

Sammamish Police Department – Acting Police Chief Christine Elias – September 14, 2022

Christine is continuing as Sammamish Police Department's Administrative Sergeant following several months as our Sammamish "acting police chief". Former Sammamish Chief Dan Pingrey was promoted to Major with King County Police and moved upstairs (literally) to serve as the Major in charge of Precinct 2.

Precinct 2 covers a geographical area of approximately 747 square miles and is responsible for law enforcement in all unincorporated areas and four contract cities north of Interstate 90 to Snohomish County, and to the east to Snoqualmie Pass. Precinct 2 headquarters is co-located with the City of Sammamish's contract police department and covers police contract cities of Woodinville and Sammamish for their police services. The cities of Carnation and Skykomish are also served by Precinct 2 deputies through a contract with the King County Sheriff's Office.

Dan's office with Precinct 2 is on the 2nd floor at Sammamish City Hall: he was "elevated" a couple ways.

Background on Christine Elias:

- King County Police 27+ years – detective 15 years, sergeant 6 years, and XX school resource officer
- With Sammamish Police for the past 6 years
- Grew up in Bellevue
- Graduate of University of Washington
- Daughter 23, son 18 in college, and now "empty house"

www.Safewise.com: **Sammamish named #1 Safest City in Washington for 2022 and in 2021!**

TOPICS TODAY:

Mental health responses – the Sheriff's Office has been setting up teams through all city/county offices to pair a social worker with a police officer to respond together to mental health concerns such as suicide calls to the new nationwide 9-8-8 response system. Noted was the insufficient number of professional staffing to move ahead on this.

This program is similar to the Core-Connect Program in Eastside Fire and Rescue pairing a social worker with a firefighter to follow up with residents having multiple calls to 911, frequent falls, and other types of physical calls.

Both services will have on-going connections with these individuals and families.

Noted by one of our participants on the call is the value of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental illness) for info, education, and help for families with mental health issues. The NAMI HelpLine can be reached Mon-Fri, 10am – 10pm ET: Call [1-800-950-NAMI \(6264\)](tel:1-800-950-NAMI), text "HelpLine" to [62640](tel:62640), or email helpline@nami.com.

Graveyard shift – these officers include drive-arounds from midnight onward to be visible in a marked police car, such as around parks, schools, shopping centers, and other gathering places.

City districts police coverage – south-end, middle, and north-end – with three officers per shift

Motor officers (marked motorcycles) service school zones, speeders radar, DUIs (Driving Under the Influence). If a driver is stopped for speeding, the officer checks their driving records. Officers' primary role is education and enforcement. They have discretion as to ticketing.

Sharing information with other cities' police (such as burglary, vandalism, forgeries, domestic violence, prowlers) – this is up to the various cities. There is no centralized collection system, no shared criminal databases. What is primarily available is a matter of costs, who is entering information. Sammamish Police have a crime analyst folder for sharing information.

Crime trend in Sammamish – damage to property, car prowls, porch pirates, some burglary, domestic violence. Most common is theft from unlocked vehicles and open garages.

Marine control – the school resource officers are assigned during the summer months to a police patrol boat on Lake Sammamish to ensure safety

Officers working at construction sites – this is off-duty work and paid by the construction companies, same as for police coverage for traffic-heavy events in nearby cities.

“Armadillo lines” – these are the wire lines across roads to show/count problems or perceived issues with traffic, speed, and other usage. Cities handle this.

Teen issues – there are four youth who cause the most problems. Police cannot interview juveniles without an attorney present. Police are patrolling area(s) where these teens seem to be.

The 2021 State Legislature enacted a series of bills in an effort to reform law enforcement in 2021, but note: police can act when the situation includes “reasonable suspicion”.

Police Explorer Scouts – Christine oversees the Sammamish Explorer Post. The program is for ages 14 to 20 and builds youth leadership with law enforcement. The Explorers also engage with community events.

Sammamish City Contract with King County Police - in addition to the 31 local police department, we can call upon King County Police operations such as SWAT, crime detectives, search & rescue, canine officers, and more. Also, King County Police, upstairs in Sammamish City Hall with Precinct 2, can also be called upon to handle Sammamish issues.

Drug problems – it’s more a vaping program in recent years. There is a school resource officer (SRO) at Skyline High School. Lake Washington School District has chosen to have one SRO covering both Eastlake High School and Inglewood Junior High.

Graffiti? – not seeing vandalism in the city. The sand sculpture at City Hall has not been touched.

Police Ride-By – during COVID, Police (and Fire) did many ride-by’s for kids’ birthdays

National “Police Night Out” (annual 1st Tuesday in August) – 2022 included an event at City Hall and in various neighborhoods. Eastside Fire & Rescue also participates. There’s a sign-up form to fill out to have a police officer stop by.

“Coffee with the New Police Chief” will be October 5 at Starbucks (228th Ave NE @ NE 4th), 4:30-6:30pm. Information will be on the Sammamish Police Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sammamishpd/>

New Chief on duty September 17th – Stephen Lyseft as “a great guy”, from Colorado, and 20 years with King County Police – detective sergeant, internal investigation, and more. He has five kids, ages 5 – 15.

PHOTOS

Admin. Sgt Christine Elias
27 years King County Police

New Chief Steven Lysaght
20 years King County Police

Now, Precinct 2, Major Dan Pingrey
34 years King County Police



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