Chairman Harrell, Councilmembers:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss current crime trends, especially in the downtown core, and more broadly, our approaches for dealing with these and other public safety issues wherever they occur in the City. This is not only an issue of crime, but also an issue of feeling safe, even if you are not the victim of a crime. It is my job and the jb of every other Seattle Police employee to make sure we do everything possible to address crime and public disorder issues with our experience and within the law in a constitutional manner, while also working with every other City agency and non- city agencies. Peoples concern about crime and about feeling safe in the City are important.

I will begin with a brief overview of crime data, give you a snapshot of some of the dynamics of those incidents that are behind the numbers, provide information on our current staffing levels and projections going forward and then close with an overview of our use of these resources both in the short term and long range. Capt Dermody will follow my comments with more details on SPD efforts in downtown.

First, the crime statistics. What I have provided is a six-year look at Major Crimes in each of the beats in West Precinct. Highlighted in the charts on pages 2 through 5 are those beats that have recently received public and press attention. A few comments are in order with respect to the data shown.

- Major Crimes include the following: murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft and vehicle theft.
- The charts show both Violent Crime and Property Crime in each beat for the period January-July from 2008 to 2013. The beats in each Sector are depicted in separate charts and there are brief notes concerning the crime trends in each beat under the graphics.
- As you will see in the charts, Property Crimes far outnumber Violent Crimes by a ratio of at least 10 to 1. Ignoring them or dismissing them as “only property crimes” is to diminish their impact, as any victim of a pickpocket, purse snatcher, car prowler or shoplifter will attest. Also, as you will see shortly, it is not uncommon for property crimes to morph into violent crimes, which is another reason they deserve and get our attention.

- It is also the case that property crimes and violent crimes may show different trends. Generally, property crimes tend to be more volatile while violent crimes show more stability over time.
- You will note in the charts that violent crimes have rarely risen above 100 in any beat, for the seven month period (Jan-July) in the last six years. One of the exceptions is in Mary 2 (Battery to Pine, 2nd to 8th) on page 4, where violent crimes have exceeded 100 in both 2012 and 2013 - part of the reason we are here today.

Just looking at the numbers doesn't give you much of a feel for the incidents they represent, however. So, we took a snapshot of all robberies and assaults (both simple and aggravated) that took place in Beats David 3, King 1, Mary 2 and Mary 3 in the months of July 2012 and July 2013. These are the beats that have recently received attention. We wanted to see what had changed, if anything, in a year. Here is what we found:

- Simple assaults (defined as anything from a slap or a shove that doesn't result in serious injury) are the most frequent type of incident in all four beats. These actually decreased in two beats (D3 and K1) and increased in the other two.
- Simple assaults are also the type of violent incident that may involve persons who know each other. That is the case in the four beats analyzed. In 2012, about half of the simple assaults involved known parties, including 18% in DV situations. In 2013, the proportion of simple assaults among known parties rose to nearly 60% of the total, a third of which were DV-related. This dynamic was most apparent in Mary 3, encompassing Pioneer Square and the Waterfront, where all of the increase in simple assaults involved incidents among parties known to each other. In King 1, encompassing Westlake, not only were simple assaults down in July 2013, the dynamic in simple assaults shifted from one of primarily stranger-on-stranger assaults in 2012 to an even distribution of known and unknown parties in such incidents this year.
- The settings of violent incidents are also different between the two years. In 2012, for example, nearly 75% of the incidents occurred outdoors, in front of businesses, in parks, on streets and sidewalks. This proportion was reduced in 2013 to 60% of the incidents. The types of settings that decreased the most were violent incidents on streets/sidewalks and those in front of businesses. The settings that increased the most were incidents

inside residences and in and around transportation facilities, e.g., at bus stops, on buses, at the ferry terminal.

- Violent incidents were slightly more likely to occur after 8pm in July 2013 than was the case in July 2012. The good weather may have been a factor here.
- About one out of every ten violent incidents in both years began as a property crime, with the typical incident being a shoplifter assaulting store personnel in an attempt to escape.

<u>What staffing do we have to address these and other public safety issues of concern to our neighborhoods and business districts across the city</u>? I'll be speaking to the two staffing graphs in the materials that you were provided on page 6 and page 7.

- The first chart on page 6 is a line graph that shows a five year history of our 9-1-1 response force. While these officers primarily respond to emergency calls, they are also a key resource for our Directed patrols sometimes referred to as 'Koper curve patrols'. As you know, Directed Patrol occurs when officers get out of their cars and walk in and interact with people for 12–16 minutes through a high crime area. The research shows that these patrols can cause a reduction in crime as well as calls for service within that hot spot.
- You'll note the sharp decline in staffing over the last several years. Of course, this is a result of the Great Recession and the City's need to pause hiring to meet budget and revenue constraints. Fortunately, we were not one of the many cities that had to terminate officers.
- As you know, the recovery is beginning to pick up and we are expecting a wave of new police officers to be assigned to the streets this fall. In all, we are expecting 33 new officers to begin taking 9-1-1 calls and initiate Directed Patrol deployments. When combined with the new officers programmed in the 2014 Endorsed Budget (12 more), we expect see our Patrol force move closer to the pre-recession highs seen in 2008-10.

- The second chart on page 7 shows all of our Personnel resources in the West Precinct, which comprises what most people would consider the downtown area. These personnel are a mix of 9-1-1 responders as well as specialty personnel like the Anti-crime Teams, Community Police Teams, Bike and Foot Beats and the Mounted Unit. All provide real visibility to citizens. These are the officers in walking, riding or otherwise patrolling in the shopping district or

at Second Avenue at Pike and Pine. What you will notice is that these dedicated specialty officers makeup about one-third of our total resources in the Precinct.

- You might also note that during the recession years, when our 9-1-1 force began declining, the Department held constant its number of specialty personnel. So, our visibility on the street did not diminish in those years.
- As the Department sees increases in its emergency responder force, the West Precinct will see a number of new 911 officers that can complement the Precinct's specialty sworn. As the Department continues to use Directed Patrol deployments, the visibility of 911 response officers on the street should improve over the next 60-90 days.
- Finally, SPD and DPR are working together to increase the enforcement presence in our City Parks. The Mayor recently announced the addition of two new Park Rangers that will focus their work in known hot spots – Cal Anderson, Westlake, Occidental and Victor Steinbrueck parks. We are also working with DPR on a plan that will boost staff support and allow our officers to work alongside the downtown Park Rangers.

<u>What are our overall approaches to deal with these and other public safety issues of concern to our neighborhoods across the city</u>? I would characterize our approaches as falling into three categories: enforcement, compliance and diversion. This information can be found on page 8 in your packet.

<u>Enforcement</u>. Our enforcement efforts take the form of our geographically deployed 9-1-1 responders, our tactically deployed/directed patrol resources (consisting of bikes, footbeats, horses, ACT and CPT officers) and our specialty unit deployments (e.g., Gang, SWAT, Traffic and Narcotics detectives). The VPEP units, about which you will hear more, can be comprised of all three, but, in general, consist of the latter two. These resources are committed to the mission of interdicting and/or deterring criminal activity either in a specific area or of a specific type, e.g., pattern burglaries, robberies, open-air drug dealing, etc.

The activity level of our enforcement resources is best depicted by 9-1-1 calls for service and on-views, which reflect officer-observed and initiated efforts. In the West Precinct calls for service were up 3% in the first six months of 2013 compared with the same period last year. On-views, however, are up 74%

through June of this year compared with 2012. The increase in on-views reflects the level of directed patrol efforts that have been undertaken by West Precinct officers and commanders. The most immediate results of these efforts have included a 42% reduction in car prowls.

Compliance. The level of officer initiated on-views contributes to the visible police presence so essential to the second approach we use, achieving compliance with acceptable behavior. Much potentially criminal behavior may be deterred by the mere presence of a police officer. This is especially true of criminal commerce, e.g., drug dealing, prostitution, as well as instrumental crimes, e.g., robberies, car prowls. Police presence may even quell some impulsive behaviors, as when officers intervene in arguments before they escalate into assaults or encourage trespassers to move along rather than occupying building entrances or impeding street or pedestrian traffic. Quite candidly, however, police presence may be contribute little to achieving compliance when dealing with impulsive behaviors that result from substance use or mental illness or that derive from the type of defiance that grows out of aimlessness, abuse, hopelessness or despair. It is for this reason we have turned more and more to the third approach, diversion.

Diversion. In recent years it has become more and more apparent - both here and across the country - that we cannot arrest or cajole our way out of the anti-social behaviors associated with substance abuse and mental illness. Similarly, we cannot expect our jails to serve well as either mental health or drug rehabilitation facilities. While it is arguable that on some levels, both substance abuse and mental illness are public safety concerns, it is debatable that they should be - in the main - law enforcement, as opposed to public health, missions. US Attorney General Eric Holder recently said that we as a nation need to fundamentally address our past 30 year approach to crime and disorder- which until now has mainly been arrest, incarcerate, perform poor re-entry and then marginalize. The Seattle Police Department recognizes that these challenging issues take a multi-disciplined approach with numerous organizations actively participating in an aligned, thoughtful and team approach.

Accordingly, we have embraced partnerships in the justice system, with among others, DOC, the Defenders Association, the ACLU, the Racial Disparity Project, Prosecutors, and the Courts, to divert drug and alcohol abusers from the criminal justice system to appropriate alternatives. These include drug court, mental

health court, through such programs as LEAD. We have also actively engaged with DOC through the NCI teams to intervene with probationers on the street to keep them in compliance with court ordered treatment programs and activities before they violate and recycle into the criminal justice system. Similarly, we have increased the number of CIT officers as well as the training of our CIT officers receive. We have intensified the efforts of our CIT unit to address the mentally ill persons that patrol officers confront and have expanded the CIT Unit partnership with KC Mental Health, by embedding an MHP who can intervene and divert persons in crisis to appropriate alternatives and provide follow-up to keep these persons from becoming public safety concerns. We are working with the King County Prosecutor and DESC and other groups in referring non-violent mentally ill offenders to the Crisis Solution Center.

We have support the efforts of community-based agencies to address the needs the homeless and the chronic alcoholic through the Sobering Center and 1811 Eastlake. Finally, we have also embarked on a groundbreaking, NIJ-funded research partnership with George Mason University that is targeting juvenile hotspots in the downtown area and with the potential for addressing the types of defiant and anti-social behaviors that may be the result of aimlessness and despair among teens and young adults.

It is clear that the toll of this array of personal and societal pathologies weigh heavily not only on the individuals involved but also on the rest of us. While we remain hopeful that our diversion and harm reduction efforts will bear fruit, we are under no illusion that their results will be immediate. At the same time, we have much evidence to suggest that other older available alternatives are not always successful nor lasting in their impacts.

I want to turn now to Capt Dermody who will provide more detail on the directed patrol and targeted deployments that we've being doing downtown, some of the results that have been achieved and how we will be tracking and measuring these efforts going forward.