



Next on the agenda was the program for the General Meeting assembled by Grant Huling, new Chair of the Standing SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, also informally called the “Community Safety Committee”. After his introductory remarks, which centered on the community resources available to residents from Portland City Bureaus, and how to reach them, Grant introduced Central Precinct NRT (“Neighborhood Response Team”) Officer William Green. Green, a Franklin High graduate early in this century, born and raised in Inner Southeast Portland, and has been a police officer for 12 years for the Portland Police Bureau – a NRT Officer since 2017.

After introducing himself, the officer began answering questions from those present, starting with how to discourage car prowls (car break-ins). Early questions also concerned Portland Police staffing levels, and their effect on policing in the community; enforcement at critical crosswalks; and prosecution of criminals by the District Attorney. He suggested that at **any** time, questions, tips, etc., could be directed to him personally by email – [william.green@police.portlandoregon.gov](mailto:william.green@police.portlandoregon.gov). Continuing to answer questions from attendees, he counseled that graffiti should be removed fast – “the sooner you get rid of it the better”. Leaving it there encourages much more of it, very quickly. He said the “Safe Rest Village” at Milwaukie and Gideon, just north of the Brooklyn neighborhood, has had “a major, major impact” on the homeless population in that area.

Eric Miller, a former SMILE Board Member, showed some photographs and videos of major fireworks being set off, on the evening of July 4, in Sellwood Park, including major “display type” fireworks – but despite its noise, and its fire hazard in that forested park, there were no Park Rangers or any police presence during this long evening of illegal fireworks. He suggested SMILE’s Crime Prevention Committee form a subcommittee to focus on “fireworks safety” in 2024. He asked Officer Green if the PPD has the resources to work with SMILE on this problem? Green replied, “Holidays are tough for us. We can try. But the Portland Fire Bureau should be alerted – they are a better resource for this issue.” Sellwood resident Henrik Bothe remarked that, “The big Oaks Park fireworks show attracts idiots from all over, who then stay in the neighborhood and set off big stuff in Sellwood Park.”

Officer Green responded to a question by pointing out that crime statistics for our own neighborhood are available through “Portland Maps”, including a breakdown for individual types of crimes. When asked by an attendee what the number-one concern is of the Portland Police Bureau, Green replied without hesitation, “Fentanyl is the most serious thing I have ever seen.” He said that it can even harm or kill if a little of the powder just touches the skin. “And 92% of everything [drug-related] we test at the State Crime Lab contains fentanyl.”

At the end of Officer Green’s presentation, he received thanks from several attendees for the work of the Portland Police, and a round of applause for his appearance in person. The hour, at that point, being 9 p.m., the time of adjournment, President David Dugan announced that the monthly Board Meeting is also open to the public, and would be just two weeks from tonight, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. He then – amidst a confusion of efforts to move for adjournment, announced this meeting as adjourned, at 9:01 p.m.