Civil Division represents the City in lawsuits and advises City officials as they develop programs, projects, policies, and legislation. The sections within the Civil Division include torts (claims), governmental affairs, land use, environmental protection, labor and employment, and contracts/utilities.

The Criminal Division represents the City in prosecuting traffic infractions, misdemeanors, and gross misdemeanors in Seattle Municipal Court. The types of cases prosecuted by the Criminal Division include driving under the influence, traffic infractions, domestic violence, theft, assault, and trespassing.

The Administration Division staff provide budgeting, accounting, human resource, clerical and information technology services for the City Attorney's Office.

The Precinct Liaison Division assigns an assistant city attorney as a liaison to each of the City's five police precincts as another way of addressing public safety and neighborhood livability problems.

How to apply for an internship/externship in the Civil and Criminal Divisions: <http://www.seattle.gov/cityattorney/about-us/careers>



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