

Community Conversation – South Park Hall

August 11, 2022

5:30-7:00p

In partnership with Duwamish Youth Corp, about 50 youth members participated in a community conversation and responded to a series of questions asked by the facilitator from Duwamish Youth Corp. Questions were asked in various ways: using an interactive mobile app, questions written on posters with post-it notes for responses, and an open question & answer period. Youth were encouraged to speak from their experiences and the perspectives they hold specifically within the South Park community.

SUMMARY

Should policing be in schools?

- Majority responses were “yes” because teachers are not trained/equipped to deescalate fights

What types of activities or events the police can do to strengthen the relationship between juveniles and law enforcements?

- Understand the community and listen to their stories: it is important for people who make decisions and protect to know about the communities they serve
- The police can befriend the youth while also keeping everyone safe
- Q&A forums so people can learn about the police
- Sports camps, other activities and programming with neighborhood police officers

Things we would like decision makers and those who protect us to know about South Park:

- The river is polluted
- South Park is a diverse area with over 40 languages spoken, it's important to know how to communicate with residents
- The highest number of the youth population reside in the South Park area, yet the community centers have been closed and there aren't many places for youth to go

My hope for the next Chief of Police is:

- Feeling safe by seeing the Chief and police department take actions on the ongoing violence, murders, shootings, gangs, and increased vandalism
- Improve response times and arrivals
- That the Chief understands the complexity of this neighborhood
- Protesters and the homeless are treated with respect
- Changes in the community