



Valley Community Policing Council

Minutes

August 22, 2019

Rowan Wymark, Abigail Long, Alex, and Edwina Kiro

20 of community members attended, 7 from APD

Call to order – 6:00 pm

Motion to approve agenda

Rowan: What cops see as priorities are different from what the citizen see as priorities. We have brought representatives from APD forward and APD speaking about what community policing is.

Q: What are your perspectives on CPC?

Lt Ferris Simmons: My approach is through the community, to have officers out of their cars on the streets in the downtown area. It is important for the citizens to know where we are and we are accessible. The heart of CPC is communication and being available. Have those conversations and hear the citizens out. Listening you find out what the problem is and are able to fix it. It's happening a lot more as the department has taken steps that supervisors are adding engagement into their daily routine. Officers are being more active with opening those lines of communication.

Paul Idle: APD Forward works with the city and APD. Our group is the voice for the community, often bringing up what APD can be doing better. Community policing can give us a shared vision of what we would like it to be. There are lot of different things on what it means, if there isn't a shared understanding it can be mean different things to everyone else.

Rowan: One thing we are working towards is, if you see in officer on the street it does not mean danger or that something is going on.

Paul Idle: There is many folks in our community that do not have trust on APD and we are working together to build that trust again. When the state police were here, many people did not appreciate having more officers on the street. It brought up many issues with the community.

Lt Simmons: The governor asked for assistance from the state with all the incidents happening especially in the nob hill area. We are working on staffing concerns, working on getting 100 cadets each year. However, recruiting is hard, finding people with the requirements. It is not all glamorous like how they make it out on television.

Paul Idle: The governor made the choice and people expressed support, what he didn't do good was getting the community buy in. There were two shootings the first couple of days of when the state police were here. They were not operating on the same rules that APD has. People will always disagree but the governor thought it was important to have more officers, he should have just let the community know before bringing them along.

Lt Simmons: We were assisted by officers who may have never lived in Albuquerque, they do not know our people they way APD does. It was a double-edged sword on how it was going to roll out. I love asking people on what we can do.

Rowan: It is good to go out the community

Paul Idle: When talking about the numbers, APD needs to hire 300 more officers. If we ask our police not to do those mental illness jobs, they would be more officers freed up. Traditional policing, broken window, if you focus on the low-level stuff it will eventually get better.

C: Albuquerque has better resources then most cities in New Mexico.

Lt Simmons: Broken windows came from Canada, when you do not address those things, it makes the criminal element think you don't care.

Q: Does overtime have many impacts?

A: To make it safe, you have to bring people in and which causes officers to have OT. Shifts have to be covered.

Q: How can we keep our parks safer, how can we get more involved?

A: Laura Trujillo has a crime prevention team has some training on how to deal with the homeless and park. Share your concerns with you lieutenant or beat officers.

Mayor's office: There are many opportunities to communicate and create relationship. We have a volunteering program to be able to help free up the officers.

Councilor: Parks are huge complaint. AP is enforcing against tents at the park, they cannot do it all day long but they do it. I just did a ride along with one of the bike patrols, and they are very compassionate, they knew every homeless persons name. As a community, the community decided having more group activities there and it has changed the dynamic there. A neighbor got a green vest and started walking around the neighborhood, not everyone has the opportunity to do that but as a community, a lot can happen. Consent decree put us in a spot but it has paid off. Community policing is for everyone!

APD Reports – Laura Trujillo (Crime Prevention Specialist):

July 19 – August 19

There 36 commercial burglaries, 78 auto burglaries, 76 auto thefts and 49 found vehicles.

Q: Are there certain areas where the cars are being found?

A: No, they are being found everywhere.

Q: Is there a policy for sirens?

A: There is, every call is different. The supervisor will let the officers know how to respond and when they should go on.

Adjourned

7:40 pm

*Resources provided to/for this meeting: copies of the agenda, minute taking, and posting on social media.