



Minutes of the Northwest Area Community Policing Council

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Don Newton/Taylor Ranch Community Center

900 Kachina St NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120

1. Call to Order

Chairperson, Eric Jackson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. (MST) on Wednesday, May, 2015.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairperson Eric Jackson

Lieutenant Steve Altman

Sgt. Dennis Tafoya

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. David Gold, Facilitator, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

Commander Dodi Camacho

CITIZENS PRESENT:

Judith Kanester

Jill Greene

Patrick Sanchez

2. Approve Minutes

Mr. Jackson's motion to approve the April 8, 2015 minutes passed unanimously.

3. Approve Agenda

Chairperson Eric Jackson's motion to approve the agenda for May 6, 2015 passed unanimously.

4. Matters from the Public

None

5. Old Business

None

6. Discussion with Commander Dodi Comacho

Commander Dodi Comacho and attendees discussed several topics. These included:

- Difficulties due to minimal staffing.
 - Hope that the new staffing study will help clarify actual staffing levels.
 - Concern about the educational requirements, or removing them.
 - It was noted that 1500 applications were received, but only 15 officers ultimately made it through the entire application and academy process to join APD.
- Difficulties in retention
 - Officers know that they can increase their income by moving to Colorado. \$6/hour to start and greater increase at higher levels.
 - There is an effect on morale with the current issues.
 - The difficulties created by the PERA double dipping limitations.

7. New Business

There were a number of new items discussed.

Bicycle Resolution

The group was working on a resolution to give bicycles that the Evidence unit disposed of, to the city Parks and Recreation Community Cycling program. It was approved unanimously. The recommendation is attached as Exhibit A.

PERA Changes

It was noted that in 2016 the PERA rules will cause Cost of Living Adjustments to begin after 7 years instead of 4, for new retirees. This will cause many officers to retire and strain the already understaffed police force. The problem is exacerbated by the “double-dipping” PERA rules, which limit (COLAs) for returning officers.

Classic Police Cars to Enhance Recruitment

APD owns a 76 Plymouth Fury and 63 Galaxy that were used as police cars. They were brought out at a recent car show, and generated enthusiasm. Participants discussed the possibility of using these cars as vehicles for recruitment. Discussion included having them restored by Mild to Wild (a local concern) or the high school automotive program.

APD Museum

It was noted that the APD Museum was no longer manned because the person in charge died. This could be a potential recruiting mechanism, possibly manned by volunteers.

Public Service Aides

The value of Public Service Aides were discussed. A recommendation was considered, to have a liaison with the Albuquerque Public Schools. The goal would be to have programs similar to nursing or ROTC. If people start in high school, they could have more knowledge by the time they reach the academy. It was noted that in Rio Rancho, they have a forensics course.

Handling Inappropriate Calls

It was noted that inappropriate calls consume police resources. The police can't turn down a call. Solutions suggested included:

- Civilianize some of the answering, to filter calls.
- Educate the public on what to call police for, and what appropriate calls area.
- It was also noted that on weekends 311 appears to go to 911

Kids coming out now have never been in physical confrontations. Many kids at UNM not in fight. Cadets coming in have never been in confrontation situation. They resort to tasers, rather than hands on.

Lack of Physical Confrontation Experience

It was noted children today have little experience in physical confrontations. This is a potential disadvantage for new officers, as they tend to resort to tasers (or other tools), rather than rely on hands on. A high school curriculum addition of self-defense was considered.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairperson Eric Jackson reminded everyone of the next Regular Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Substation. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

READ AND APPROVED:

Mr. David Gold
Secretary to the Board

Mr. Eric Jackson
Chairperson of the Board