



CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

MEETING MINUTES
NORTHEAST AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL
TUESDAY, October 10, 2017
6:30 PM
NORTH DOMINGO BACA MULTIGENERATIONAL CENTER
CLASSROOM 5
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

In Attendance:

- Bettina Eklund-
- Troy Taylor-
- Tom Ehrhorn-
- Dorothy Woodward
- Eric Olivas, Chair
- Brennan Williams, Vice Chair-
- Sergeant Symes
- Yvette Marentes, CPC Admin

Approximately 38 members of the public were in attendance.

6:30 Call to order/Welcome - Eric Olivas

Meeting called to order at 6:36 by Eric Olivas, Chair

The meeting had the public placed into separate groups.

This is the first meeting as the CPC is piloting small group discussions.

The purpose of the small group discussions is to have concrete ideas and recommendations on paper. These can be topics of discussion at future meetings as well as topics for future recommendations.

The meeting minutes and agenda are posted to the whiteboard outside of the meeting every week and also emailed out to the email list. If you do not have an email address submitted and wish to have email set up, please let Eric Olivas know.

There is an event coming up; Coffee with a cop is going to be next Friday, October 20th at Starbucks on 5901 Wyoming Blvd NE from 8-10am.

The Northeast area command phone number is 823-4455, the website is beneficial as well has a lot of info, check it out:

<http://www.northeastareacommand.com/>

The Northeast CPC is always looking for new recruits if you know any neighbors or friends we would love to have them. Please get the word out and bring them to one of our meetings.

6:35 Old Business: Approval of agenda, Approval of September meeting minutes.

Motion to approve agenda and minutes was made, and agenda and minutes was approved with no amendments.

New Business:

6:40 Report from APD on Crime and Crime Prevention in the NEAC – Sgt. Symes*

Chevy trucks still taking the lead as the most common vehicle in auto thefts.

It is getting cold, do not warm up your cars and leave them warming. Do not leave your car unattended. Take garage door openers and all personal information out of your vehicles.

APD will now take electronic forms of registration and insurance so that you do not have to leave these documents in your vehicle.

Auto burglaries are still on an increase in the Northeast; they are starting to see a pattern of clothing that is being taken from vehicles and this is more than likely due to it getting cold out. Take everything out of your car, leave it as clean as the day you bought it. Do not leave fire arms in your car.

Residential burglaries; people still going through doggie doors to gain access into homes and are mainly stealing electronics. Commercial burglaries are slightly down, there have been a few arrests in the NE heights which they think may be major players in these burglaries and that is why the numbers of commercial burglaries in the area are dropping.

Remember that if you see anything suspicious to report, report, report, and please always call. Do not feel that you are bugging the department, just please know that these calls are prioritized and if there is something else going on, you might not see movement. However, everything is being tracked and if there is a problem area APD will not know about it unless it has been reported.

Sharon Press will come out to your house and do a site survey to get your property less appealing for criminals. Always feel free to call the northeast substation to contact her and get out the info.

Another upcoming event is Pop with a Cop on Tuesday, October 18th from 3-530 pm as well as Coffee with a Cop at Starbucks from 8am-12am. This is a great opportunity to see the officers, meet with them and have your voice heard.

Questions: Officers that attend, are they from the Northeast? Yes they are, however, for Pop with a Cop they are trying to get foothills officers to attend as well since they are all in the area but Coffee with a cop is strictly the northeast area officers.

It has been suggested that there has been a sufficient fencing operation in Albuquerque due to number of cars stolen, what can you tell us about specific fencing network operations? Sgt. Symes doesn't feel there is a network operation going on, they do not see many chop shops for vehicles in Albuquerque anymore. There are some complex operations or highly organized crime syndicates but they are usually outside of the city. It is very diverse, people selling on craigslist, pawnshops and flea market.

How are gang's intervening in increasing process of burglary? Sgt. Symes doesn't know exactly what they are doing, gangs are involved in illegal facets but it's not all of the crime that is happening. A fair amount can be gang related, but the single thing that drives all of the property crime is the narcotics problem that has been happening.

What's the current number of shortage of officers in the city and what is the plan? Sgt. Symes stated that the shortage situation is subject to interpretation there is no specific number as to how many we are short. However, it is safe to say we are 200-300 short, recruitment is working like crazy right now to recruit qualified candidates. It is difficult because of the amount of people that they lose to Physical tests and background/drug screening.

What about police aids? APD has come close to doubling these, it has become a great asset. However the aids are limited to what they can do, the only way we can solve this and get out of it is with more officers.

Can we black out things on our registration if we want to keep it in the car? I would suggest cutting those things out completely and keep it on you not in the glove box.

6:50 Break into small groups topics include:

There are tables set up for discussions to help foster workable priorities; things at the city level. We have a new mayor coming in and a new chief and we will have a new city council. So we want to try and create a list of recommendations, goals and a way of achieving those goals to present to the new chief to let them know what we as a community want to see.

City government cannot affect loose judges so let's try and keep it to things that can be attained over the next couple years.

Focus on:

What is going well, what is not going well, and what is not being addressed at all?

What are recommendations on what needs to happen?

How do we implement the change?

We can then bring in APD and the ONC (Office of Neighborhood Coordination) to give them our goals and to try and hold them accountable to these goals.

Community Organizing- Fighting crime block by block from the grass-roots

The focus group started off with a definition to find solutions. There are lots of neighborhood organizations available to all of the public that were included in their discussion. Some ideas are the importance of each individual neighbor being responsible and making sure they go to the city and neighborhood websites and encourage neighbors to pay attention to crime in the area. Go to nextdoor.com, command area website. It is up to the neighbor to secure their property and to go beyond their own property to other properties to make sure they are secure and safe. Neighborhood associations need to also encourage their people and to try and get other neighborhood associations started. Another concept is that they would like APD to come up with some statistic studies to show neighborhood watch areas and see what their crime is compared to neighborhoods that do not have neighborhood watches to determine if it helps to have a watch.

Also came up with other things for APD, create a communication network that would be able to send out reports of what is happening in neighborhoods in real time. Example; streets that are shut down where no one knows what is going on. There needs to be a better way to communicate to all neighbors what is going on if there is a swat situation or something like that.

They would like to see that officers stay in their commands for at least 3 years so that the community can get to know them.

Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health- Rehabilitate and repair broken populations and Children and Young Adults- Breaking the cycle of crime

The focus group started out discussing what they know, and it was determined very quickly that problems are everywhere. People are tired of being robbed, their homes being broken into because people want to fund addiction. Solutions need to come from the people and not politicians. There are waiting lists for treatment centers, there is no system to care for the person after they are released. What do they have to help them stay off of the drugs that they are on? There seems to be no coordinated approach to substance abuse and to people that have that issues. Mobile crisis unit was addressed, however protocol is not known as to when they come out of jail. There are school based programs to address substance abuse that can be found on the city website as a way to address substance abuse problems with a child.

Police Priorities and Tactics- Using resources more efficiently

Questions posed were what is the standard for hire for officers? Some agreed and disagreed on certain things. The group agreed on increasing pay for officers; do we have enough officers or not? There are issues with reporting standards, there have been questions weather DOJ (Department of Justice) and officers are on the same page. How do individuals in the community have a say or not? Citizens should be able to vote on the chief of police. There were questions about the codes and who decides what protocol is. Issues in the media in terms of how police respond, tactics, how they are addressed. Accountability, officers, command staff and individuals all need to be accountable. Turnover rate is too high.

7:40 Group reports and mingle

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The NE CPC has just started getting a dialog going, this is what these groups are all about, and this will have to continue. It is going to take a long time to get things to where they used to be. Let's stay involved in this dialog and keep it going. The council will take a look at what happened tonight and see what needs to be done moving forward. The council will evaluate what was produced and determine if another session has to happen or if they can move forward with recommendations. The goal is to hand something to new mayor and show them what the NE CPC community wants to see. To implement, not invent these ideas.

8:00 Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10

Next month guest speaker from restorative justice, implemented well in schools it is a different approach to treating crime.

No December meeting. Jan will be the next update on the process that happened today.