

**MEETING MINUTES
NORTHEAST AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016
6:30 PM
NORTH DOMINGO BACA MULTIGENERATIONAL CENTER
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

In Attendance:

- Annie Onderdonk, Chair
- Constance Banuelos
- Lieutenant J. Burke
- Darlene Couchman
- Dwight Drake
- Celina Espinoza, APD Communications and Community Outreach Director
- Penny Hoe
- Sergeant Jennifer Perez
- Jessie Lawrence, CABQ Contract Facilitator

Approximately 39 members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Call to Order, Introduction, and Welcome to NE CPC (6:30 – 6:35)**
 - Approval of Agenda: Voice Vote
 - Approval of March 2016 Meeting Minutes: Voice Vote

Chairperson Annie Onderdonk called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Darlene Couchman made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Dwight Drake seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Penny Hoe made a motion to approve the March 2016 meeting minutes as written. Annie Onderdonk seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

2. **Monthly Report of NE CPC Ad Hoc Committee: Janet Butts, Facilitator (6:35 – 6:45)**

Janet Butts presented information on the ad hoc committee, formed at the March 2016 NE CPC meeting. She stated that the committee is trying to organize new and experienced block captains and others who want to partner with APD and work together to fight crime. The committee wants to hear from citizens about the community's needs.

A meeting participant shared that the Albuquerque block captains' association is meeting for its spring conference on May 7 from 9:00-noon at the Albuquerque Police Academy.

3. Report on CPC Summit Meeting: Penny Hoe (6:45 – 7:00)

Penny Hoe presented information on the CPC summit meeting held on March 26. [See Attachment A.] She asked community members in attendance for help recruiting new members to sit on the NE CPC, especially members that reflect the diversity of Albuquerque.

Meeting participants discussed the challenges to recruiting new CPC members, including the background check requirement and the lack of City support to guide the process or publicize the CPC effort. Chair Annie Onderdonk noted that the mayor's office could help with these needs. Meeting participants discussed how the background check requirement and the inability of people with felony convictions to serve on the board limit the CPC's ability to fill its purpose. Annie Onderdonk expressed the desire for the CPC to work with people who feel disenfranchised and to help people who are angry have an outlet to be heard.

Celina Espinoza advised CPC members on her recommendations for the new member interview process. She also shared information about new efforts to distribute information about the CPCs, including notices in water bills, digital billboards, and community calendars.

CPC board members discussed the upcoming DOJ trainings and the desire to coordinate with the other CPCs. Annie Onderdonk stated that there would be a report on this training during the May 2016 meeting.

4. NE CPC Recommendations to APD and CABQ (7:00 – 7:20)

- Recommendation to Issue Uniforms and Equipment to New Officers
- Recommendation Regarding Police Vehicle Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement

Dwight Drake presented a proposed recommendation regarding police vehicle maintenance, repair, and replacement. [See Attachment B.] Community members in attendance had a number of challenges to this proposed recommendation, stating that this is not the purpose of the CPCs, that it dilutes the power of CPC recommendations, that it does not improve police-community relationships, that it should already be the responsibility of the city, and that the emphasis should really be on the need for more mechanics and the need to prioritize police car repairs.

Penny Hoe moved to defer both recommendations until the May meeting because of a lack of time for discussion and revision. Annie Onderdonk seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

5. NE CPC Questions for APD and CABQ (7:20 – 8:00)

APD officers were asked to provide information about the use of lapel cameras. Celina Espinoza distributed SOP 1-39, published on March 31, 2016.

Annie Onderdonk asked officers to explain how APD documents a pattern of officers not using lapel cameras. Lieutenant Burke said that officers in charge monitor the use, and also that going back to the recordings to answer questions provides an opportunity to spot-check.

Annie Onderdonk asked officers how APD can rebuild trust with the community. Lieutenant Burke said that it requires meetings like this, and discussions back and forth. He also talked about community policing and services like COAST.

Meeting participants discussed the need for better detox resources or a detox center. Community members in attendance expressed support for a CPC recommendation proposing this. A meeting participant suggested Greenfield, WI as a model for using funds from drug confiscations to buy rehab time for drug offenders.

6. APD Crime Stats and Public Questions (8:00 – 8:30)

APD did not present monthly crime statistics because of lack of time. There were a few other public comments.

A meeting participant asked about recent news of a mother who was arrested for leaving her 12-year-old son and dog in a car for 30 minutes, and stated that APD mishandled this situation; this was an opportunity to communicate in a kind way rather than arresting someone.

A meeting participant noted that many of the people who participate in the NE CPC are people who are concerned about preventing crime, but it should be equally important to try to promote communication and dialogue across all neighborhoods of the city.

A meeting participant suggested the need for strong neighborhood associations.

Meeting participants discussed recruitment challenges. A meeting participant suggested using Brown Mackie College as a resource, e.g. to create videos for recruitment.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Attachment A: Report of CPC Summit Meeting by Penny Hoe

Community Policing Councils Summit Meeting

A Summit Meeting of the six area command Community Policing Councils (CPCs) was convened at 6:00 PM, March 22, 2016, in the Basement Hearing Room 160, in Plaza Del Sol, 600 2nd Street NW, ABQ, NM 87102. We are not required to report on this meeting, but we want to keep you informed. The first part of this report is a summation of the topics presented at the meeting. At the end I am appending my conclusions and editorial comments.

Summation

The summit was called by the Civilian Police Oversight Agency (CPOA), which invited both CPC Board members and community members at large, and other guest participants. The Chairmen of the four CPCs who were present sat at the front along with **Damon Martinez** (US Attorney), **Luis Saucedo** (DOJ Attorney, Civil Rights Division), **Adriann Barboa** (APD Forward), and **Steven Allen** (ACLU Attorney / APD Forward). **Ed Harness** (CPOA Executive Director) facilitated the meeting. **Celina Espinoza** (APD Communications and Community Outreach Director) was the only APD representative present. She sat in the back of the room but was available to answer questions.

Ed Harness explained that the Civilian Police Oversight Agency staff investigates civilian complaints against APD, all officer-involved shootings, and APD serious use of force. The Civilian Police Oversight Board (CPOB), comprised of volunteers from the community, then reviews the CPOA investigations and sends their findings and recommendations to the Chief of Police. The CPOB can make recommendations for policies, procedures, and personnel disciplinary actions, such as reprimands or firing. This oversight function is mandated by the DOJ Settlement.

For the past several months Ed Harness has been attending meetings of all six Community Policing Councils. He expressed the desire that the CPCs and CPOA work more closely together on the recommendation process. Later in the meeting Leonard Waites, member of the CPOB, noted that currently in their meetings they spend 50% of their time dealing with APD Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). He also asked how the CPOB can help the CPCs.

US Attorney Damon Martinez told attendees that the DOJ settlement won't work without both community involvement and having both police and community behind changes mandated by the settlement agreement. Martinez emphasized the role of CPCs in providing feedback to the police on how APD policies are implemented in the

community, promoting community policing, and providing a venue for citizens to talk directly to APD officers.

DOJ Attorney Luis Saucedo addressed the critical role CPCs have in the transformation of APD according to the Settlement Agreement, saying that new ways of policing must be found that keep in mind the safety of both the community and APD officers. He charged the CPCs to re-read Paragraph 254, p.79, in the DOJ document. This is the introduction to the entire section *XII, "Community Engagement and Oversight"*, of which the section on Community Policing Councils is the 3rd of 4 topics. Paragraph 254 spells out the goal of sustaining the reforms by "strong community participation."

Saucedo also made the following points: CPCs are a beginning which APD should use more. APD should be asking the CPCs how to engage communities. CPCs should advise APD on how to share information, especially about its policies. CPCs should be providing a venue for discussing the recent staffing study as it relates to the goal of community policing. The DOJ is available to help the CPCs. In fact, the NE/CPC learned several days after the March 22nd summit that the DOJ has scheduled two training sessions for the CPCs later in April.

APD Forward was represented at the head table by two persons, and it appeared that many others were among the public attendees. APD Forward is not one of the DOJ mandated groups but according to their website, is a "community coalition led by concerned Albuquerque citizens who want to see the Albuquerque Police Department become the responsible, community-friendly police department we know it can be." APD Forward lists 17 partner organizations and four individuals, representing such groups as the homeless, disabled, Native Americans, transgender community, parents of persons killed by APD officers, various civil groups and faith communities, and the ACLU. (For a complete list, see their website.) **Adriann Barboa and Steven Allen**, representing APD Forward / ACLU, addressed the group. Barboa told her personal story of an incident 8 years ago involving her son in an encounter with an APD officer. She explained that APD Forward wants to make sure the reforms mandated by the DOJ are carried out, including community involvement.

ACLU Attorney Steven Allen stated he has attended numerous CPC meetings and had legal concerns: He said CPC members are not reflecting the true diversity of Albuquerque. There should be more young people, people of color, the poor, and LGBT persons on the councils. He questioned the selection process, including the fact that background checks could eliminate persons who have been through the criminal justice system and have unique, important perspectives to bring to the discussion. Celina Espinoza explained to him that it is City policy to mandate background checks because anyone sitting on a City board is not allowed to have a felony conviction. Allen wondered if CPCs have adequate resources to do their job. He criticized the lack of compliance of CPCs with the DOJ requirement for annual reports. He was unaware that

NE/CPC had made our annual report as required, so we provided a copy for him after the meeting.

The Chairs of the four CPCs attending the meeting had introduced themselves earlier and were asked to tell attendees about the recommendations their groups had submitted to APD Chief Eden. Recommendations **go straight to the Chief**, bypassing the area command. The list is as follows:

Foothills CPC -- 5 recommendations submitted;

Northeast CPC – 3 recommendations submitted, have 2 more to vote on in April;

Valley CPC – 4 recommendations submitted, with no response formal or otherwise;

Southeast CPC – 5 recommendations submitted, with no response from the chief;

Northwest and Southwest CPCs were not represented, so I do not have information on their recommendations.

Attendees were told that according to the DOJ Settlement agreement the Chief has 90 days to respond. Celina Espinoza mentioned that there is a now a revised policy on submitting CPC recommendations. Attendees expressed a number of concerns and opinions, some of which were outside the scope of Community Policing Councils, so I have not included them. There were concerns expressed that we on the CPCs needed to hear --- concerns about various vulnerable segments of Albuquerque's population and the ones we represent. Advocates spoke on behalf of, or asked questions about, the following concerns. I recorded the ones that most pertained to CPCs. It would have been helpful to have concrete suggestions on how to accomplish what persons brought to our attention.

1. **Racism** in policing – persons of color are treated differently by police officers; the speaker alleged that in this state African Americans are incarcerated in numbers disproportionate to the size of their population.
2. Women, vagrants, and children are **marginal groups**.
3. The connection between **socioeconomic conditions and crime**.
4. Any **new federal funding** given to Albuquerque needs to go to the ones working directly with the mentally ill and the poor.

5. The need for the CPCs to have **diverse board membership** that includes (or represents? That was not clear) the poor, the homeless, those who have served jail time, and diverse ethnicities.
6. Attendee asserted **policies and procedures** for CPCs are not "good" (coherent? workable?).
7. Several stated that there needs to be **trust built between APD and the community**, and APD needs to build a caring attitude for the helpless members of our society.

A final point was made by one of the speakers that the DOJ investigation looked for a pattern of APD civil rights abuse, and found violence, hence the DOJ agreement spelled out that APD will examine policy issues, training, staffing, et al and make necessary changes. The DOJ document is more of a blueprint for change; it is not designed to spell out every answer. This is why APD is called to collaborate, partner, and interact with the community.

The meeting went overtime, even with skipping the scheduled break. At least two persons filmed the meeting, and on March 25th, the Albuquerque Journal, pages C1 & C2, published an article by Ryan Boetel, titled "*Policing council difficulties reported.*"

Conclusions and Personal Opinion

(1) One of the most important pieces of information that came to light at this summit was that the recommendations made by the CPCs have not been, on the whole, officially acknowledged or considered by the Chief. Foothills and Northeast have had evidence that 2 of our recommendations have been implemented, but we have not had a written response from the Chief. It was discouraging and aggravating to the CPCs present that Southeast and Valley have had a total lack of response. I believe it is important that the Civilian Police Oversight Agency has recognized our problem and we now have the opportunity, like any individual or group in the City, to file our recommendations that have been ignored in the form of an official complaint against APD.

(2) Attorney Allen raised questions about diversity in CPC membership, but in my opinion there is an even greater problem underlying that one. The DOJ Settlement says that CPCs are important to help APD **sustain** its reform. We members of the NE/CPC - and at least several other CPCs -- are in danger of being **unsustainable** ourselves due to being left completely on our own to recruit new members. The NE/CPC began with 6 members, 5 remain, and our terms of service are up at the end of Dec 2016, with no option to serve longer, according to current guidelines. Our initial training did not mention that we would be left on our own to find our successors!

On our own we have not been able to reach enough persons to keep our NE/CPC board going past 2016, much less have a diverse pool of applicants from which to choose. We currently have African-American, Hispanic, and Anglo ethnic diversity on the board and would love to have Asian, Native American or other minorities represented. We want a student on the Board to give us greater age diversity, and we need the viewpoint of those whose businesses are served by the Northeast Area Command.

In the past 6 months we have had **two** applicants. Their acceptance process is still stalled by unfinished background checks. Other CPCs have lost present members and have not been able to replace them. The application and approval process is muddled in its guidelines; the delays in mandatory background checks for City-sponsored groups last for months; and we have not seen any evidence that the City is advertising for new members or expediting the process. We **think** we will be doing the interviews of our applicants. We need a minimum of 5 members and really, we need 7 to 9 to be able to have a quorum and do business regularly at monthly meetings. At the very least, we want more publicity from City Hall about the role and importance of the CPCs in sustaining reforms, a clear statement of the application process, and an expedited timetable for the background checks.

And once again, we ask the help of you here; please give us suggestions, in writing, with your contact information, on how to recruit board members from among other ethnic groups, other socioeconomic groups, and business people, and college students. If you wish to apply or know someone who might be interested, please let us know also. As far as we know, there is still the residency requirement that means our NE/CPC board members need to be either resident in the NE Area Command or own a business in this area command. And the Citizen Police Academy is a requirement in the DOJ settlement.

Penny Hoe, Vice chair of NE/CPC

12 April 2016

Attachment B: Proposed Recommendation

To Albuquerque Police Chief Gordon Eden and the Albuquerque City Council

From the Northeast Area Command Community Policing Council

A Recommendation Regarding Police Vehicle Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement

Consistent with our charter to identify opportunities to foster better policing and community practices, the Northeast Community Policing Council would like to make the following recommendations regarding the appropriation and use of annual funds for the purpose of police vehicle maintenance, repair, and replacement.

We recommend that the Police Department conduct a comprehensive review of any and all policies related to the maintenance, repair, and replacement of police vehicles. Also, we recommend that appropriations of annual funds to the Police Department are prioritized to assure that all vehicles are working at full capacity, to include regularly scheduled vehicle maintenance and repairs, as needed.

We recommend that the current vehicle retirement schedule should be reviewed to determine if the schedule should be modified to retire older vehicles sooner in order to maintain a safe and high-quality fleet. The safety and lives of officers and community members are at stake, and every means of maintaining police vehicles in good and working order should be a priority.

Finally, if it is not a current practice, we recommend that all graduating Police Cadets should be given access to a well-maintained, used police car upon graduation.

We believe that consistently focusing on the condition of the Police Department’s fleet of vehicles, and making the maintenance and replacement of aged vehicles a high priority within the Department’s annual budget, may positively impact the Department’s goal of retaining long-term officers instead of losing many of them to other police departments within the state of New Mexico and beyond. Also, it will help to enable all officers to be readily available to assist their constituents in the local community which helps the City of Albuquerque’s goal of creating a culture of community policing.

We thank you in advance for reviewing and considering all of the recommendations listed above.

Northeast Community Policing Council Members:

Annie Onderdonk, Chair _____

Penny Hoe _____

Constance Banuelos _____

Darlene Couchman _____

Dwight Drake _____