



Foothills Community Policing Council

Annual Report 2021



Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Purpose	
Membership	
Diversity, Demographics and APD Staffing	
Getting To Work	
Tracking Tool	2
Newsletters	
Activities and Achievements	4
Public Meetings	
Public Forum Participation for 2021 by Month	
Public CPC Meetings Summary for 2021	
Recommendations to APD and our City Administration	7
Going Forward	8
Lessons Learned	
Appendix – Foothills CPC Newsletters for November and December 2021	

Introduction

About CPC

The Foothills CPC (FH CPC) was established in 2014 to facilitate and improve relations between the residents of the City of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Police Department.

Purpose

The purpose of the Community Policing Council (Council) is to promote and maintain positive, respectful, supportive, and cooperative interactions between Members of the community and the Albuquerque Police Department to ensure reforms are established and sustained and to bring community concerns regarding public safety and related quality of life issues and solutions are brought to the attention of police and municipal authorities. The goals and purpose of the CPC have broadened during the last eight years.

Membership

Our Foothills Council has maintained a vigorous presence in our area. At year's end we had nine members, having lost two members in the Fall. Our active members at the end of December are:

- Aundre Huynh
- David Zeuch
- Graham Bowkett
- Idalia Lechuga-Tena
- Judy Young
- Josephine Martinez
- Paul Sedillo
- Samuel Nevarez
- Robert Carleton

We expect that there will be departures from our council in 2022, but we also have five (5) candidate members. These include two former members of the CPC, a retired attorney, and a UNM graduate student.

Of the six members of the council at the beginning of 2021, one – Byron Powdrell – resigned to run for public office. He was not successful in that effort. He will be eligible to rejoin the CPC in 2022 and has submitted his statement of interest.

Robert Carleton has been the Chair for most of 2020 and all of 2021, but he has asked the Council to replace him with the new year. He has also asked that the Council select a vice-chair to work with the new chair.

Selection conversations between the candidate members and the present council will be scheduled as early as possible in the New Year.

Diversity, Demographics and APD Staffing

The FH CPC continues to attract a diverse segment of the population from the Albuquerque Police Department Foothills Area Command. Because of the suspension of in-person forums, it is not possible to know how many folks actually participate in our public forums. Our statistics only reflect the number of computer logins during the meetings. We do know that we have attracted more participation from neighborhood association members in the southern half of the FH Area than was reported in previous years. With the introduction of the webinar format for public forums, it was not possible to determine where individuals who attend are located. We have recommended that registration for attendance at webinars include the zip code of the registration and that process began in 2021. We will have these numbers available for all of 2022. Some diversity was evident as a result of follow-on correspondence.

Population of the FAC is around 120,000, and it covers 23.8 square miles. The distribution of personnel in the Command is: Commander Jimmy Collins, 4 Lieutenants, 9 Sergeants, 50 field officers (2 of whom comprise a Proactive Response Team, or PRT and 2 Police Service Aides (PSAs). Property crimes continue to top the list in the Foothills Command. Auto burglaries, stolen vehicles, and residential burglaries lead the list..

Getting to Work

Foothills CPC Tracking Tool

The Foothills CPC incorporated a tool to assist in tracking executive meeting notes, upcoming actions, and completed tasks. The tool allows the council to have a visual as we discuss agenda items within our meetings. The tool helps keep the Foothills CPC organized as we work through a variety of actions. As council members leave and join, the tracker assists in making sure that information and tasks are accessible to everyone and that we are able to stay on track with objectives. The tool will continue to improve and adapt to the team and its changing needs and initiatives.

Newsletters

We began writing and distributing newsletters in June of 2020 when it became obvious that in-person meeting would have to be suspended for an extended time. We continued this practice through all of 2021.

Commander Collins contributed material to our effort until April when the APD FHA began sending its own newsletter. They rely on our CPC to distribute their

newsletter to our list, though they never asked. We have no idea whether they also distribute it to a list of their own. For the first two months, they left us some space in their newsletter for brief articles (without telling us they were doing so) but they stopped that practice without notice. We were surprised by this change because no one at APD mentioned it to us, and we were caught flat-footed. They also changed the format from a Word-PDF document to a Publisher-PDF format. We adopted the Publisher style because it permits more innovative use of color and layout, including pictures.

Our mailing list, in the Spring of 2020 included about 350 names, but has grown, and at the end of 2021 it includes about 540 unique names and addresses.

In addition to a brief introduction of the primary webinar topic and speakers, the newsletter includes articles on a range of community interests as evidenced by the brief summaries just below.

January: Speaker Cori Lowe was to discuss IMR-12. Kelly Mensah became Administrator/Liaison for the CPCs, Stolen Guns were a major concern.

February: Two panelist discussions were featured: the Gang Unit and Air Support. Kelly Mensah will make a self-introduction, and we brought up the subjects of safes, guns, and documents in the home.

March: We advertised Lt Hollie Anderson of the Criminal Investigations unit, Commander Luke Languit, Criminal Enforcement, Gerry Bachicha and Angel Garcia of Crime Prevention. We also featured a substantial story on road rage.

April: Chief Medina and new Superintendent Sylvester Stanley were featured. A substantial article on Singing Arrow Park improvements including our collaboration with Parks and Recreation and APD along with the new Community Safety Department on this. Speeders and Air Support was included. We mentioned the completion of our 2020 Annual Report.

May: Erica Wilson of the Communications Center (911) and Mariela Ruiz-Angel of the new Community Safety Department led the news. We had articles on APD, AFR, and ASC. Our Street Racing Committee was featured with leadership by Judy Young.

June: We featured new members Josephine Martinez, Idalia Lechuga-Tena, and Vance Kabella. Our lead article was on Speaker Dr Charlie Verploegh of the Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Services. We discussed the reduction of street racing due to the efforts of Cmdr. Collins and his team.

July: Featured were Manzano Mesa recycling bin problems, Singing Arrow Park, and Street Racing. We lead with an article on Longmont Colorado Chief Mike Butler who retired after more than 20 years of police department innovation and success. "Police have to learn to say no! when additional non-police responsibilities are pushed at them."

August: Our lead article was on Jess Martinez, Assistant Director of the Albuquerque Department of Family and Community Services. He was to be the lead speaker for the August webinar, discussing the new Community Center at Singing Arrow including its operating policies and staffing.

September: Shawn Willoughby occupied the top front of our newsletter along with Max Kauffmann, a prominent disability attorney. Other key news included the report of Foothills APD response to a 140 mph speed event on Montgomery! Cmdr. Collins was also featured.

October: Singing Arrow problems resurfaced and occupied a major portion of the newsletter, including trespassing and damage to private property. We featured PRT Officer Esquibel with a picture. We featured a major review of the cost of policing errors before and during the CASA period (the reduction of payouts exceeds the cost of CASA compliance).

November: We had a bombshell lead on Sex Trafficking. Our speakers for November, Pastor Shelly Repp of the NM Dream Center and Sgt Bailey of the APD Child Exploitive unit were featured. We also continued the focus on Speeding and wrote a significant story about abandoned real property.

December: Our lead story was about upcoming presentations by Chief Medina and Assistant DA Joshua Boon. We had a follow-on story about sex trafficking. We also wrote an illustrated article on the “trapped thumb” “SOS” hand signal for youth to use if they are in trouble and fearful (as in a captive situation or when violence is present in the home).

Activities and Achievements

The FH CPC continued a program featuring speakers and presenters at monthly webinars to further engage the public. Attorneys with public interests presented as did the director of the new Community Safety Department, the Assistant Director of the developing Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Department and specialist members of the Albuquerque Police Department for more focused presentations. Representatives from outside agencies also joined us to discuss issues of community concern.

Public Webinars

We continued the practice of holding monthly public webinars due to continued Covid-related precautions. We did not skip a month, and we scheduled topics and speakers who were able to address issues of interest to our immediate communities and to Albuquerque at large.

We enjoyed decent participation by the public throughout 2021.

Announcements and invitations for each meeting are sent to every address on our mailing list. This included about 400 addresses at the beginning of 2021, and more than 525 by the end of the year. Our list has been updated and vetted each month and is so accurate that we no longer receive any “address not found” or other error messages.

We attribute decent turnout for our webinars to our persistence and welcoming of participation. Each month, we write and distribute an “invitation and agenda” to our entire mailing list. The cover letter provides a brief tease of the main topics of the webinar, and also – importantly – includes the registration link. We believe that we cannot expect that everyone in our audience will open a second document or go to a separate website to find the link they need. We do not expect them to remember to register on their own. We try to pique their interest and make participation as easy as possible. Of course, there are a few individuals who will surmount any obstacle to attend, but they aren’t our main audience; we need to make it easy and comfortable and do so each month. As a result, we average more than 15 “official” attendees (this is a fuzzy category that includes police and similar folks, speakers, and our own CPC members), and 44 public attendees. June, July, and October saw our lowest number of public attendees, and February, August, and September were the highest.

Public Forum Participation for 2021 by month

Meeting Month	Officials and CPC Panel Attending	Public Attendance	Average Time in Session	Median Time in Session
			(minutes)	
January	14	49	77	92
February	15	55	89.5	110
March	11	43	73.5	93
April	14	41	96.67	116.5
May	17	44	83	92.5
June	12	33	86	102
July	16	32	91.69	114
August	24	53	88	98
September	14	51	89.8	110
October	17	36	88	102
November	15	46	88.97	109
December	15	45	91.53	109

Public Webinar Participation by Zip Code

We had lamented our inability to track the geographic dispersion of our attendees in our 2020 report. That lack was partly remedied beginning in April when we asked Kelly Mensah to add a category to the registration page: “Zip Code of attendee”. Response of registrants has been spotty but is improving as we go along. We limited it to the basic 5-digit code so that registrants should not fear that we are tracking individuals. Many of the Zip Codes have fewer than 1 registrant per month. What follows is the summary average number of

attendees by Zip Code:

20530 – <1	87108 - <1	87124 - 1
23310 – <1	87109 – 2	87144 - <1
46999 – <1	87110 – 2	87505 - <1
87048 – <1	87111 – 14	87507 - <1
87059 - <1	87112 - 14	
87102 – 1	87114 - >1	
87104 - <1	87121 - <1	
87105 - <1	87122 - 1	
87107 – 1	87123 – 15	

There is no surprise that nearly all of our attendees report living along and either side of Tramway Boulevard within the city limits and in the area of Manzano Mesa, Four Hills and environs. Each month includes those who report themselves as being in the Washington DC Metro area, and that’s not surprising either.

Public Foothills CPC Meetings Summary 2021

The official reports of our public meetings were posted on the CPC section of the Albuquerque CPOA website until our own space on the CABQ website became a separate entity. What follows is a brief listing of the topics of each of the public forums of the Foothills CPC.

January: Introduction of new CPC Liaison – Kelly Mensah who will have remarks during our February public webinar; just an introduction this month 7. APD Update: Commander Jimmy Collins, Foothills Command 8. Special Presentations: - Recruitment and Appointment of New Chief of Police: Alicia Manzano, Liaison for Strategic Partnerships, Albuquerque City Government - Independent Monitor Report – IMR-12 – update and review: Cori Lowe, APD Compliance Bureau

February: Air Support: Sergeant Will Taylor addressed the operations and effect of fixed-wing and helicopter support for APD field operations. - Gang Unit: Sergeant Matthew Vollmer discussed the presence of gangs in Albuquerque, the public safety implications of these gangs and APD actions to monitor and control them.

March: Special Guests – Two Sides of The Coin – one unit works to solve crimes of violence and the other strives to prevent violent crimes: - Criminal Investigations Division: Lt. Hollie Anderson, - Criminal Enforcement Division: Commander Luke Languit, Gerri Bachicha, and Angel Garcia

April: . APD Update: Commander James Collins, Foothills Command 6. Special Guest – Superintendent Sylvester Stanley 7. Community comment and questions from the on-line chat function.

May: PD Update: Commander James Collins, Foothills Command. Special Guests - Mariela Ruiz-Angel, Community Safety Department - Erica Wilson – Communications Center Manager 8. Street Racing – introduction of special CPC committee – Judy Young

June: Foothills CPC Recommendations to APD and our city administration. APD Update: Commander James Collins, Foothills Command. Special Guest - Dr. Charlie Verploegh, Assistant Director, Department of Behavioral Health Services, Bernalillo County

July: - Foothills CPC Recommendation to APD and our city administration. APD Update: Commander James Collins, Foothills Command. Special Guest - Mike Butler, Retired Chief of Police from Longmont, Colorado

August: date: Commander James Collins, Foothills Command. Special Guest - Jess R Martinez, Deputy Director, Department of Family and Community Services

September: Special Guests - Shawn Willoughby, Albuquerque Police Officer's Association President - Max Kauffman, Attorney with Disability Rights New Mexico

October: . Special Guests • Commander Rich Evans, External Force Investigation Team. Lt Jennifer Garcia, the Ambassador Program. Commander Nick Wheeler, Vision Zero

November: Special Guests: Pastor Shelley Repp, New Mexico Dream Center, Sergeant Shane Bailey, APD Child Exploitation Unit Community comment and questions from the on-line chat function.

December: APD Update: Commander James Collins, Foothills Command. Special Guests - APD Chief, Harold Medina - Joshua Boone, Deputy District Attorney. (Note: Chief Medina called off at the last minute)

Recommendations to APD and Our City Administration

We published the recommendations in the table below with our newsletter and presented them at our webinars. We forwarded them for action, and Kelly Mensah sent them along to APD. Regarding several recommendations, we have heard nothing at all from either the city or the police in any formal sense, but we were heartened by the fact that action has been taken to address many of these conditions. We believe that there continues to be a serious disconnect in the way recommendations are received and processed, and hope that further implementation of the CPC Ordinance and the CPC Guidelines will make this process operate more smoothly and provide two-way communications. The process of interaction between APD, our city, and the CPCs is supposed to be a multi-directional exchange of information and requests for input. That does not occur. At the end of 2021 we still found the City and APD telling us things and never asking for assistance. The city acts upon us and not with us.

Following are the titles for these recommendations made in 2021 along with the known response :

Date	Subject	Completion
20210528	Manzano Mesa Late Night Abuses – gangs, gunshots and solid waste issues	Substantial improvement. Shotspotter use indicated many overnight shots fired in this area. Solid waste cooperated in cleanup. Police increased surveillance and patrols.
20210614	Tramway-Central Safety Security and Hotel Abuse	Substantial Improvement. Crime Prevention enlisted hotels and businesses, 60-day police effort, cameras, mobile command station
20210526	Street Racing – MM, Tramway	Substantial improvement at first – 5 quiet months on these streets. Street racing in the Manzano Mesa started to increase once more near the end of 2021.
20210108	Manzano Mesa Violence and Safety	Improvement. Trees and shrubs trimmed. Increased surveillance. Many family using park now.
20201201	Crosswalk Needed at Tramway Central between shopping area and Smith’s	No action taken. Our follow-on recommendation is to move the bus stop, but we still need crosswalk(s)
20201201	Improve Police/CPC Communication with designated contacts	Big brouhaha because we used the term “block captains” as in “police should contact CPC in the same way they do block captains”... and the opposition claimed we were trying to do away with block captains. The city’s response was the same stupid recitation of what a block captain is – willful misunderstanding intended to undermine the CPCs!
20210708	Police Vehicle Standardization of appearance	Chief Medina agreed. Dark Blue going forward. Will take years.

20210724	Letter To Chief Medina on enforcement of Traffic Regulations from the Council of Chairs	No direct response
20210728	Letter to Chief Medina and others concerning their attempts to stifle voice of CPCs by limiting us to “our lane” only.	No direct response.
20211011	Further emergency issues involving Singing Arrow Park and campers	No response yet
20211011	Bus turn-around and re-routing at Tramway/Central and Wenonah	No response to the CPC, but the Transit Authority did change the bus routes as we recommended, but without notice to anyone.
20211011	Illegal Alcohol Sales at Alon convenience store Tramway/Central	Immediate response was that if the CPCs want to involve the State Liquor enforcement authorities, they should do so themselves. It’s not a police matter.

Going Forward – Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

The Foothills CPC has had some success in recruiting members from the more northern area of our community. We currently have two members who live North of Menaul, but our overall balance remains South of Interstate 40. We have candidate members who may help provide geographic balance. One public member who lives near the northern border of our area said he would not be attending our public forums because “it’s really a 4-Hills area focus”. Reality is that issues of public safety and crime are more prevalent South of Lomas, and especially in the Hotel Circle vicinity and at the East end of Central, in the Tramway and 4-Hills Shopping area.

We continued to seek relationships with Neighborhood Associations. All our public communications are also directed to the NAs in the Foothills area.

While we have benefitted from the increasing maturity of the overall CPC program and the selection of an Administrative Assistant and an Office Assistant to continue our work, we have a way to go. Kelly Mensah, our Administrative Assistant has provided generic business cards for the CPCs and has also managed to purchase T-shirts with the CPC logo for CPC panel members,

we have not yet been able to procure posters; this is not as severe a problem as it sounds in that pandemic precautions continue to prevent any public in-person meetings and have limited our ability to post notices around the community. Kelly has also procured a collapsible awning and tablecloth with CPC legends for use when public events once again become possible. Marteessa Billy is our capable office assistant. She prepares the minutes of our meetings and posts the results of meetings on our CPC web page. Marteessa returns the raw statistics from our public webinars and the chat room basics to us for analysis within days after each meeting. We appreciate Marteessa's attention to detail and responsiveness.

Going forward, we need additional handout material and publicity assistance. The budget allocated to the CPCs has been opaque in the extreme and requires recasting to make it wholly transparent to the six CPC Chairs and their councilors. There is no present capability to know the basics of how much cash was allocated in each category at the beginning of the year and how much has been spent by category with the amount remaining. These deficiencies were noted last year. We have not lost track of them, and they continue to be priorities.

Name badges/ID Cards have been prepared and distributed to all our FH panel members. Mike Kruchoski, Secretary of the Council of Chairs took the initiative and offered to make ID cards for all CPC members. We took advantage of his offer and got the cards this past Fall. The cards and carrying pouches and lanyards are not expensive, but Mike has not yet been reimbursed for them. This is one of the budget issues the six CPCs face in general.

Our membership has taken some hits this past year as three councilors left. One left because of problems with his health that prevented him from taking part on a regular basis. We appreciated his participation, and it was solely his decision to step away. Another determined that our interests and hers were not well-aligned. She is only interested in "police procedure" matters (she's a former law enforcement officer). We have encouraged her to apply for membership on the CPOA/CPOAB. The third left to pursue leadership in a different public interest group.

We have retained a balance of diversity among our Council. We have done better than we expected regarding gender and age balance and have some variety in ethnic diversity. We continue to be happy that both ride-alongs and Citizen Police Academy attendance are no longer mandatory, but are equally pleased that pandemic precautions have eased to the point that ride-alongs are once again possible.

2022 will see new leadership and several new members of our CPC. The Chair, Robert Carleton, has made it clear that he does not wish to serve another year in that capacity. Leadership decisions will be made in early 2022. We are hoping to have new Chair, Vice Chair, and new Councilors in place for the February public webinar.

This 2021 Annual Report prepared with the substantial input of Aundre Huynh, Graham Bowkett, and Paul Robert Sedillo. Any errors of fact or omission are solely the responsibility of the author.

Submitted for the Foothills Community Policing Council,

Robert Carleton
Chair

Attachment: 2021 Newsletter Samples

[202111 FH Newsletter.pdf](#)

[202112 FH Newsletter.pdf](#)