



CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHEAST AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL
Thursday, September 21, 2017 – 6:00 PM
CESAR CHAVEZ COMMUNITY CENTER
7507 KATHRYN SE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

In Attendance:

CPC Voting Members (6)

- Ron Halbgewachs, Chair
- Todd Kersting
- Michael Kruchoski
- Amir Chapel
- Caroline Monie
- Gary Peterson

APD Representatives (4)

- Detective Christopher Whigham
- Sgt. Roger Legendre
- Officer Davis Small, Camera Officer for APD
- Yvette Marentes, CPC Admin

Community members in attendance (12): Rosemarie Baca, Gina Naomi Dennis, Torild Keistianser, Pat Wheeler, Jarvis Boykin, Sandra Perea, Thomas Dent, Hannah Syme, Heidi Williams, Gary Donnermeyer, Kathie Esquibel-Baca, Kathleen Burke

CPC Voting Members Absent (3):

- Frank Ernst – Excused
- Paula Metzner – Excused
- Jeff Archuleta – Excused

Introductions

Ron introduced himself and went around the room for all attendees to introduce themselves.

Call to Order - Chair, Ron Halbgewachs

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm

Determination of Quorum

Quorum for the meeting has been met, 6 members out of 9 on the Council were present. Vice-Chairman, Tom O'Connell, resigned last month as he is moving out of Albuquerque. In an Executive Meeting, Frank Ernst was elected as the Vice-Chairman.

Approval of Agenda

Striking the August minutes review from the agenda.
Agenda was approved with the correction.

Introduction of Yvette Marentes – New CPC Administrator

Yvette Marentes introduced herself saying she is from the NE area of Albuquerque and her role will be to assist the CPC with their needs as well as attend all meetings and take minutes.

Approval of July Minutes – Secretary, Mike Kruchoski

Changes were made to the meeting minutes which are going to be corrected by Michael Kruchoski prior to posting on the CPC website.
Motion to approve the July minutes was made and passed.

Presentation: (40 Minutes)

Detective Christopher Whigham – Lapel Cameras: What and How

Detective Whigham thinks it is a good time to be here because the presentation will educate all on what the camera can do and what APD can do with them. Detective Whigham was in the military for about 15 years and during this time he learned a lot about technology. He has a passion for technology and On Body Camera Systems became his project.

He has really enjoyed working in his position, he has spoken across the country and is very passionate about what he is doing in the field.

Detective Whigham first went over the rules of engagement with audience participants. They were recording during this presentation and a disruptive incident is going to occur during the meeting. Because one never knows when something is going to happen, we cannot predict people so one may not be aware of what they are going to do.

Detective Whigham had the participants record the entire incident to see what happens. Detective Whigham then went over the on-body camera history. (See attached presentation for details).

Ron Halbgewachs noted the SE Area CPC began conversations in April of 2015 and discussed recommendations that APD begin a study on smart gun technology; the recommendation was approved 7/16/15. The recommendation was sent to Chief Eden.

Detective Whigham stated that there are many different technologies around. However APD is not moving forward with those due to the cost factor at this time. It is good to see the different technology that is out there and that has come and who knows what will change or happen in the next 5 years.

Detective Whigham then went over policy, there was no definition of evidence. So his team created the definition in the presentation.

Evidence – Recordings that contain content known at the time of the recording, to be associated with criminal activity, are assigned a case number, and are annotated as evidence by the submitting department personnel in the property section of the report.

UNM research study focused on gathering information from data and officer focus groups to inform quality policy for APD and other departments. Overall, officers supported the use of the cameras.

Question from the public: Overall officers supported on body cameras, did they talk about cameras that the public has or just cameras that officers have?

Response: Amir Chapel said that the focus groups support of the cameras was specific to officers using on body cameras, and asking how the officers felt being monitored all of the time.

Officers generally supported the idea because it can clear them if they are accused of anything.

Detective Whigham then went over all of the different types of cameras that were used, a lot of the technology was not great. The cameras from 2010 were very small, bad battery life, SD card based, very difficult to use. He showed the group different types of cameras and also pointed out the cameras that the participants were using. He showed the different parts of the camera and explained what they are. He also demonstrated how to start the cameras, basically went over the full operation of the cameras. There is a constant loop or buffer pre-record that goes on and on all day with the camera until recording is initiated by an officer.

He also went over how officers can upload the information on the cameras. There are basically points of contact that the officers go and connect to and the information is uploaded while charging the device.

Currently in APD database, there are about 600,000 videos that are stored. An average of 46,000 videos per month and over 6,000 hours of video per month are collected. When a specific video is reviewed, all pertinent information is recorded, including the date of review and the name of the reviewer. Videos can be altered but the original will stay intact and all steps in what was changed are tracked. Original video evidence file cannot be altered.

Amir Chapel asked a hypothetical question about someone who trains major forensic units, is it possible for someone who is way up to be able to alter or change a video.

Is there opportunity for things to go missing, altered or changed?

Detective Whigham responded with no, not if the video is already in the system. The video could be gone but there will still be a footprint.

Question from the public: How long does it take to upload and charge batteries?

Response: Depends on the officer and specific situation. Upload time depends on the amount of videos on the device and can take between 20 minutes and a few hours. If an officer does not have a camera on him or it is not charged, he will not be the primary officer to take the call and/or will not be put out on a call. Some officers have extra batteries to help each other out. That is why officers are now going to be given two cameras. There have been times when a camera battery died. The Department is looking into those types of issues and are resolving them. They are moving towards a docking station type of thing for their batteries.

Question from the public: What about cyber hackers? Evidence.com website, how do you ensure it does not get hacked?

Response: There is a 3rd party vendor. We do not make our own equipment and we rely on experts to make our products. This goes along with security, the cameras themselves and then comes out of them is encrypted and proprietary.

Detective Whigham wants to reiterate that all variables have to be looked at. There is a lot involved to every incident and some things officers cannot overcome. He wants us to remember these things when seeing an incident and to be sure to look at the entire incident.

APD has worked on a newer version of the policy that will be recording based on behavior and not just on who the person is. Make sure to take a look at the new policy it is updated on the APD website, <https://www.cabq.gov/police/>

Detective Whigham also suggested that we look up New York Times body camera survey, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKaTMrVRYn8>

Ron Halbgewachs discussed an article that was on CNN for new body cams that start recording with the draw of a Taser gun, and stated it is very easy for someone to search body camera information on the web.

CPC Strategic Plan – Gary Peterson (10 Minutes)

The council has been working on structure on how we can tackle problems that are coming up. The presentation has objectives and is tracked in terms of what is completed and action taken to complete each objective. Gary Peterson went over the Community Policing Council mission statement and focus areas of the Southeast CPC. If the community wants to be involved in one of these focus areas feel free to let us know and we can get you involved.

Ride-Along Reports (5 Minutes)

No one in attendance has done a ride along to report

Monthly Crime Report from SE Area Command (5 Minutes)

This report is from the dates of August 17th - September 20th

Property crime is as follows: 228 auto thefts, 228 auto burglary 120 residential, and 341 violent type crimes.

Tact plan in the University area just finished about a week ago and the stats show that there was a 17% decrease in reported crimes.

Crime, drugs and violence goes hand in hand.

With school starting officers wanted to make sure that they are out and making contact and showing a strong police presence.

Public Comments, Questions, Responses (25 minutes)

Question from the public: Superman question, last year he had problems on Zuni and ended on Central and Utah. Last week he had some problems. Do you feel that legally the laws are strong enough to keep him incarcerated or committed?

Response: Sergeant Legendre cannot discuss what is going on with him, there have been several problems with him. He was able to get into the Community Center here and lit a car on fire. Officers have been out with him a whole bunch of time. Laws are there and arrests are being made but cannot answer questions on his mental health.

Question from the public: a woman had a minor traffic offense dropped a few years back. Officer did have a camera and it was her duty to track down the video of the incident. She was told that the video doesn't exist. She is concerned that the administration of the video is not being shown.

Response: Detective Whigham stated that some events are recorded and some aren't there is a 90 day retention on them. If there are charges present, then the video will be saved until approved by the court to be deleted. If it is a civil case it does not fit into the criteria to be saved.

Comment from the public: maybe that is something that as a council we can recommend.

Agenda items for next meeting

Discussion of SOP 2.52 Use of Force

Other Business

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:33

Closed Executive Council Meeting

Followed the regular Council meeting.

Next Regular Council meeting: October 19, 2017