

INTRODUCTION

The Albuquerque Foothills Command Community Policing Council (CPC) met twelve times during 2018. Meetings were held on the second Monday of each month except November which was delayed to the third Monday due to Veterans Day. All meetings were conducted at the Holiday Park Community Center at 11710 Comanche Road and began promptly at 6 PM. Although all meetings must conclude by 7:50 PM, the council encouraged early adjournment so that members of the public, council board members, and members of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) could discuss any issues and render opinions in an informal environment.

The total public attendance for all twelve meetings was 338. This equates to an average of 28 citizens per meeting. However, if one counts the board members and the APD officers, the average comes to about 39 individuals at each meeting. Attendance in 2016 was 182 and for 2017 the total was 282; hence, the attendance is growing each year. The council attributes this primarily to the quality of speakers at each meeting.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

January

Five board members present, 19 Public, and 5 APD. The speaker was Judge Stephen French from the New Mexico Court of Appeals. His presentation was very interesting and informative concerning the new State Supreme Court Rules on Pre-Trial Detention.

February

Six board members present, 28 Public, and 12 APD. Council member Ralph Butler was the speakers as he recently retired from the FBI. He explained the relationship between local law enforcement and the FBI and how they work together to solve certain cases.

March

Six board members present, 28 Public, and 2 APD. Speaker Susan Miller (UNM) explained how to prevent and deal with Child Abuse. Chair Kontny reported that he met with the staff of the Chief of Police and members of the Albuquerque Journal to discuss publication of actions that individuals can take to prevent auto theft.

April

Six board members present, 30 Public, and 5 APD. APD Detective Chris Whigham presented a history, current, and future use of body cameras. He also demonstrated their use. A very interesting talk.

May

Five board members present, 21 Public, and 3 APD. Speaker Erika Wilson gave an excellent presentation of the 911 emergency call system. She has 135 authorized positions with only 8 current vacancies. She explained the difference between 911 and 242-COPS and how calls are answered processed.

June

Six board members present, 19 Public, and 2 APD. Kathleen Burk from Street Safe New Mexico relayed how human trafficking is an Albuquerque problem and the difference between prostitution and some massage parlors who use captive women.

July

Five board members present, 20 Public, and 4 APD. Judge Jill Martinez from Metro Court gave a very interesting presentation on the type of cases and problems encountered within Metro Court.

August

Five board members present, 56 Public, and 3 APD. A very large crowd heard Mr. Rob Middleton from APD Internal Affairs explain the inter-workings of his department. He relayed that it took about 29 hours on average to completely review and resolve just one case and there is a significant backlog.

September

Three board members present, 41 Public, and 6 APD. Speaker Dr. Peter Winograd, UNM Professor Emeritus spoke on how APD deals with a large volume of behavioral health calls every year. The calls have increased from 3,797 in 2010 to 8,000 the past twelve months.

October

Six board members present, 30 Public, and 7 APD. State Senator Sander Rue talked about criminal justice reform from his view from the subcommittee on justice reform. Very interesting and informative remarks particularly about recidivism.

November

Five board members present, 21 Public, and 8 APD. The speaker was Ms. Jenny Metzler who is the Executive Director of the Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless. She talked about the difficult issues of health for the homeless and plans for future shelters.

December

Six board members present, 33 Public, and 11 APD. The speaker was none other than the Chief of Police, Michael Geier, who presented a lengthy discussion of the present and future status of the Albuquerque Police Department. The council

voted to increase the board to nine members. Also, a final draft of guidelines was created

CONCLUSIONS

Most members generally agreed that the Foothills CPC had a successful year with many interesting speakers. The council introduced the following recommendations: 1. Increase the manning of the APD Recruiting Department 2. Evaluate the use of new policing technologizes 3. Utilize the Albuquerque Journal to publicize methods that citizens can employ to protect their assets including autos. Three council members resigned, but four new ones were voted to the council. It was agreed almost unanimously to continue to meet every month as the most important element of the CPC was the monthly meeting with meaningful and interesting speakers.