



**CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE**

## **Southeast Area Command Community Policing Council**

### **Minutes**

**Thursday, August 17, 2017: 6:00pm – 7:50 pm**

**Cesar Chavez Community Center – 7505 Kathryn SE, Albuquerque, NM**

1. The Council meeting convened at 6:03 p.m. Those present introduced themselves:
  - a. **Nine (9) SEACPC voting members were present: Ron Halbgewachs (Chair), Todd Kersting, Tom O’Connell (Vice Chair), Mike Kruchoski (Secretary), Amir Chapel, Paula Metzner, Caroline Monie, Frank Ernst, and Gary Peterson.**
  - b. **Seven (7) APD representatives were present: Sgt. Roger Legendre, Officer Jeffrey Bludworth, Officer Noah Hardy, Officer Devin Johnson, Officer Justin Crouch, Celina Espinosa, and Nicole Chavez-Lucero.**
  - c. **Eight (8) community members attended: Jarvis Boykin, Kathie Isquibel-Baca, Torild Kristiansen (LWVCNM), Anne Kass, Pat Wheeler, Paul Bartoluca, Elizabeth Vencill, and Tom Morse.**
2. **Ron Halbgewachs (Chair) called the Council meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.**
3. **A quorum was present: Nine (9) of ten (10) voting members (see above) were in attendance. Jeffrey Archuleta was unable to attend, with an approved absence. (Ron clarified that six members is considered a quorum.)**
4. **The Council reviewed the proposed agenda. Amir Chapel moved that the agenda be approved; Tom O’Connell seconded. Council members approved the motion unanimously.**
5. **The Council reviewed the June meeting minutes. Ron Halbgewachs proposed adding the names of all presenters, which he will provide. Todd Kersting moved that the minutes be approved with that revision; Frank Ernst seconded. The Council approved the motion unanimously. The Council posts final approved minutes of all monthly meetings on the City of Albuquerque website (<http://www.cabq.gov/police/community-policing-council/>) as well as a public Dropbox folder (see [https://twitter.com/CPC\\_ABO\\_SE](https://twitter.com/CPC_ABO_SE) for the link). Community members can also receive copies of the agendas and minutes by email (if they choose) by including**

their email address when signing in; by doing so, they become general (non-voting) members of the Council.

6. **Ron Halbgewachs reported that the Council reviewed, revised, and approved the CPC Guidelines in a special Executive Session meeting on August 3, 2017. The entire Council membership was present. The guidelines are meant to be flexible and can be modified as needed. The CPCs will continue to operate after the CASA completion.**
7. **Frank Ernst reported that he had attended four other CPCs for insights into their concerns. He described the past effort to amend the alarm ordinance, which was defeated. He recommended that all CPCs join in a coordinated effort to revisit the issue. He also recommended distribution of CPC pamphlets at various community organizations and promotion of neighborhood watch and home safety programs. Celina Espinosa will check to see if pamphlets are available again for distribution at community centers, as they had been in the past. Laura Kuehn, the SE Area Command Crime Prevention Specialist (256-2050), can conduct a free home safety assessment and provide recommendations. Ron Halbgewachs reported that the CPC Chairs have agreed to coordinate their recommendations with all CPCs. There are a variety of resources for establishing neighborhood watch programs; information is usually provided at our sign-in table at each CPC meeting.**
8. **CPC Strategic Plan: Gary Peterson presented our initiative to improve tracking of the CPC goals and objective:**
  - a. **The CPC mission and five focus areas are established by the CASA. Our focus area tracker will provide an easy means to document the status of CPC actions related to our responsibilities.**
  - b. **Any inquiries or suggestions will be identified as goals under one of the focus areas. The goals will be realistic and measurable. For each goal, we will identify objectives with related tasks, the actions we've taken, current progress, any shortfalls and the reasons for them, next actions needed, and any decisions that are required.**
  - c. **The CPC will brief the community at monthly Council meetings to show what we're actually doing and track our progress. We invite community members to participate in any efforts that interest them. APD can provide data, when available, to support our inquiries.**
  - d. **The CPC can use social media (for example, NextDoor, Facebook, Twitter) and email to announce special meetings to discuss problem areas and brainstorm with interested community members.**
  - e. **Ron Halbgewachs asked if committees would be formed by focus areas or by individual initiatives. Gary Peterson said that CPC members have expressed interest in overseeing particular focus areas but committees would be established as needed, depending on the scope of each goal or objective. Ron suggested that the issue of false alarms become the first project under this strategic plan.**
9. **Discussion of SOP 2.52, Use of Force:**

- a. **Ron Halbgewachs noted that the CASA requires CPCs to review Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and to make recommendations. The current SOP 2.52 is effective June 2, 2017, replacing the previous version, which was dated April 1, 2016. The review deadline is June 2, 2018, so the CPC review will extend through several meetings. Our recommendations are submitted to both the APD Chief and subsequently to the APD team responsible for written directives.**
- b. **Changes to SOP 2.52 will result in changes to training. There has been a lot of new training on Use of Force (UF) and reporting for UF, including Reality-Based Training (RBT). RBT is designed to provide safer training. The scenario-based approach helps incorporate new policies into the training all officers receive, whether at the police academy or through the “maintenance of effort” (refresher) training, allowing them to exercise the various techniques for force array, de-escalation, and verbal interactions. RBT provides on-the-spot corrections and guidance by the instructors in the middle of the scenarios to make the training more effective. Because of the extensive changes to UF policy, all officers received two days of classroom training and three days of RBT last year.**
- c. **Question: What is the policy on K-9 (police dog) use? Has it changed? Answer: Use of K-9 is restricted to felony crimes and requires establishment of a perimeter. It is considered a serious UF incident that must be reported.**
- d. **Paragraphs in SOP 2.52 are annotated (with red boxes in the left margin) with the range of disciplinary sanctions allowed for infractions, except when there are none required (marked as N/A). The lowest option is a verbal reprimand (level 7), and the highest is termination (level 1). These sanctions and options are elaborated in the Disciplinary Matrix.**
- e. **Amir Chapel commented that this version of the SOP is vastly improved over the previous version. It is “more organized and more detailed,” but he would like more clarification on the distinctions between low-level tactics, intermediate force, and lethal force. In particular, the discussion about distraction techniques seems “purposely vague,” given the previous terminology of distraction *strikes*. In fact, that reflects the shift in training to other techniques that cause only temporary, minor discomfort to encourage compliance with the officer.**
- f. **Question: What do officers on the ground think about the changes? Answer: It can be hard to adapt to the new policies because of the frequency of changes, but generally they are a vast improvement, because the SOP is easier to read and more understandable. However, there needs to be better, more succinct guidance for supervisors. Officers’ already-busy duty shifts make it difficult to find time to study the numerous changes. This SOP incorporates the “totality of the situation,” which addresses the officers’ knowledge of a suspect’s background, opening possibilities for more specialized distraction techniques, or influencing the choice of weapons. Also, the physical differences (height, weight, fitness, etc.) between an officer and suspect can influence the officer’s choice of techniques or level of force.**



**APD meets with neighborhood associations and businesses to gather information and brainstorm; community members are welcome to attend.**

- c. Question: Frank Ernst asked if the total number of alarm calls and the number of false alarms can be added to the Monthly Crime Report. Answer: Yes, the number of alarm calls can be added; Laura Kuehn will investigate whether false alarms can be discerned.**
- d. Comment: The Los Altos Towers area is seeing a migration of problem activities from the Wyoming and Central area. CPC members are encouraged to attend neighborhood meetings to publicize our efforts and engage the community.**

**12. Public Comments and Questions:**

- a. Question: Do officers feel like they are making a difference in the community? Answer: Yes, being able to interact casually with the public on the street has a big positive impact. Although officers' experiences are mixed, generally they feel that the good outweighs the bad, and that "little things" can make a huge, positive difference in people's lives.**
- b. Comment: One community member expressed great appreciation for the good work that APD does.**
- c. Question: If calls are cancelled, do the police still have to respond? Answer: It depends. If it involves domestic violence, yes, in order to check that everyone is okay. If it's a minor complaint, (for example, a loud group that left the area), then a response can be cancelled, if requested.**
- d. Question: With the increased presence of undercover officers in some areas, there are people who are pretending to be police. What should people do if they feel they're being harassed or their wallet is asked for? Answer: Yes, there have been reports of people saying they are police, when they are not. Community members can always ask for credentials right away.**
- e. Question: Some dispatchers seem to "have a real attitude" about people reporting suspicious activities. What can we do to change that in order to pass along the information? Answer: You can file a citizen complaint about dispatchers, too (just like complaints about officers). Dispatchers are usually the first person you will interact with, so it's a reflection on our police officers as well. Reporting the incident will help the dispatch center manager to ensure that dispatchers are properly trained.**

**13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

- a. Discussion about the description and status of recommendations from the SE Area Command CPC.**
- b. Continued discussion about SOP 2.52 (Use of Force)**

**14. Other Business:**

- a. Tom O'Connell announced that he was resigning from the CPC because of his impending job relocation to SE Asia. He wanted people to know that he believes the police reform movement is "pro-cop," not "anti-cop," because it**

**meant to ensure the safety of all community members, whether civilian or law enforcement.**

- b. There are two new applicants for serving on the CPC. The Council will interview those volunteers in a closed session.**
- 15. Chair Ron Halbgewachs adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.**

**Upcoming meetings: September 21, October 19, November 16**