



***CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE***

MEETING MINUTES  
FOOTHILLS AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL  
Monday, August 9, 2017  
6:00 PM  
HOLIDAY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER  
11710 COMANCHE ROAD NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

In Attendance:

- Rod Kontny, Chair
- Joe Abbin
- Mark Burton
- David Barbour
- Ralph Butler
- Phillip Crump, Facilitator
- Jill Garcia, Crime Prevention Specialist, APD
- Lt. Ferris Simmons, APD
- Yvette Marentes, Community Policing Council Admin

Approximately 30 members of the public were in attendance.

Call to order and Reading of the Community Policing Council Goals— Rod Kontny, Chair

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm.

Chairperson opening comments

Purposes of the meeting were read to the group and well as meeting regulation.

### Introductions of Council, APD representatives, and Visitors

The council introduced themselves.

Rod Kontny, Chair, advised the group he does not have a relationship with police department and/or the department of justice. He has an open mind there is no prejudgment coming from him.

### Review/amendment/approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda and was approved by all.

### Review/correction/approval of Minutes from August 14th meeting \*

Motion to approve minutes was approved by all.

### Recommendations from Council members and Citizens

CPC has voted to ask Chief to open negotiations, for him to talk to the Department of Justice and see if there are any reporting requirements that need to be adjusted. He read the recommendation to the group. We will have to wait until next time to go over the recommendations as it needs to be viewed by the entire council.

It has also been recommended that the CPC post agenda to website as soon as possible as well as ensure that the minutes are up to date on the website.

### Other Business

- Community Outreach Reports from Celina Espinoza -
  - Celina was unable to attend this meeting.

### APD Communications

- Review of Foothills Crime Report from APD [attached to Agenda]
- Pulse of the Neighborhoods—Brief reports from CPC members and citizens

Lt. Farrah Simmons gives a quick recap on crime in the area for August, specific to the foothills area which is everything east of Eubank. Several guns were stolen from vehicles this month which is very concerning.

So far in September there have been 12 recoveries, 1 home invasion, 2 robberies, 37 stolen vehicles, and 49 auto burglaries. There was also a hospital ID and prescription pad from a Doctor's office that was been stolen. These things can be traded very easily into our community and to other people's community. Be sure to protect yourself and take anything of value out of your vehicle.

An attendee from the community expressed concern, said he has written to Simon Drobik and feels that APD is not doing enough to educate people on how to prevent crime that happens to them. Stupidity and/or ignorance enters into a lot of the

crime that is happening. Chair, Rod Kontny let the public know that there has already been a recommendation made to Chief and we are waiting on response. Bottom line, we need to be able to inform people on how to prevent the crime from happening to them.

Lt. Ferris Simmons expressed that this issue is something she has been going over this every time she is here. She is encouraging people to share information from these meetings with their neighbors in hopes that they will work together to make their homes and vehicles safer. Her Mother was in attendance at the meeting as she lives in the area and someone has been casing houses including hers in the area and acting suspicious. The person was videotaped taking pictures of her mother's residence including the front door. The incident has been put onto the next door app. She is talking about it to us because this is her community and this is her family.

Jill Garcia, spoke to the group and let everyone know that she is the crime prevention specialist for the foothills area. Since she has been in her position, she has been able to form a lot of APD neighborhood watch groups. If anyone wants to form an APD neighborhood watch group, they will need to have at least half of the neighbors there. She has an APD foothills area command website she wants people to look at so they can see what is going on in the area. It can be found here:  
<http://www.foothillsareacommand.com/>

Jill Garcia also explained that there is no backup for her in her current position; because of this, she pushes neighborhood watch and counts on the public to be her eyes and ears. The current issue APD is facing about guns left in unattended vehicles and stolen is very discouraging. This type of information is not reaching citizens in the community that need to know these things; it is only really reaching people that are already invested in crime intervention. This is because they are already investing themselves in learning about crime and crime prevention in their area. Brochures on crime prevention should be distributed to all, they can be downloaded on the city website as well. <http://www.cabq.gov/police/crime-prevention-safety>

An attendee from the community stated that certain businesses in the area are paying hourly for private security to go through their neighborhoods. People want police officers to patrol through our community and see who is watching our homes and who is robbing us. Several people spoke from neighborhood associations to see what can be done and to hire private security. Some are even going out and trying to find the people in their neighborhoods that are causing crime. Neighbors are upset because they are finding people and police are not showing up. Several neighbors stood up and expressed their concerns about not being backed up by the police. The community is also concerned about the amount of thefts that have been happening.

Lt. Ferris Simmons stated that the revolving door of justice is a problem and the police need help from the community. She only had 4 officers that were available to take calls the other night. She needs more officers, and is desperate for additional help. They are losing more people than they see graduate, she is losing officers at a rapid rate. We need to better educate the community and find ways to stop the crime.

Unfortunately criminals are out there and they are targeting us. 841-6111 is the number to call CYFD if you see children that need help. She is dedicated to this area command as long as her leadership allows.

Featured Speaker: Raúl Torrez — Bernalillo County District Attorney. Mr Torrez will speak about his prosecution philosophy and other topics, as well as responding to questions.

District Attorney's office is the largest office in the state they screen about 25,000 cases a year with about 90 attorneys and double the staff. Felonies; they took 865 felony referrals, they are pushing a substantial case load with a pretty meager staff. The District Attorney's office is one of the lowest paying offices in the state. They have front line prosecutors not making a lot of money compared to the debt they have from law school etc. A lot of the people that work in his office have to have other means to make ends meet. Unfortunately when it comes to their case load, they need to prioritize. 20% of criminal population drives a large amount of crime but we need to know who those people are. A lot of what they do is to try and figure out what information they have and link the information to find out who is doing the crime.

District Attorney Torrez stated that we cannot incarcerate a better community, a lot of the crime is an explosion in opioid addiction and mental health problems; we need to start thinking about who are these people are that are trying to feed an addiction. As a community, we need to be committed to helping and rehabilitating these people. Every person with an untreated addiction issue the District Attorney's office chases around takes away from his ability to pursue, violent crime, murder, and rape cases etc. The District Attorney's goal is to try and make a safer community, but it needs to be a public effort. A big part of the problem are juveniles that come from broken homes. We as a community need to look into what we can do to help these juveniles and keep them off of the streets. Or eventually what happens is that people will stay in a cycle until they are forced to be put in a cell. Part of his job is to figure out how to keep that from happening in the first place. District Attorney Torrez is confident that we can try and build the kind of place people want to live in.

District Attorney Torrez stated that his office has a very high case load and they are short staffed. He is currently holding several positions that are available in his office in order to be able to use the funding for these issues. Funding comes directly from state legislature and is a huge issue as he is not being funded the way he needs to be for the office to start to run successfully. He encouraged everyone to talk to our neighbors and to our representatives to try and get this changed. District Attorney Torrez mentioned all of the volunteers that are also helping his office by creating a volunteer advocate council. These volunteers are meeting with victim of crime and helping them walk through the process.

Another issue that was discussed is the issue of offenders not being held in jail and being release right away. District Attorney Torrez stated that there is a big shift in the way judges are handling these cases now and it needs to be changed. He also

stated that there are proposals across the state to push for amendments to the pre-trial detention rules to model the FBI system. But the public needs to make sure that they are heard as well.

District Attorney Torrez let the group know that he is in full support of officers having lapel cameras and that it holds people accountable and can also clear an officer that has a complaint against them.

District Attorney Torrez was thanked by the public for his optimism, for attending this meeting and for taking a pay cut to continue to do what he is doing.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51

**Next meeting: Monday 9 October 2017; 6-7:50 pm; Holiday Park Community Center**

### **Comments or Questions:**

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