



## Community-Police Dialogues 2022 Results

### **SEATTLE – CITYWIDE**

*"Everyone is a part of the community whether they live inside or outside and whether they patrol the streets or walk the streets."  
-2022 Dialogue Participant*

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## Introduction

The Seattle University Crime & Justice Research Center has collaborated with the Seattle Police Department (SPD) since 2015 to conduct the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey as part of the Micro-Community Policing Plans (MCP). Virtual community-Police dialogues are conducted via Zoom videoconference to provide opportunity for community members and police to explore and discuss the Seattle Public Safety Survey results.<sup>1</sup> Dialogues are facilitated by Dr. Jacqueline Helfgott, Professor and Director of the Seattle University Crime & Justice Research Center and co-facilitated by the respective precinct-based MCP Research Analyst on the Seattle Police Department's Micro-Community Policing Plans research team which includes Katie Kepler (North Precinct), Brandon Bledsoe (South and Southwest Precinct), Ashley Dobbs (East and West Precincts), graduate students and Evelyn Madrid-Fierro (Citywide), undergraduate student in the Seattle University Department of Criminal Justice, Criminology & Forensics.

Seattle University conducted 15 virtual community-police dialogues from May through August 2022. The dialogues are conducted in conjunction with the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey in between annual survey administrations<sup>2</sup> to provide community members the opportunity to engage in conversation with Seattle Police personnel about the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey results, and to discuss real-time concerns about crime, public safety, and security at the micro-community (neighborhood) and precinct levels. All who live and/or work in Seattle were eligible to participate in the virtual community-police dialogues, allowing community members to meet, collaborate, and network with the officers and command staff in their precinct.

The results presented in this report show what was discussed in the dialogues, the themes that arose citywide and at the precinct levels, and post-dialogue feedback from participants. The 2022 dialogues involved 122 community members and 196 police personnel<sup>3</sup> who participated in the dialogue sessions (three for each of the five SPD Precincts) conducted from May 2022- August 2022. The results presented in this report convey the essence of the dialogues and highlight the key themes in the precinct discussions.

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<sup>1</sup> The virtual community-police dialogues were implemented in 2021 for the first time. From Prior to 2021, community focus groups were conducted in between survey administrations. The community-police dialogues were implemented upon request of community members who wanted to have more direct engagement with Seattle Police personnel.

<sup>2</sup> The annual Seattle Public Safety Survey is administered annually from October 15-November 30. The SPD MCP Community-Police Dialogues are held from May through August after the annual results are released.

<sup>3</sup> This is the total number of community members and police who participated in the 15 dialogues conducted from May-August 2022. Some of the community personnel and many of the police personnel attended multiple dialogue sessions.

## Outreach

The 2022 SPD MCPP Community-Police Dialogues were advertised through flyers calling for community and police participants (See Appendix A). The flyers soliciting community members were distributed to the public through the SPD MCPP webpage, the Seattle Police Blotter, Nextdoor, Facebook, LinkedIn, other social media, and email lists used to administer the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey. Outreach was also conducted through media interviews with local news media, presentations to community groups within Seattle, and through op-ed articles published in Seattle-specific outlets. Police participants were recruited through physical and digital distribution of the flyer and internal emails to SPD's civilian and sworn personnel.

## Participants

Each session included community members and police participants, including sworn and civilian personnel from patrol through command staff who work in the respective precincts, and personnel representing other precincts, SPD Headquarters including collaborative policing, crisis intervention, and training units. In addition, newly hired SPD recruits participating in the SPD "Before the Badge" training program participated in the dialogues. Effort was made through outreach to city agencies to improve citywide representation of community liaisons and decision-makers. Community members include those who live or work in Seattle and many were independent stakeholders, such as business owners, contributors to neighborhood councils, and range of otherwise involved community members.

## Dialogue Facilitation

Three community-police dialogues were held in each of the five police precincts - East, North, South, Southwest, and West (a total of 15 dialogues) on designated Thursday Nights from 5:30-7:30pm via Zoom video conferencing from May 19 through August 25, 2022). Dialogues were facilitated by Dr. Jaqueline Helfgott and co-facilitated by the respective precinct MCPP Research Analyst, while 2-3 other Research Analysts took detailed notes, excluding participants' identifiable information.

The dialogues were conducted using a restorative framework with an emphasis on strengthening relationships through sharing personal experiences and developing understanding, mutual trust, and respect.<sup>4</sup> Participants were prompted to think about

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<sup>4</sup> The restorative framework used in the dialogues is based on the work of Howard Zehr and other scholars (Zehr, H (2015) *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Good Books; Van Ness, D., and K. H. Strong (2015). *Restoring justice*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Routledge) and is an adaptation of the dialogue framework used in "Citizens, Victims, and Offenders Restoring Justice." (Helfgott, J.B., Lovell, M.L., Lawrence, C.F. (2002). Citizens, Victims, and Offenders Restoring Justice: Accountability, healing, and hope through storytelling and dialogue. *Crime Victims Report*, 6, 3-4+; Helfgott, J.B., Lovell, M.L., Lawrence, C.F., & Parsonage, W.H. (2000). Development of the Citizens, Victims, and Offenders Restoring Justice Program at the Washington State Reformatory. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 10, 363-399; Helfgott, J.B., Lovell, M.L., Lawrence, C.F., & Parsonage, W.H. (2000). Results from the pilot study of the Citizens, Victims, and Offenders Restoring Justice Program at the Washington State Reformatory. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 16, 5-31; Lovell, M.L., Helfgott, J.B., & Lawrence, C.F. (2002a). Narrative

how they perceive each other, their role in Seattle's wellbeing and neighborhood quality of life, and how a collective effort can improve public safety.

The following ground rules were established at the beginning of each dialogue to protect the anonymity of the participants and to facilitate a culture of openness and honesty:

- (1) **Help create a safe space** – Use “I” rather than “you” statements, avoid name calling. Allow others to express their thoughts and feelings in the spirit of open dialogue, keeping in mind that there are no “right” or “wrong” feelings.
- (2) **Make space for others to speak** – Avoid crosstalk, interruptions, and try not to dominate the conversation.
- (3) **Maintain confidentiality/privacy** - Do not give personal details about yourself that do not have relevance to the seminar discussions; respect the level of disclosure each participant chooses to maintain; respect the privacy of group members - do not screenshot or take a video of the session.
- (4) **Commitment** -- Please commit to participating in the entire session. However, if at any point you feel uncomfortable, feel free to leave the meeting.

The meetings were not recorded, and participants were asked not to record or photograph sessions. Following a brief introduction, during which the focus and purpose of the dialogues were introduced and the top concerns/themes of the 2021 survey were presented, the dialogues focused on: Expectations and Focus, Reimagining Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement, and Discussion Wrap-up. Community and police attendees were invited to share what topics were at the forefront of their minds, what the number one thing they wanted to accomplish during the session, and what would be needed, in their opinion, for the dialogue to be considered a success. Participants were then asked to share ways they believed the community and members of the police could work together, in concrete ways, to increase public safety and neighborhood quality of life for all. At the conclusion of the sessions, participants were asked to raise topics that remained unaddressed for them and their hopes for moving forward.

## Analysis

Research Analysts observed and participated in the dialogues and took written notes, documenting impactful quotations and recurring themes in each of the sessions, while maintaining the privacy of the participants. In addition, participant observation reflection comments were completed by the facilitator and research analysts following the meeting with the purpose of capturing the nuanced tone of the discussion and general feel of each of the sessions. The notes and reflection comments were analyzed using ATLAS.ti<sup>5</sup> identifying relevant themes measured in the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey, recognizing unique dialogue-specific themes, and noting quotes that reflected these themes. Qualitative data collected through the notes and participant observer

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accounts from the Citizens, Victims, and Offenders Restoring Justice program at the Washington State Reformatory. *Contemporary Justice Review*, 5, 261-272.

<sup>5</sup> ATLAS.ti is a qualitative data analysis software.

comments were also analyzed to identify the most frequently mentioned concrete actions suggested by community and police participants to help improve neighborhood quality of life and safety.

## Theme Coding

The dialogue notes and participant observation reflection comments were coded for themes. Citywide themes are reported as larger categories that encompass several other, more specific subsets of the theme; for instance, 'Police Capacity' encompasses several subsets including '9-1-1 call prioritization, response,' 'Staffing - lack or loss,' 'Staffing – Recruitment, Training, & Before the Badge,' and 'Other' (for discussions of police capacity that did not specify further).

The creation of subthemes of the larger themes allows for a detailed understanding of the specific topics of discussion, while sorting these by their overarching concept improves our ability to provide a simplified overview of discussed topics. ATLAS.ti software was used to identify these themes in each individual document, calculate frequencies, and rank the prevalence by document, dialogue, and precinct.

The theme categories include 'Politics,' 'Police Legitimacy,' 'Homelessness & (Non-Police) Social Services,' 'Communication,' 'Social Cohesion,' 'Alternative Responses (to calls for service),' 'Education of SPD & Police Practice,' 'Police Capacity,' 'Fear of Crime,' 'Informal Social Control,' 'Crime,' and 'MCP.''

The subcategories of these overarching themes are described in detail in each precinct in which they occur and are briefly displayed below:

Theme Category	Subcategories
<b>Politics</b>	<b>City Politics</b> (City Council, Voting, City Policy) <b>SPD Politics</b> (Police Procedure, Internal Policy, Promotion Procedure) <b>SPD Politics</b> (Unions)
<b>Police Legitimacy</b>	<b>Lack of Trust</b> (SPD Specifically) <b>(-) Legitimacy</b> (Negative, Questioned) <b>(+) Legitimacy</b> (Positive, Support)
<b>Homelessness &amp; (Non-Police) Social Services</b>	<b>Homelessness</b> (Encampments, Presence, Need for Support) <b>Non-Police/City Social Services</b> (Use or Need, Non-Police Response to Public Safety)
<b>Communication</b>	<b>Community-Police Relationship</b> (Improvement, Building) <b>Community-Police Relationship</b> (Broken) <b>Police Public Relations (PR)</b> (Media, News, Social Media Presence, Formal Communication) <b>Informal Community-Police Communication</b> (Street-Level, Personal Familiarity)
<b>Social Cohesion</b>	<b>(-) Social Cohesion</b> (Loss of Community & Desire to Leave) <b>(+) Social Cohesion</b> (Familiarity with Neighbors, Sense of & Desire to Help Community)
<b>Alternative Police Responses (to calls for service)</b>	<b>Alternative Responses</b> (Drugs) <b>Alternative Responses</b> (Homelessness) <b>Alternative Responses</b> (Mental Health Crises) <b>Alternative Responses</b> (General; Desire for Unarmed/CSO Response)
<b>Education of SPD</b>	<b>Police Education</b> (CPC/CSO Information/Role, specifically) <b>Police Education</b> (SPD Action, Policy, General knowledge) <b>Police Education</b> (9-1-1 & Crime Reporting, Specifically) <b>Police Education</b> (SPD/Personnel Opinion Sharing)

<b>Police Capacity</b>	<b>Police Capacity</b> (9-1-1 call prioritization, response) <b>Police Capacity</b> (Staffing – lack or loss) <b>Police Capacity</b> (Staffing – Recruitment, Training, & Before the Badge (BTB)) <b>Police Capacity</b> (Other; Capacity in General)
<b>Fear of Crime</b>	<b>Fear of Crime</b> (In General & Personal Safety)
<b>Informal Social Control</b>	<b>(+) Informal Social Control</b> (Inv. In Pub Safety, Police Collaboration) <b>(-) Informal Social Control</b> (Social Disorganization/Dysfunction)
<b>Crime</b>	<b>Crime</b> (Property) <b>Crime</b> (Public Order: Drugs, Threats, Prostitution) <b>Crime</b> (Traffic, Bike, Pedestrian, Transit) <b>Crime</b> (Violent, Guns) <b>Crime</b> (General, Unspecified)
<b>MCCP</b>	<b>Use of Data</b> (Survey & Dialogue) <b>Methodology</b> (Outreach, Diversity of Participants)

### Post-Dialogue Survey Feedback

After each dialogue, all participants were invited via email to participate in a post-dialogue survey designed to elicit feedback on their reaction to the topics, participants, facilitation, and so on. The link to the post-dialogue feedback survey was sent to the same email addresses as the zoom invitation links for the dialogues provided by the participants.

The post-dialogue feedback survey contained open-ended qualitative questions as well as quantitative forced choice and Likert-type items. The qualitative components prompted participants to provide written feedback on what they had hoped to gain, why they participated in the dialogue, what their most prominent takeaway was from the session, topics that were not discussed that they would have liked to address, and other feedback suggestions. These open-ended questions allow participants to explain in their own words how these dialogues can improve, as well as where they may have succeeded or failed in improving the communication between Seattle residents and police personnel. The quantitative components addressed the respondents' interest in participating in future dialogues, their participation in the 2021 Seattle Public Safety Survey, and whether they reviewed the 2021 Survey results. Participants were also asked if they gained what they had hoped to from the meeting they attended, if they felt safe discussing their experiences, and if they would be interested in participating in future dialogues. These questions were measured on a 5-point scale allowing the following responses: definitely not; probably not; might or might not; probably yes; absolutely yes.

### Dialogue Satisfaction

The post-dialogue survey also included five quantitative measures of dialogue satisfaction (Length, Agenda, Participants, Technology, and Facilitation), presented with Likert-type scale responses. The mean of these responses is represented as the overall, or total, level of satisfaction with the dialogues, where: 1 = extremely dissatisfied, 2 = moderately dissatisfied, 3 = slightly dissatisfied, 4 = neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 5 = slightly satisfied, 6 = moderately satisfied, & 7 = extremely satisfied.

Dialogue satisfaction is presented in each section of this report (Citywide, East, North, South, Southwest, & West) with a graph comparing the mean satisfaction of community participants to that of the participating SPD personnel that completed the survey.

## Citywide

### Crime and Public Safety Concerns

#### Participants

Dialogue (Order for All Precincts)	Community Members N = 122	Seattle Police Personnel N= 196	Total N = 318
1	n = 42	n = 48	n = 90
2	n = 40	n = 73	n = 113
3	n = 40	n = 75	n = 115

#### Themes

Top Themes from All 2022 Dialogues
1. Communication
2. Police Capacity
3. Education of SPD
4. Crime
5. Fear of Crime

The citywide “Top Themes” section displays the top five recurring themes identified for all 15 the 2022 dialogues conducted across the five precincts. The top 5 themes in the dialogue discussions were: Communication, Police Capacity, Education of SPD, Crime, and Fear of Crime.

The Communication theme encapsulates discussions of the Police-Community Relationship in Seattle, SPD Public Relations (formal communication), and importantly, Informal Community-Police Communication (often described as street-level communication where officers are outside of patrol vehicles).

Police Capacity encompasses 9-1-1 Response (Call Prioritization, a Lack of Staffing, Staffing Efforts (Recruitment, Training, & Before the Badge), and ‘Other’ (for discussions of police capacity that did not specify further and referenced police capacity in general).

Education of SPD includes Education of Crime Prevention Coordinators (CPCs) and Community Service Officers (CSOs), such as their role and function, Education of SPD and police action generally, Education regarding 9-1-1 and Crime Reporting (when and why to call 9-1-1), and Education of SPD by way of opinion sharing (on any topic).

The theme of Crime represents discussions of Property Crime, Public Order Crime (Drugs, Threats, & Prostitution), Crime associated with Transit (Bike, Pedestrian, Public Transit, and Traffic), Violent and Gun Crime, and Crime in General (when a type of crime is not specified).

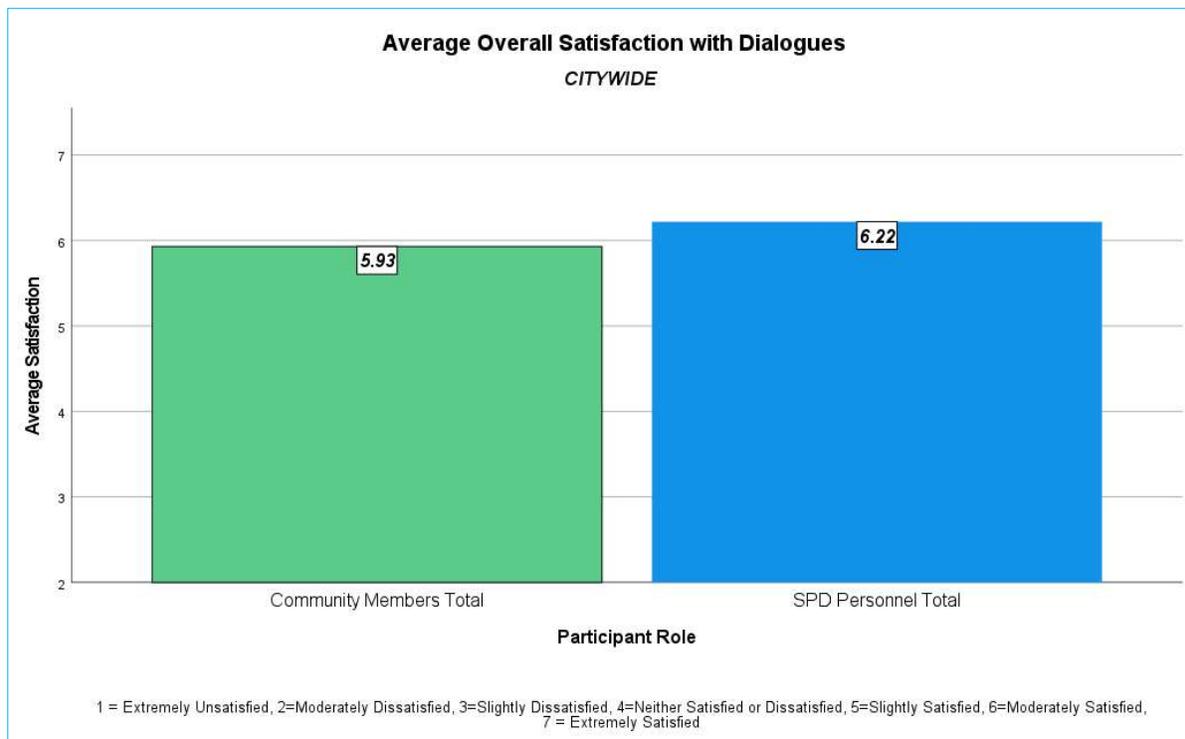
Fear of Crime includes references to states of fear of victimization or for one's own safety (there were no subcategories of this item that were frequent enough to differentiate between in the present data).

These top themes indicate that, overall, those who attended these dialogues and participated, regardless of precinct or date, emphasized a desire to discuss information sharing and relationship building (Communication), the capability and preparedness of SPD specifically (Police Capacity), and improve their knowledge of SPD roles, actions, opinions, and 9-1-1 operations (Education). Additionally, participants expressed a pronounced desire to discuss their perceptions and experiences with crime of all types in their community and neighborhoods (Crime), as well as their levels of fear of crime and concern for their safety (Fear of Crime).

## Post-Dialogue Feedback

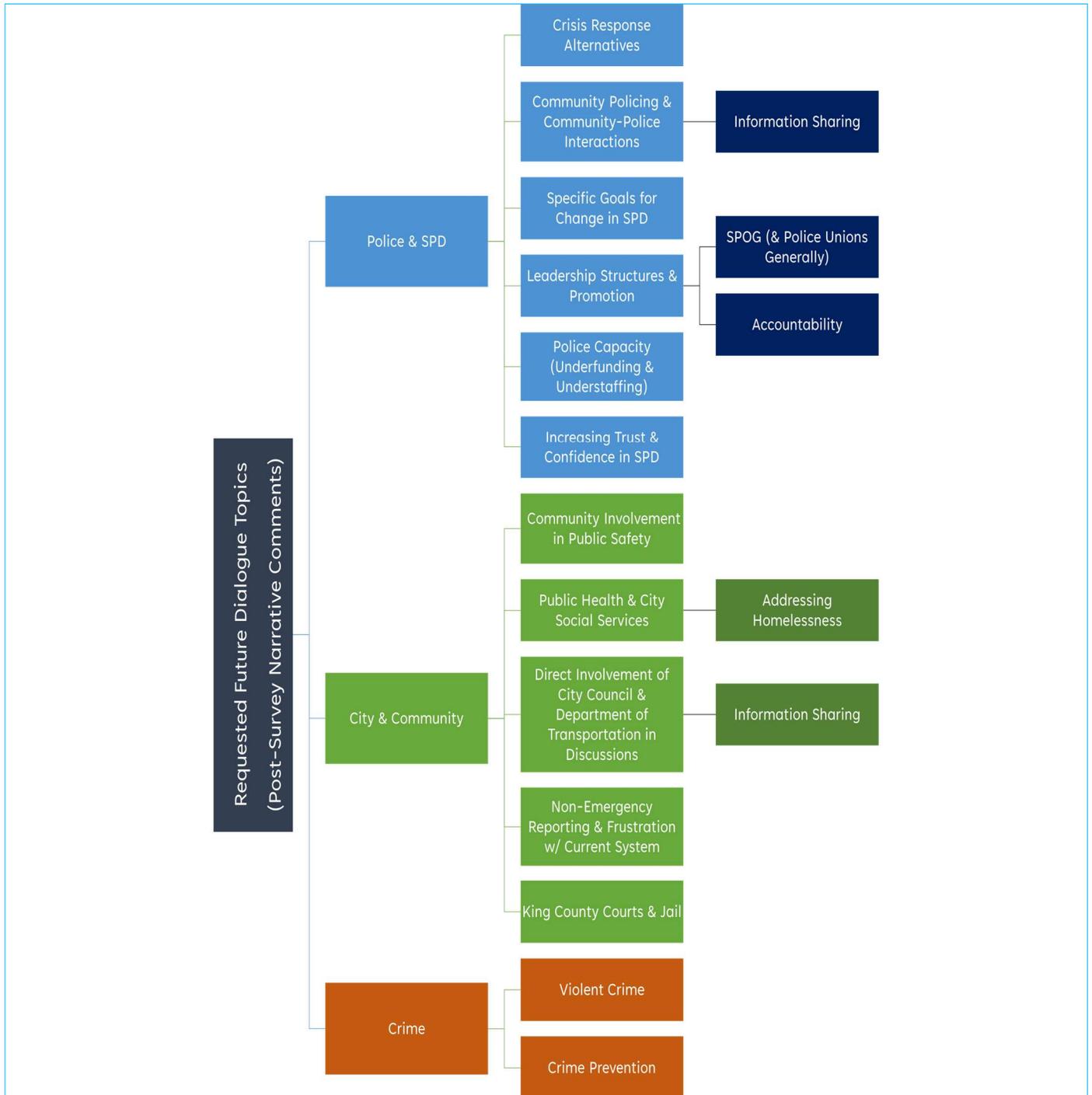
### Satisfaction

Responses to the post-dialogue feedback survey show that participants were satisfied with their experience in the dialogue session. Of the participants who completed the post-survey ( $n=60$ ), 69.9% reported that they gained what they had hoped (25.5% “definitely yes,” 43.6% “probably yes”), and 85.7% reported that they felt safe discussing their experiences in their respective dialogue (60.7% “definitely yes,” 25% “probably yes”). Most (83%) reported that they had read the results of the 2021 Public Safety Survey (70% “definitely yes,” 13.3% “probably yes”) prior to participating in the dialogues and slightly over half of the participants (51.7%) indicated that they plan to participate in a future dialogue while 38.4% of participants responded that they would “definitely not” (26.7%) or “probably not” (11.7%) participate in a future dialogue. On a Likert scale ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied) to 7 (extremely satisfied), participants were mostly satisfied with the dialogues in terms of session's Length, Agenda, Participants, Technology, and Facilitation with an average rating for all participants (community members and police personnel combined) of 6.03 ( $SD=1.13$ ) with police personnel rating their satisfaction slightly higher ( $M=6.22$ ,  $SD=0.48$ ) than did community participants ( $M=5.93$ ,  $SD=1.34$ ).



## Desired Outcomes

When participants were asked to describe in their own words topics they would like to discuss in future dialogues, they offered a wide range of suggestions. These ideas are represented visually below, consolidated into three main categories: Police & SPD, City & Community, and Crime.



## East Precinct

### Crime and Public Safety Concerns

#### Participants

Dialogue Dates	Community Members N= 28	Seattle Police Personnel N= 56
May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 8	n= 9
June 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2022	n= 12	n= 20
July 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 8	n= 27

#### Themes

Top Themes from 2022 East Dialogues
1. Police Staffing
2. Crime involving Drugs
3. Fear of Crime
4. Police PR
5. Issues with 9-1-1/Dispatch

The East Precinct "Top Themes" section displays the top five recurring themes that were identified in all three of the 2022 dialogues conducted in the East Precinct. These themes include more specific subsets of the larger categories represented on the larger citywide scale. The top 5 themes represented here include Police Staffing, Crime Involving Drugs, Fear of Crime, Police PR (Public Relations), and Issues with 9-1-1 and Service Dispatch.<sup>6</sup>

Police Staffing is a subset of the larger Police Capacity theme and includes discussions surrounding a Lack or Loss of Staffing in the Seattle Police Department, Recruitment, Training, and the Before the Badge training initiative.

Crime involving Drugs is included in the larger theme of Crime (specifically, Public Order Crime) and includes discussions of drug use, police responses to drug use, and the community impact of these issues.

Fear of Crime includes references to states of fear of victimization or for one's own safety (there were no subcategories of this item that were frequent enough to differentiate between in the present data).

SPD Public Relations (PR) are included in the larger theme of Communication and indicates the frequency of discussions of formal police communication. Formal police communication, or PR, includes departmental information sharing through news, social media presence and use, and other media formats (ex. SPD Blotter). Discussions of this theme included the format as well as the content of this form of communication with the public.

Finally, Issues with 9-1-1 & Dispatch are included in the Police Capacity theme and refer to Community Members' concerns about calling 9-1-1 due to perceived and

<sup>6</sup> The Theme Category table and Theme Coding section show detailed information on these items.

experienced problems with this service. These include difficulty in reporting, concerns about dispatchers (staffing, training, and demeanor), and statements of reluctance to report crimes through the emergency or non-emergency resources.<sup>7</sup>

These top East Precinct-specific themes are similar to those reported in the Citywide section but are more specific in regard to what was discussed in these precinct dialogues in particular. Four of the top Five Citywide themes are mirrored in the East Precinct, including Communication (Police PR), Police Capacity (Police Staffing; Issues with 9-1-1), Crime (Drug Crime), and Fear of Crime. The Citywide theme category of Education is not represented in the top East Precinct concerns in 2022.

## Dialogue Specific Themes

East Dialogue 1 – May 19th, 2022

### Top Dialogue Specific Themes

1. Police Accountability
2. Broken Community-Police Relationships
3. Lack of Trust with Seattle Police Department
4. More services needed for Mental Health Services
5. Police Staffing

*"We all have to participate in making this a safe community" (SPD)*

*"It's not feeling like accountability when there's no change" (CM)*

*"Trust needs to be earned" (CM)*

*"We need somebody to go out and protect the rights of citizens, but we are not perfect, and we are not mental health professionals, and it all comes down to funding and staffing" (SPD)*

*"I hope we can earn your trust over time" (SPD)*

<sup>7</sup> Instances where police personnel inform community members of SPD's use of 9-1-1 call data are included in the Education theme of '9-1-1 and Crime Reporting,' and discussions of City decisions regarding 9-1-1 are included in the 'City Politics' theme.

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Crime involving Drugs
2. Issues with 911/Dispatch
3. Public Order Crime
4. Fear of Crime
5. Property Crime

*“[It] doesn’t feel like ‘call a cop get a cop’ is possible anymore” (SPD)*

*“911 should go back to under the police department because now it is just a joke” (CM)*

*“When it is a call of someone smoking narcotics, it is a lower priority call; whether if it is right or wrong, I can’t say, but I know that it is a lower priority call” (SPD)*

*“It’s a free for all for people who want to do drugs and I don’t feel safe” (CM)*

*“The open-air [drug] use has gotten so out of control it just feeds on itself... I’m really tired of the vandalism and burglaries and crime that accompanies the usage” (CM)*

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Police PR
2. Police Recruitment
3. Police Staffing
4. Police Outreach to Community
5. Fear of Crime

*“The reason I wanted to be a part of SPD is because I live here, and I want to be a part of the change” (SPD)*

*“We have to build up trust somehow... I think its real action – every interaction you have is going to determine how [we] feel about you” (CM)*

*“You can immediately tell if somebody has the ability to talk to people, they do get graded on their interactions with the public, how they are able to handle stressful situations... it is a long process” (SPD)*

*“Actions are going to speak volumes of how SPD is going to build trust with the community” (CM)*

*“The reality is that people need to be fearful” (CM)*

## Reimagining Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

How can police and community work together to address public safety concerns?

### Top Ideas Surrounding Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

1. Advocacy for improved emergency response
2. Improved public information sharing
3. Increased personal interactions between individuals, businesses, and police
4. Involvement in public discussions and city politics
5. Prioritization of accountability, representation, and trust-building

*“Unless we as a group can connect with individuals, there will continue to be a sense of division” (SPD)*

*“We all agree [that] we need to save the city and stick our necks out and work together” (CM)*

*“I don’t understand...The fact that I can’t report is a problem... I felt very disempowered. I felt my concern for my community was disregarded.”*

*“It makes me doubt the crime stats –Here was a crime that went unreported.” (CM)*

*“Sometimes you guys do something good, and we don’t hear about it... we hear about the problems but not always the solutions” (CM)*

*“A lot of officers are trying to rebuild. And [CM] – I will have my officers out in the morning, I assure you of that. I also live in the community, and we can work together. - SPD” (SPD)*

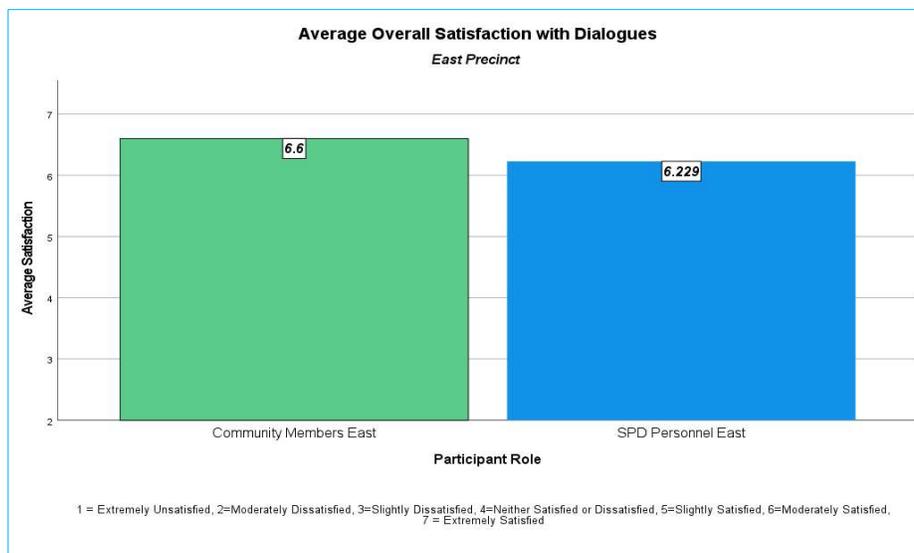
*“It’s about accountability – but accountability isn’t a one-way street, it branches off – if [the] jail has issues then it effects everyone – if [we] arrest and can’t book – every level is affected” (SPD)*

## Post-Survey Feedback

### Satisfaction

Of the participants in the East Precinct dialogues who completed the post-dialogue survey and answered the relevant questions ( $n=14$ ), 92.8% reported that they gained what they had hoped (35.7% “definitely yes,” 57.1% “probably yes”), and 92.9% reported that they felt safe discussing their experiences in their respective dialogue (64.3% “definitely yes,” 28.6% “probably yes”). One respondent (7.1% of all East precinct respondents) reported that they “probably did not” feel safe discussing their experience in the dialogue context. The majority, 85.7%, of East Precinct post-dialogue survey respondents reported that they had read the results of the 2021 Public Safety Survey ( $n=14$ ; 71.4% “definitely yes,” 14.3% “probably yes”). All of the East Precinct dialogue respondents indicated that they would like to participate in a future dialogue with 78.6% saying “definitely yes” and 21.4% saying “probably yes.”

Responses to the post-dialogue feedback survey for the East Precinct participants show that participants were satisfied with their experience in the dialogue session. On a Likert scale ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied) to 7 (extremely satisfied), participants were satisfied with the dialogues in terms of session's Length, Agenda, Participants, Technology, and Facilitation with an average rating for all participants (community members and police personnel combined) of 6.36 ( $SD=0.48$ ) with community participants rating their satisfaction slightly higher ( $M=6.6$ ,  $SD=0.37$ ) than did police personnel participants ( $M=6.23$ ,  $SD=0.51$ ).



### Desired Outcomes

Regarding the open-ended question asking what participants had hoped to gain from the dialogue, the 14 responses recorded from the East Precinct largely focused on communication, information sharing, and voicing questions and concerns about SPD. Specifically, the most common responses included the goal of hearing from other community members and police for the purpose of gaining awareness of issues and

solutions, learning from and offering different perspectives, fixing relationships, and asking and answering questions. Comments also mentioned a desire to communicate concerns about SPD's previous actions and the impact of these, consider unarmed alternatives to police when possible, and discuss concrete changes that are being made to improve community safety. Finally, additional comments noted the respondents' interest in learning more about police, public safety, the community, and how community members can be active in public safety efforts.

## North Precinct

### Crime and Public Safety Concerns

#### Participants

Dialogue Dates	Community Members N= 31	Seattle Police Personnel N= 33
May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 14	n= 14
June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 6	n= 10
August 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 11	n= 9

#### Themes

Top Themes from 2022 North Dialogues
1. City Politics
2. Education of SPD Action & Policy
3. Police Capacity & Call Prioritization
4. Communication / SPD Public Relations (PR)
5. Fear of Crime

The North Precinct "Top Themes" section displays the top five recurring themes that were identified in all three of the 2022 dialogues conducted in the North Precinct. These themes include more specific subsets of the larger categories represented on the more general citywide scale. The top 5 themes represented here include City Politics, Education of SPD Action & Policy, Police Capacity & Call Prioritization, Communication (SPD PR), and Fear of Crime.

City Politics is a subset of the larger Political theme which accounts for the dialogue topics of Seattle City Council, Voting, and City Policy.

Education of SPD Action & Policy refers to a subset of the larger theme of Education of SPD and indicates that the dialogues in the North Precinct included discussions surrounding what SPD does and what the role of departmental policy may be in these actions.

Police Capacity & Call Prioritization is a subset of the larger Police Capacity theme and includes discussions surrounding the ways that calls for service are categorized and the order that they are addressed. This subtopic also addresses the dialogue participants' discourse regarding SPD's capacity to respond to calls and provide services.

SPD Public Relations (PR) is associated with the overarching theme of Communication and incorporates discussions of formal police communication in these dialogues. Formal police communication, or PR, includes departmental information sharing through news, social media presence and use, and other media formats (ex. SPD Blotter).

Fear of Crime includes references to states of fear of victimization or for one's own safety (there were no subcategories of this item that were frequent enough to differentiate between in the present data).

The themes identified within the North Precinct dialogue materials largely align with the themes of Seattle on the Citywide level. The key difference between the North Precinct and Citywide themes is the presence and prominence of Politics, which appears at the top of the North Precinct themes but is not present on the Citywide top theme list.

### Dialogue Specific Themes

North Dialogue 1 – May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Top Dialogue Specific Themes
1. City Politics
2. Police Capacity (Call prioritization & response, specifically)
3. Education (About SPD, SPD policies, 911, and general knowledge)
4. Non-Police/City Social Services
5. Fear of Crime

*“There are a lot of opposing thoughts - some think we are too big, and some think we should respond to fears of crime” (SPD)*

*“Tell the electors if you want us to deal with serious crime, fear of crime, or other community issues” (SPD)*

*“We have a police department that is underfunded but I don’t think that there’s a political will to address those issues” (CM)*

*“Hearing ‘this is how it is,’ ‘these are just big city problems,’ and ‘we wish we had a bigger budget’ is*

*“We are now just responding to level 1 and 2 calls by priority until laws and policy change - we stay in our lane” (SPD)*

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Communication (Informally between community & police)
2. Informal Social Control (Community-police collaboration)
3. Communication (SPD outreach, PR, & info sharing)
4. Police Capacity (Budget & lack of staffing, specifically)
5. Education (About CPC & CSO)

*“I'd like to think the crime prevention [officers'] goal is to help you not have to call police. But I'm a realist ... We can't prevent all crime, but we want to prevent some of it.” (SPD)*

*“I don't know what to do for my community anymore.” (CM)*

*“I am not interested in talking to any policeman, I want my [neighborhood] policemen, not any officer. I want to know about my local police.*

*Make the overture to do community work. We want to talk with the person who would respond to calls.” (CM)*

*“The SPD is down in terms of employees – anyone with logic can see human resources are being stretched thin. We need new recruitment tactics.” (CM)*

*“I'm frustrated – I would love to work with neighborhoods and build those relationships again, but the ability to do that is not a reality right now.” (SPD)*

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Fear of Crime
2. Education (About SPD, SPD policies, 911, and general knowledge)
3. City Politics
4. Police Legitimacy (Negative or questioned)
5. **TIE** - Non-Police/City Social Services (1) & Police Capacity (Call prioritization & response, specifically) (2)

***“People no longer feel safe... So, what can be done?” (CM)***

***“The statistics look interesting, but who is listening? What can police do? What can we do?” (CM)***

***“We would love alternatives to work...  
The reality is [that] police are the only ones who can respond to some situations because of the law.” (SPD)***

***“I’m not going to be a f\*\*\*\*\* prisoner to the fear and the criminals.” (CM)***

***“I think a lot about my personal safety, and I wish that I just didn’t have to do that so much.” (CM)***

***“The squeaky wheel gets the grease...  
The more things are reported, the more resources can be allocated, and more focus can be placed.” (SPD)***

## Reimagining Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

How can police and community work together to address public safety concerns?

### Top Ideas Surrounding Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

1. Formal and Informal Information Sharing (ex. On the street & in dialogues)
2. Involvement in & Awareness of City Politics
3. Reaching out (Citizens call 911 & attend events; Police offer opportunities for involvement & engage with community members)
4. Discussions of the Police Role & Alternatives
5. Acknowledgement of Community Levels of Fear

***"I really think it's the police's responsibility to make the outreach." (CM)***

***"Having this sort of information helps us in the community understand the situation and what questions we should ask our city council members to make changes to be more realistic" (CM)***

***"People have wanted to have a place for alternative responses, but it has not done anything - Police became the wrong tool for those situations." (SPD)***

***"We have a lot of drug activity, and like others, I am scared to walk about my street." (CM)***

***"[I am] frustrated with the grandstanding about alternatives. It has not translated into something people can use." (CM)***

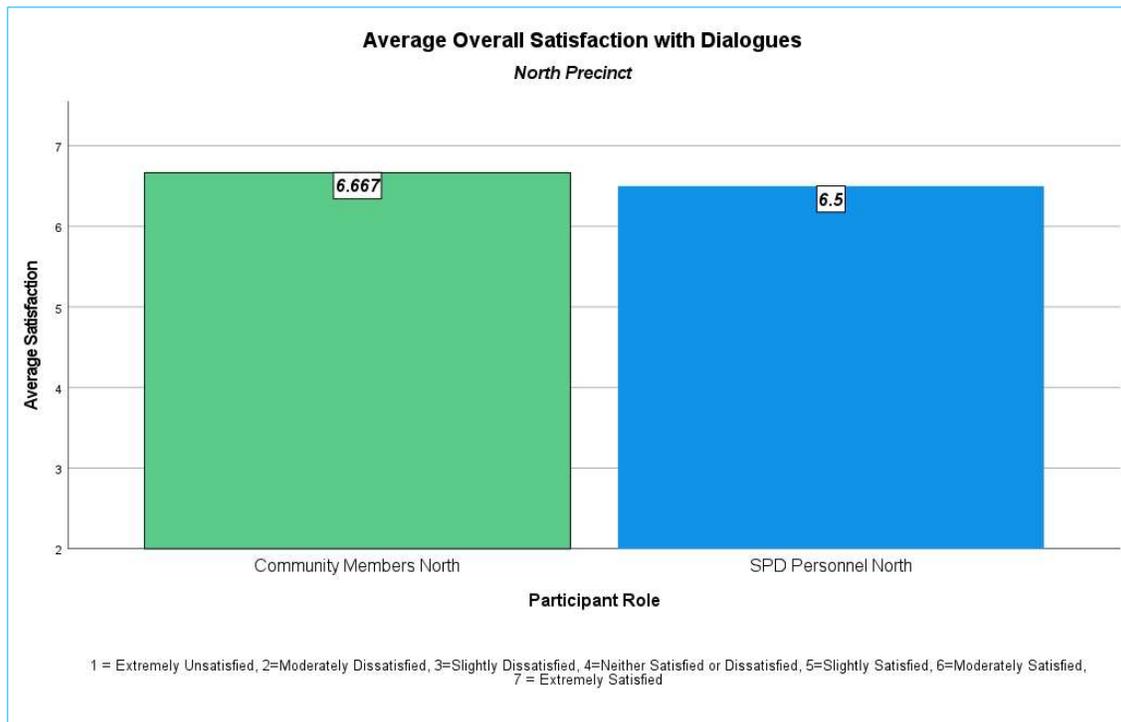
***"The more you report, the more we know the issues in the neighborhoods, the more we know to push patrols or resources to the neighborhoods." (SPD)***

## Post-Survey Feedback

### Satisfaction

Of respondents in the North Precinct who took the post-dialogue survey and answered the relevant questions ( $n=8$ ), 75% reported that they gained what they had hoped (62.5% “definitely yes,” 12.5% “probably yes”) and 88.9% reported that they felt safe discussing their experiences in their respective dialogue (77.8% “definitely yes,” 11.1% “probably yes”;  $n=9$ ). One respondent (11.1% of all North respondents) reported that they “probably did not” feel safe discussing their experience in the dialogue context. The majority (90.9%,  $n=11$ ) of North Precinct post-dialogue survey respondents reported that they had read the results of the 2021 Public Safety Survey. All of the participants indicated that “definitely yes” they would like to participate in future dialogues.

Responses to the post-dialogue feedback survey for the North Precinct show that participants were satisfied with their experience in the dialogue session. On a Likert scale ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied) to 7 (extremely satisfied), participants were satisfied with the dialogues in terms of session’s Length, Agenda, Participants, Technology, and Facilitation with an average rating for all participants (community members and police personnel combined) of 6.63 ( $SD=0.39$ ) with community participants rating their satisfaction slightly higher ( $M=6.7$ ,  $SD=0.45$ ) than did police personnel participants ( $M=6.5$ ,  $SD=0.14$ ).



## Desired Outcomes

Regarding the open-ended question asking what participants had hoped to gain from the dialogue, all but 1 of the 11 responses from those in the North precinct mentioned hearing others' opinions and listening, gaining or sharing information, and establishing a better understanding of others and the community. This result is supported by the reported top dialogue-specific themes, all of which include either the 'education' item or some form of the 'communication' item, indicating that the residents within the North precinct are consistently interested in building relationships, understanding their community, and learning from others in these sessions.

## South Precinct

### Crime and Public Safety Concerns

#### Participants

<b>Dialogue Dates</b>	<b>Community Members N= 15</b>	<b>Seattle Police Personnel N= 36</b>
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2022	n= 6	n= 6
July 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 4	n= 16
August 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 5	n= 14

#### Themes

<b>Top Themes from 2022 South Dialogues</b>
1. Community-police collaborations in public safety
2. Diversity outreach (MCPD)
3. Crime Reporting
4. Community police-engagement
5. Staffing & Recruitment

The South Precinct "Top Themes" section displays the top five recurring themes that were identified in all three of the 2022 dialogues conducted in the South Precinct. These themes include more specific subsets of the larger categories represented on the more general citywide scale. The top 5 themes represented here include Community-Police Collaborations for Public Safety, MCPD Methodology (Diversity of Participants), Crime Reporting, Community-Police Engagement, and Staffing & Recruitment.

Community-Police Collaborations for public safety is a subcategory of the (+) Informal Social Control theme and includes discussion topics such as community efforts to be involved in public safety and a willingness or desire to work collaboratively with SPD. These collaborative efforts include Block Watches, Neighborhood Councils, and participation in Advisory Councils (notably, the SPAC in the South Precinct).

MCPD Methodology is a subtheme of the MCPD theme category and specifically refers to the diversity of dialogue participants as a result of the MCPD research team's outreach efforts.<sup>8</sup> This theme was also reflected in the Post-Dialogue Survey qualitative response of participants that would like the MCPD dialogue meetings to resemble the diversity of Seattle's community members more accurately.

Crime Reporting is included as a subcategory of the (+) Informal Social Control theme, specifically in regard to the community's involvement in public safety through formally reporting criminal and public safety concerns.<sup>9</sup>

Community-Police Engagement as a subtheme represents the relational components of the larger Communication theme and addresses dialogue discussions of perceptions of broken Community-Police Relationships and efforts to improve these relationships.

Staffing and Recruitment is a subset of the larger Police Capacity theme and includes discussions surrounding SPD's capacity to address community concerns specifically in relation to their recruitment and training efforts.

The South Precinct-specific top themes are much more nuanced than the overarching Citywide top themes and also highlight the South Precinct dialogue participants' desire to enhance their neighborhood's Collective Efficacy. The citywide themes of Communication and Police Capacity are represented in the South Precinct, particularly in relation to improving the current Community-Police Relationship and the Staffing, Recruitment, and Training efforts of the Seattle Police Department.

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<sup>8</sup> The methodology of the MCPD's outreach can be found in the Outreach and Participants sections of this report.

<sup>9</sup> Informal Social Control (Involvement in Public Safety through crime reporting) is distinct from Police Education (9-1-1 and crime reporting) as the Education theme refers to the sharing of information about when and why to call 9-1-1 and how 9-1-1 operates, while Informal Social Control refers to the community desire to be involved through reporting social and criminal disorder in their neighborhoods as a function of collective efficacy.

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. General/improving police legitimacy
2. Diversity outreach (MCPD)
3. Community-police collaborations for public safety
4. Use of MCPD data (dialogues/SPSS)
5. Poor perceptions of police legitimacy

*“It is concerning that SPD has officers [that] are allowing for things to happen in a bad way.*

*It is really difficult for me to be here, but I want to be present within this story.” (CM)*

*“If we don’t change how young folks see the police, then the impressions they have now are going to have a lasting impact.”*  
(CM)

*“We have always been trying to increase trust but then something happens and sets us back.” (SPD)*

*“No one hates a bad cop more than a good cop” (SPD)*

*“Trust is a bidirectional phenomenon, for the community to have trust in the police and the police need to have trust in the community.” (CM)*

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Community-police collaborations
2. Community-police engagement
3. Staffing and recruitment
4. General/improving police legitimacy
5. Promotion of community/SPD events

*“If you have the time, coming out into the community in your day off in some regular clothes and engaging, being out and present with people just to learn – that might be a great way to engage.” (CM)*

*“The reality is we are so tapped out we can't get out there and build that trust” (SPD)*

*“[To] change people's perceptions [I] let them see who I am – [I] get out and talk. Bring that energy and positive attitude” (SPD)*

*“Back then police used to be very involved with the community and I haven't been seeing that, [I want] to see more involvement.” (CM)*

*“It's important to note that we love it here, we do engage with our neighbors and with the community, we like it because it is very welcoming, and I'm just hoping the new officers realize that.” (CM)*

*“I saw an opportunity for the police to build a better relationship with the community and I wanted to be involved in that.” (SPD Recruit)*

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Community-police collaborations in public safety
2. Reporting crime
3. Diversity outreach (MCPD)
4. Crime – traffic
5. Before the Badge program

*“There is always something that we can do. We can't always do exactly what someone wants, but we can try to do something.” (SPD)*

*“If SPD says ‘no’ when citizens want to be involved, then they have very little room to complain when community members are not involved enough at other times.” (CM)*

*“When I hear the ones I am entrusting say things like ‘I don't know when it will get better,’ that is not comforting.*

*I'm going to challenge that...give us some leadership beyond just voting or carrying a gun. Help us help you.” (CM)*

*“[An] idea [is] to have internet access at community events so that people can sign up or take the survey at these events” (SPD)*

*“[It is a] myth that you can only call 911 when you're dead or dying – If it is an emergency to you then you should be calling 911 – If it is concerning to you, you should call 911.” (SPD)*

## Reimagining Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

How can police and community work together to address public safety concerns?

### Top Ideas Surrounding Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

1. Get involved in community groups (i.e., block watch)
2. Report crime online or through 911
3. Attend Precinct Advisory Council meetings
4. Be involved in discussions like these [MCPP dialogues]
5. Vote for those who reflect your values

*"The perception is that calling [9-1-1] is useless" (CM)*

*"If you don't tell us, we don't know, and if you don't call us, we [can't come]." (SPD)*

*"I am passionate that we can fix this, we just need to put our heads together" (CM)*

*"One of the first things that you can do is be involved in conversations like this, especially one that has higher command staff here.*

*It is important for us to hear your stories and be able to translate them into upper management." (SPD)*

*"What if we had a way to mix people from the police and people from the community - a project that engages artists in reimagining public safety in a public way." (CM)*

*"[An] idea [is] to have internet access at community events so that people can sign up or take the survey at these events." (SPD)*

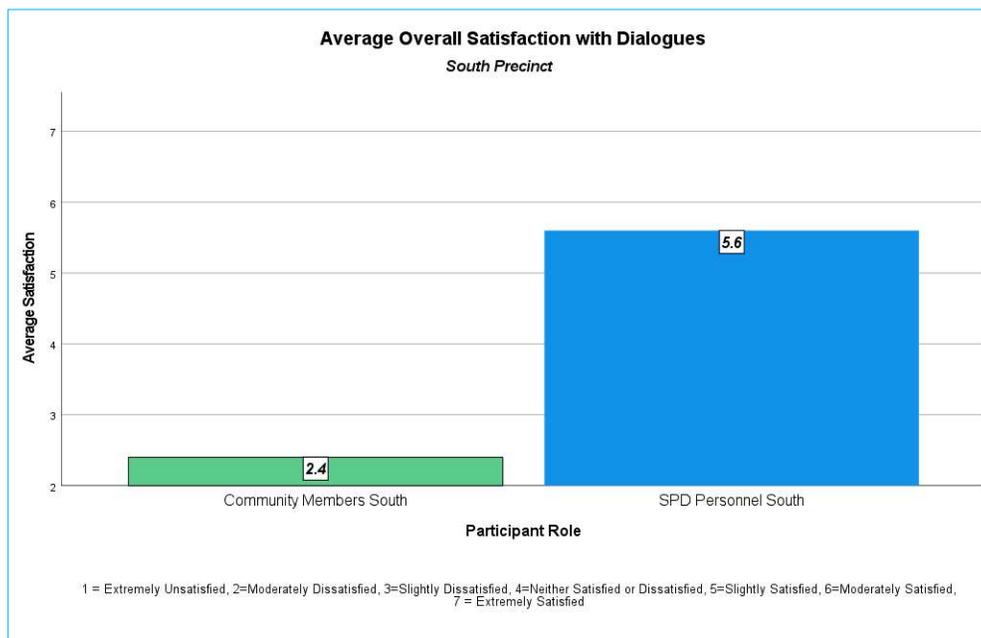
*"Get involved in the South Precinct Advisory Council, Block Watch, get to know neighbors, and go to National Night Out." (SPD)*

## Post-Survey Feedback

### Satisfaction

of respondents in the South Precinct that took the post-dialogue survey and answered the relevant questions ( $n=3$ ), no respondents reported that they gained what they had hoped (33.3% “definitely not,” 66.7% “probably not”), but 100% reported that they felt safe discussing their experiences in their respective dialogue (100% “definitely yes”). All (100%) of South Precinct post-dialogue survey respondents reported that they had read the results of the 2021 Public Safety Survey ( $n=4$ ; 75% “definitely yes,” 25% “probably yes”). Half of the South Precinct dialogue respondents ( $n=4$ ) (50% “definitely yes,” 25% “probably not,” 25% “definitely not”).

Responses to the post-dialogue feedback survey for the South Precinct show that the responding Community and Police participants in the South precinct were less satisfied with the experience overall than any other reporting precinct. On a Likert scale ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied) to 7 (extremely satisfied), participants were satisfied with the dialogues in terms of session’s Length, Agenda, Participants, Technology, and Facilitation with an average rating for all participants (community members and police personnel combined) with police participants rating their satisfaction higher ( $M=5.6$ , than did community participants ( $M=2.4$ ). However, the findings here are limited because only 1 participant from each role completed the survey items that inform the average Overall Satisfaction value.



## Desired Outcomes

Regarding the open-ended question asking what participants had hoped to gain from the dialogue, the survey received only 4 responses from the South Precinct participants. These written responses reported that respondents had hoped to discuss police and community cooperation, concerns about police legitimacy, and community perspectives of police and police services, in general.

Additionally, one community member reported very specific desired outcomes of the dialogue that were not met for this participant due to numerous concerns regarding a wide range of perceived issues on the part of SPD, the MCPP research team, and larger social matters.

These concerns were about community participation, dialogue facilitation, a lack of patrol officers in attendance, community policing, the usefulness of this research project, and resource allocation in SPD.

## Southwest Precinct

### Crime and Public Safety Concerns

#### Participants

<b>Dialogue Dates</b>	<b>Community Members N= 25</b>	<b>Seattle Police Personnel N= 32</b>
June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 7	n= 13
July 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 11	n= 11
August 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 7	n= 8

#### Themes

<b>Top Themes from 2022 Southwest Dialogues</b>
1. Crime - traffic
2. Community-police collaborations for public safety
3. Staffing and recruitment
4. Community-police engagement
5. Crime Reporting

The Southwest Precinct's "Top Themes" section displays the top five recurring themes that were identified in all three of the 2022 dialogues conducted in the Southwest Precinct. These themes include more specific subsets of the larger categories represented on the more general citywide scale. The top 5 themes represented here include Crime (Traffic), Community-Police Collaborations for Public Safety, Staffing and Recruitment, Community-Police Engagement, and Crime Reporting.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Please refer to the Theme Category table and Theme Coding section for more detailed information on these items.

Traffic Crime is incorporated in the larger overarching theme category of Crime and refers to traffic infractions and crimes that impact the community by posing enhanced threats to public safety or a disturbance to the public. These crimes include speeding, racing, vehicular assault, reckless endangerment, and so on.

Community-Police Collaborations for Public Safety is a subcategory of the (+) Informal Social Control theme and includes discussion topics such as community efforts to be involved in public safety and a willingness or desire to work collaboratively with SPD. These collaborative efforts include Block Watches, Neighborhood Councils, and participation in Advisory Councils.

Staffing and Recruitment is a subset of the larger Police Capacity theme and includes discussions surrounding SPD's capacity to address community concerns specifically in relation to their recruitment and training efforts.

Community-Police Engagement as a subtheme represents the relational components of the larger Communication theme and addresses dialogue discussions of perceptions of broken Community-Police Relationships and efforts to improve these relationships.

Crime Reporting is included as a subcategory of the (+) Informal Social Control theme, specifically in regard to the community's involvement in public safety through formally reporting criminal and public safety concerns.

The Southwest Precinct-specific top themes are similar to those of the South Precinct and are also much more nuanced than are the overarching Citywide top themes. However, the themes identified in the Southwest Precinct dialogues are largely accounted for in the Citywide themes, as the more general themes of Crime, Communication, and Police Capacity are represented in the most prominent subject matter of the Southwest participants' discussions.

Dialogue Specific Themes  
Southwest Dialogue 1 – June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Police accountability
2. BTB program
3. Community-police engagement
4. Poor perceptions of police legitimacy
5. 2020 protests

*“The police have been good partners [with solving our issues and concerns], as have city council, but everybody has a part in this.” (CM)*

*“When you [delegitimize] police from the get-go, how do we get anywhere?” (SPD)*

*“In my mind, [I] can’t compare officers who are armed with peaceful protestors...escalation ...I don’t want anyone to get hurt...There was never accountability.” (CM)*

*“All we're doing is understanding that people are human. Coming into this as a Black man from Lakewood, WA, I want to be a part of the solution. I feel I have the skills and can create a better place.” (SPD)*

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Crime - traffic
2. Community-police engagement
3. Community-police collaborations for public safety
4. City council
5. Staffing and recruitment

***“Most of us are saying we want to see more police - that has more payoff than surveillance. It builds relationships.” (CM)***

***“We work here, live here, play here, and we want to be involved with the community as much as anyone else.” (SPD)***

***“I have faith in Seattle, I have faith in this community, I have faith that we are going to rebuild this police department.” (SPD)***

***“Our neighbors want to know why police don’t police [the] speed limit – it’s a tragedy waiting to happen.” (CM)***

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Crime - traffic
2. Community-police collaboration for public safety
3. Staffing and recruitment
4. Reporting crime
5. City council

***"I'm just at a loss and don't want to live like this anymore." (CM)***

***"The tide is changing as people realize that they don't have a free pass to commit crime." (SPD)***

***"We don't take a political position...but we are in a perfect storm...We never police our way out of everything." (SPD)***

***"We have grandchildren, and they can't use the playground because people are viciously speeding for fun [in the area]." (CM)***

***"[Discussing Hit & Runs] These aren't just headlines for us - they are very traumatic events that keep us up at night." (CM)***

## Reimagining Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

How can police and community work together to address public safety concerns?

### Top Ideas Surrounding Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

1. Get involved in community groups (i.e., block watch)
2. Report crime online or through 911
3. Attend precinct advisory council meetings
4. Invite police to community events
5. Get to know each other and share safety concerns personally

*"I would like to see police go to community events where community members feel comfortable and safe. We want you to interact with people and meet them where they are at." (CM)*

*"Community involvement is important – also demographic groups – you can help spread the word to get more people involved." (SPD)*

*"If you want to see change you have to assist or support the change in order for this to happen." (SPD)*

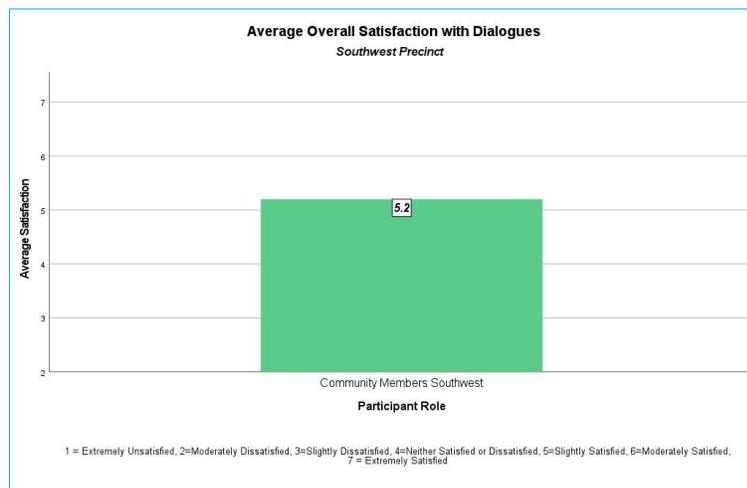
*"Getting involved through a block watch is a great way to address safety concerns in your own neighborhood." (SPD)*

## Post-Survey Feedback

### Satisfaction

Of respondents in the Southwest Precinct that took the post-dialogue survey and answered the relevant questions ( $n=6$ ), 16.7% reported that they gained what they had hoped (16.7% “probably yes;”). 50% indicated that they “might or might not” have gained what they hoped, and 33.4% reported that they did not gain what they had hoped from the dialogue (16.7% “probably not,” 16.7% “definitely not”). Half reported that they felt safe discussing their experiences in their respective dialogue (16.7% “definitely yes,” 33.3% “probably yes”). The remaining Southwest respondents reported that they did not feel safe discussing their experience in the dialogue context (16.7% “probably not,” 33.3% “definitely not”). The majority (83.3%) of Southwest Precinct post-dialogue survey respondents reported that they had read the results of the 2021 Public Safety Survey ( $n=6$ ; 83.3% “definitely yes,” 16.7% “probably not”). All of the Southwest Precinct dialogue respondents ( $n=6$ ) indicated that they would like to participate in a future dialogue (66.7% “definitely yes,” 33.3% “probably yes”).

Responses to the post-dialogue feedback survey for the Southwest Precinct show that community participants were satisfied with the experience. On a Likert scale ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied) to 7 (extremely satisfied), participants were satisfied with the dialogues in terms of session’s Length, Agenda, Participants, Technology, and Facilitation with an average rating for community participants of ( $M=5.2$ ,  $SD=1.49$ ). However, the findings here are limited because no police personnel participated in the post-dialogue survey following any of the Southwest dialogues and responded to all 5 of the survey items that inform the average Overall Satisfaction value. This is a limitation of this measure and will be addressed in subsequent surveys.



### Desired Outcomes

In response to the open-ended question asking what participants had hoped to gain from the dialogue, the respondents from the Southwest Precinct addressed both specific and general goals for their meetings. These included increasing community-police cooperation, the role of accountability in community dialogues, long-term and

future problem-solving strategies, and how SPD plans to overcome resource reductions to improve community security.

Additionally, neighborhood safety concerns were noted by multiple respondents in comments regarding unspecified urgent safety issues and the shared feeling of being unsafe among one participant's neighbors.

## West Precinct

### Crime and Public Safety Concerns

#### Participants

Dialogue Dates	Community Members N= 23	Seattle Police Personnel N= 39
June 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 7	n= 6
July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2022	n= 7	n= 16
August 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	n= 9	n= 17

#### Themes

Top Themes from 2022 West Dialogues
1. Police Staffing
2. Public Order Crime
3. 9-1-1 Specific Education
4. SPD Public Relations (PR)
5. Community-Police Collaborations for Public Safety

The West Precinct's "Top Themes" section displays the top five recurring themes that were identified in all three of the 2022 dialogues conducted in the West Precinct. These themes include more specific subsets of the larger categories represented on the more general citywide scale. The top 5 themes represented here include Police Staffing, Public Order Crime, 9-1-1 Specific Education, SPD Public Relations (PR), and Community-Police Collaborations for Public Safety.

Police Staffing is a subset of the larger Police Capacity theme and includes discussions surrounding a Lack or Loss of Staffing in the Seattle Police Department, Recruitment, Training, and the Before the Badge training initiative.

Public Order Crime is a subtheme of Crime that encompasses dialogue discussions of drugs, threats, and prostitution within the community. These offenses may disrupt a neighborhood, create social disorder and fear, and are often associated with other criminal or antisocial behaviors.

9-1-1 Specific Education as a theme is included in the larger category of Education of SPD and refers to instances where Community Members inquired and were informed by SPD personnel about 9-1-1 operations. Topics within this subtheme include education

about when and why one should call 9-1-1, how the service is provided and operated, and the use of call data in SPD functions.

SPD Public Relations (PR) are included in the larger theme of Communication and indicate the frequency of dialogue discussions of formal police communication. Formal police communication, or PR, includes departmental information sharing through news, social media presence and use, and other media formats (ex. SPD Blotter). Discussions of this theme included the format as well as the content of this form of communication with the public.

Community-Police Collaborations for Public Safety is a subcategory of the (+) Informal Social Control theme and includes discussion topics such as community efforts to be involved in public safety and a willingness or desire to work collaboratively with SPD. These collaborative efforts include Block Watches, Neighborhood Councils, and participation in Advisory Councils.

The West Precinct-specific top themes are similar to those identified at the Citywide level. For instance, Communication is represented specifically in regard to formal police communication (PR), Police Capacity is represented as a theme through discussions of Police Staffing, Crime is discussed prominently in West Precinct discussions through their Public Order manifestations, and Education of SPD is represented specifically in regard to 9-1-1 related Education. The West Precinct's top themes differ from Citywide, however, through the appearance of the Community-Police Collaboration theme, a component of Informal Social Control, replacing Fear of Crime as a top discussion theme.

## Dialogue Specific Themes

West Dialogue 1 – June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Top Dialogue Specific Themes

1. 9-1-1 Specific Education
2. Fear of Crime
3. Police Staffing
4. Public Order crime
5. Community Participation in Public Safety

*“Calling 911 can help to reform our department to determine alternate responses to calls.” (SPD)*

***“Are there other things that community members can be doing?”***

***How can I contribute to the positive as opposed to just complaining?” (CM)***

***“It is important that people overcome fear and visit the businesses to revitalize. Do what you are comfortable with.” (SPD)***

***“Join Neighborhood watch, grassroots community organizations, make a special effort to reach out to people where police are being called – they may need extra support to be part of the conversation.” (SPD)***

***“[We] need to get cops in cars downtown and be present for deterrence... People avoid downtown and particularly at night.” (CM)***

***“I would encourage folks to continue to call and report anyway, even if the response is not what you might want – they do get counted.” (SPD)***

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Police Staffing
2. Before the Badge Program
3. Public Order Crime
4. Fear of Crime
5. Policy

***“[The] problem is the disconnect between the issues that happened in 2020 and defunding the police and the horrors that happened in the marginalized community.” (CM)***

***“We have minimum staffing levels... [we] are in a staffing crisis across the board.” (SPD)***

***“Every time we have interactions with the public there will be positive and negative interactions. We are trying to increase positive interactions.” (SPD on BTB program)***

***“[I] Had no idea about this program (BTB) and think it is wonderful for all sides.***

***There are many unconscious biases, and we have to help the new recruits practice empathy.”***

***(CM on BTB program)***

***“Another issue is police contracts and what they allow, what they do not allow, and how the community is involved in the process.” (CM)***

**Top Dialogue Specific Themes**

1. Police PR
2. Fear of Crime
3. Education or General Knowledge about the Police
4. Community-Police Communication
5. Police Staffing

*“Criminals already know that we are short staffed, they know the limits.” (SPD)*

*“We have individuals who do have a fear and do have a real-life trauma.*

*Not because they've heard it, but because they've experienced it...*

*And they're not feeling safe right now.” (CM)*

*“When people feel they can walk around the city and can do whatever they want to do, it snowballs over time.” (CM)*

*“There is a unique line of not sharing too much so that it is not negative but [enough] so the community knows what is being done.” (SPD)*

*“[Staying in touch is] the value of this and it's a missed opportunity if we don't continue that dialogue.” (CM)*

## Reimagining Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

How can police and community work together to address public safety concerns?

### Top Ideas Surrounding Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement

1. Improve confidence and utilization of 9-1-1 services
2. Attend personal safety classes and receive safety evaluations of homes and businesses
3. Informal relationship building through interaction & recognition of shared goals
4. Community and police work toward improved recruitment and training efforts
5. Civic engagement and open discussions of policy consequences

***“The BTB program sounds fantastic, [I] hope that this gets the funding that it needs.” (CM)***

***“Police work for mayor and the mayor works for the people... You have got to educate yourself and vote.” (SPD)***

***“I’m going to take what you said to heart and call 911 more often.” (CM)***

***“Talk to the manager of your building, start a Block Watch, join Westpac, look to find out who is responsible in the city, build connections. There is a lot of power in the individual and the collective.” (SPD)***

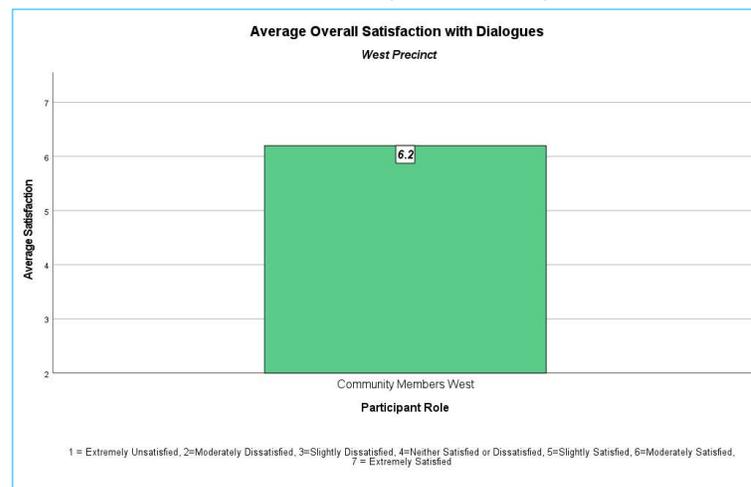
***“We want to make it a priority to meet with people and get to know them, not just when there are emergencies.” (SPD)***

## Post-Survey Feedback

### Satisfaction

Of respondents in the West Precinct that took the post-dialogue survey and answered the relevant questions ( $n=5$ ), 40% reported that they gained what they had hoped (40% “probably yes”). However, 40% of respondents reported that they “may or may not” have gained what they had hoped, and 20% reported that they “probably did not.” Most (60%) reported that they felt safe discussing their experiences in their respective dialogue (40% “definitely yes,” 20% “probably yes”). Consequently, 20% reported that they “may or may not” have felt safe and the remaining 20% indicated that they ‘probably did not’ feel safe discussing their experience in the dialogue context. The majority (60%) of West Precinct post-dialogue survey respondents reported that they had read the results of the 2021 Public Safety Survey ( $n=5$ ). The remaining 40% indicated that they ‘may or may not’ have read the results of the 2021 survey. Most (80%) of the participants of the West Precinct dialogues ( $n=5$ ) indicated that they would probably be interested in attending another dialogue, and 20% indicated that they “may or may not” be interested.

Responses to the post-dialogue feedback survey for the West Precinct show that community participants were satisfied with the experience. On a Likert scale ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied) to 7 (extremely satisfied), participants were satisfied with the dialogues in terms of session’s Length, Agenda, Participants, Technology, and Facilitation with an average rating for community participants of ( $M=6.2$ ,  $SD=0.60$ ). However, the findings here are limited because no police personnel participated in the post-dialogue survey following any of the Southwest dialogues and responded to all 5 of the survey items that inform the average Overall Satisfaction value. This is a limitation of this measure and will be addressed in subsequent surveys.



### Desired Outcomes

Regarding the open-ended question asking what West Precinct participants had hoped to gain from the dialogue, the 5 valid responses included a desire for information about finding resources, methods for reporting safety concerns, and enhancing their understanding of the perspectives of both community members and police personnel.

## Concluding Comments

Results from the 2022 MCPP Community-Police Dialogues show that the community members and police representatives who participated in the dialogues were satisfied with the experience and interested in participating in additional dialogues to continue the conversations.

The themes identified citywide and in the five Seattle Police Precincts from the 15 dialogues conducted in 2022 offer information reflecting real-time community concerns at the precinct and micro-community (neighborhood) levels to supplement the findings from the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey and show the nature of the conversation between community members and police that reflects police-community engagement at the citywide and at the precinct and neighborhood levels.

The MCPP Community-Police Dialogues offer opportunity for community members and police to discuss findings from the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey, to exchange information, and build ongoing relationships.

We give a special thanks to the community and police participants who participated in the dialogues.

## Appendix A – 2022 Community-Police Participant Flyers

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS!**  
Virtual Community-Police Dialogues

Seattle University collaborates with the Seattle Police Department to conduct the annual *Seattle Public Safety Survey* as part of the [Micro-Community Policing Plans \(MCPP\)](#). As part of the MCPP, Seattle University will be holding a series of virtual community-police dialogues. The purpose of the dialogues is to provide community members and Seattle Police personnel opportunity to engage in conversation about the findings of the 2021 Seattle Public Safety Survey and to discuss real-time concerns about crime and public safety at the precinct and micro-community (neighborhood) level.

**All who live and/or work in Seattle are eligible to participate in the virtual community-police dialogues.** There will be three community-police dialogues held in each of the five police precincts - East, North, South, Southwest, and West (a total of 15 dialogues) on designated Thursday Nights 5:30-7:30pm via Zoom video conferencing from May 19 - August 25, 2022.

**If you live and/or work in Seattle and are interested in participating on one of the upcoming community-police dialogues, go to [PUBLICSAFETYSURVEY.ORG](https://PUBLICSAFETYSURVEY.ORG)**

For questions, contact:  
Dr. Jacqueline B. Helfgott, Director Seattle University Crime & Justice Research Center  
Email: [jhelfgott@seattleu.edu](mailto:jhelfgott@seattleu.edu) Phone: (206) 295-5477

**SEATTLEU**  
CRIME & JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTER

(Community Member)

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS!**  
Virtual Community-Police Dialogues

Seattle University collaborates with the Seattle Police Department to conduct the annual *Seattle Public Safety Survey* as part of the [Micro-Community Policing Plans \(MCPP\)](#). As part of the MCPP, Seattle University will be holding a series of virtual community-police dialogues. The purpose of the dialogues is to provide community members and Seattle Police personnel opportunity to engage in conversation about the findings of the 2021 Seattle Public Safety Survey and to discuss real-time concerns about crime and public safety at the precinct and micro-community (neighborhood) level.

**Seattle Police personnel from all ranks from each of the SPD precincts are needed for the virtual community-police dialogues.** There will be three community-police dialogues held in each of the five police precincts - East, North, South, Southwest, and West (a total of 15 dialogues) on designated Thursday Nights 5:30-7:30pm via Zoom video conferencing from May 19 - August 25, 2022.

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**SEATTLEU**  
CRIME & JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTER

(Police Personnel)

## Appendix B – Community-Police Dialogue Agenda



### SPD MICRO-COMMUNITY POLICING PLANS COMMUNITY-POLICE DIALOGUES

#### GROUND RULES

- (1) **Help create a safe space** – Use “I” rather than “you” statements, avoid name calling, Allow others to express their thoughts and feelings in the spirit of open dialogue, keeping in mind that there are no “right” or “wrong” feelings .
- (2) **Make space for others to speak** – Avoid crosstalk, interruptions, and try not to dominate the conversation.
- (3) **Maintain confidentiality/privacy** - Do not give personal details about yourself that do not have relevance to the seminar discussions; respect the level of disclosure each participant chooses to maintain; respect the privacy of group members - do not screenshot or take a video of the session.
- (4) **Commitment** -- Please commit to participating in the entire session. However, if at any point you feel uncomfortable, feel free to leave the meeting.

*Please note: Facilitators reserve the right to mute or remove participants on a case-by-case basis if ground rules are violated during the session in ways that obstruct the dialogue.*

#### PURPOSE

To reach a shared understanding about how community members and police can work together to address public safety concerns and complex issues in community-police engagement. The dialogues will offer opportunity to discuss top concerns and themes raised in the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey Report and to have a conversation about the findings at the precinct and micro-community (neighborhood) level. The dialogue framework is collaborative and restorative. Participants are invited to think in terms of how they perceive each other, how community members and police can constructively work together to increase public safety with focus on three aspects of their experience with each other:

- (1) **Circumstances** (*What circumstances have contributed to community understanding of police and police understanding of community members?*)
- (2) **Harms** (*How has crime and public safety personally impacted you? Are there public-safety related harms that you have experienced that contribute to your understanding of police/community?*)
- (3) **Needs** (*What do participants need to repair public safety-related harms they have experienced to better understand each other's experience?*)

Participants are encouraged to think about and to discuss how public safety can be increased and harms associated with collateral consequences of public safety strategies repaired. Discussion/questions/comments will directly focus on the following themes:

- **Responsibility/Accountability** (*Whose responsibility is public safety?*)
- **Restoration/Reparation/Reconstruction** (*How can public safety-related harms be repaired, and trust restored?*)
- **Participation** (*How can community members and police work together to take concrete action to improve public safety?*)
- **Rethinking** (*How can community-police engagement and interactions be reimagined?*)

#### AGENDA

**5:30-5:45pm:** Introduction– Purpose of the dialogue - To provide the opportunity to discuss top concerns and themes raised in the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey Results and to provide opportunity for open dialogue between community members and police around issues of top concern related to public safety and quality of life at the precinct and micro-community level.

**5:45-6:15pm:** Expectations and Focus of Dialogue – What topic is at the forefront of what you would like to discuss – What is the #1 thing you hope to accomplish/concern you would like to address? What would you like to see happen in this conversation to consider it a success?

**6:15-7:15pm:** Public Safety and Police-Community Engagement – Based on the findings of the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey, how can community members and police work together in concrete ways to increase public safety and neighborhood quality of life for all members of the community?

**7:15-7:30pm:** Wrap-up discussion – What topics were addressed/unaddressed for you during the dialogue?

## Appendix C – Average Overall Satisfaction by Precinct Values

<b>2022 Post-Dialogue Survey Satisfaction by Role &amp; Precinct</b>				
Total Satisfaction				
<b>Participant Role</b>	<b>What Precinct dialogue did you participate in?</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
<b>SPD Personnel</b>	East	6.23	7	.509
	North	6.50	2	.141
	South	5.60	1	.
	<b>Total</b>	6.22	10	.485
<b>Community Member</b>	East	6.60	4	.365
	North	6.67	6	.450
	South	2.40	1	.
	Southwest	5.20	6	1.486
	West	6.20	3	.600
	<b>Total</b>	5.93	20	1.340
<b>Total</b>	East	6.36	11	.480
	North	6.63	8	.392
	South	4.00	2	2.263
	Southwest	5.20	6	1.486
	West	6.20	3	.600
	<b>Total</b>	6.03	30	1.126

## Appendix D – Dialogue Presentation Materials

### Seattle Public Safety Survey Results 2021- *Citywide Concerns*



### Seattle Public Safety Survey Results 2021 - *Precinct Concerns*

Seattle – Citywide (2021 N=9132)		Seattle – East Precinct (2021 N=1826)	
<b>2021 Top Public Safety Concerns</b>	<b>2021 Most Prominent Themes in Narrative Comments</b>	<b>2021 Top Public Safety Concerns</b>	<b>2021 Most Prominent Themes in Narrative Comments</b>
1 – Police Capacity	1 – Property Crime	1 – Police Capacity	1 – Property Crime
2 – Property Crime	2 – Public Order Crime	2 – Property Crime	2 – Public Order Crime
3 – Homelessness	3 – Violent Crime	3 – Homelessness	3 – Violent Crime
4 – Traffic Safety	4 – Public Safety & Community Capacity	4 – Traffic Safety	4 – Public Safety & Community Capacity
5 – Public Safety & Community Capacity	5 – City Politics	5 – Public Safety & Community Capacity	5 – Police Legitimacy

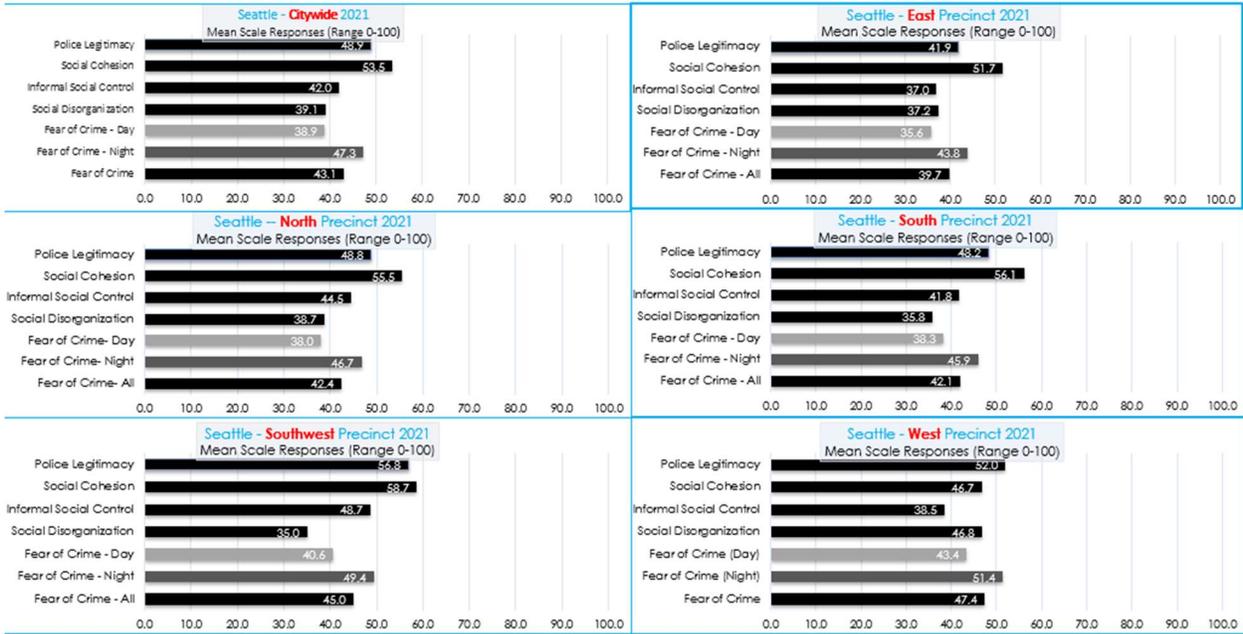
  

Seattle – North Precinct (2021 N=3235)		Seattle – South Precinct (2021 N=1177)	
<b>2021 Top Public Safety Concerns</b>	<b>2021 Most Prominent Themes in Narrative Comments</b>	<b>2021 Top Public Safety Concerns</b>	<b>2021 Most Prominent Themes in Narrative Comments</b>
1 – Police Capacity	1 – Property Crime	1 – Police Capacity	1 – Violent Crime
2 – Homelessness	2 – Public Order Crime	2 – Property Crime	2 – Property Crime
3 – Property Crime	3 – Violent Crime	3 – Homelessness	3 – Public Order Crime
4 – Traffic Safety	4 – Public Safety & Community Capacity	4 – Drugs & Alcohol	4 – Traffic Safety
5 – Public Safety & Community Capacity	5 – Police Capacity	5 – Public Safety & Community Capacity	5 – Public Safety & Community Capacity

Seattle – SouthWest Precinct (2021 N=1124)		Seattle – West Precinct (2021 N=1761)	
<b>2021 Public Safety Concerns</b>	<b>2021 Prominent Themes in Narrative Comments</b>	<b>2021 Top Public Safety Concerns</b>	<b>2021 Most Prominent Themes in Narrative Comments</b>
1 – Police Capacity	1 – Property Crime	1 – Police Capacity	1 – Property Crime
2 – Property Crime	2 – City Politics	2 – Property Crime	2 – Public Order Crime
3 – Homelessness	3 – Public Order Crime	3 – Homelessness	3 – City Politics
4 – Traffic Safety	4 – Traffic Safety	4 – Drugs & Alcohol	4 – Public Safety & Community Capacity
5 – Public Safety & Community Capacity	5 – Police Capacity	5 – Public Safety & Community Capacity	5 – Police Capacity

## Seattle Public Safety Survey Results 2021- Precinct Scale Ratings



## Seattle Public Safety Survey Results 2021- Precinct Scale Ratings Over Time

