

To combine business development, leadership and social action to expand economic opportunities for the LGBT community and those who support equality for all.



Over the last year, the Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA), the LGBT Chamber of Commerce in our region has heard from members and the LGBT community that there is a growing sense of violence and feeling of not being safe up on Capitol Hill. In response to these reports and concerns, the Public Policy Task Force of GSBA held a roundtable discussion in October with Interim Chief Jim Pugel and East Precinct Acting Captain Rasmussen.

Attending the meeting were representatives from Peace on the Streets by Kids on the Streets (PSKS) Social Outreach Seattle, Equal Rights Washington, Seattle LGBT Commission, QLaw, Legal Voice, Northwest Network, SASG and community members.

Community feedback included:

1. Trans community has higher incidence of abuse and there is a fear about calling police
 - a. This fear of reporting by Trans community is similar of fear within immigrant community.
2. LGBT Youth make up over 40% of homeless youth but have fewest services available
3. Hate crimes are not limited to Capitol Hill but can and do occur in all areas of city, ie: murder of Danny Vega
4. Regardless of the statistics, there was an increasing feeling throughout the neighborhood and the community that there were increasing levels of violence and harassment.
5. Harassment is not always physical, and includes verbal harassment, including anti-gay harassment at the center of Capitol Hill and Pike-Pine neighborhoods.
6. Verbal harassment is generally not reported
7. The changing character of Capitol Hill as a center of nightlife, certainly is positive and adds to the vibrancy of the neighborhood, but also creates challenges when different populations, not used to dealing with each other, come together –especially when alcohol is involved.
8. GSBA, which has a tourism initiative does get reports from visitors that the number of homeless people who are clearly high on drugs and act aggressively toward visitors makes people feel less safe on Capitol Hill and downtown, but these reports do not appear to be related to bias crimes.

Best next steps

1. Recreate the community meetings
2. Encourage community to report all crimes
3. Make space for telling the *good* stories – positive reactions, positive outcomes, improved neighborhoods, good experiences
4. Bring back old programs –
 - a. Mayor walk in each neighborhood every year
 - b. Increased lighting, walking home with partners
 - c. Business/neighbor/friend awareness – word gets around when they know they can't get away with it
5. Increased SPD foot beat
6. Working with business to find out what they are seeing

Crime on Hill and around city is Complex issue

1. Requires a concerted, long-term approach
2. We hope city takes a serious approach including increase in SPD patrols
3. Continue culturally competent training of police force especially on working with the Trans and LGBT youth community
4. Increase mental health services
5. Services for the homeless, especially LGBTQ youth
6. Programs for addicts (needle exchanges)
7. Safer streetscapes (lighting alleyways, CleanScapes...)
8. Working cooperatively with local businesses

GSBA has appreciated the positive working relationship that we have with the East Precinct and we hope to continue to encourage the police to participate and be visible at community events. It is important that business, nonprofits, residents work together with SPD and the City on this issue over the long term.

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Greater Seattle BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (GSBA)