Valley Community Policing Council

Zoom meeting: February 25, 2021

Approximately 31 members of the public attended, including APD Civilian and Sworn

CPC members present: Rowan Wymark, Edwina Kiro, Randy Oliver, Talia Sledge, Tom O’Keefe, Jacqueline Ritz, Erin Cohen.

I. 6:04 PM, meeting called to order.
II. 6:04 PM, councilmembers Introduction.
III. 6:08 PM, Peter Simonson, Presentation “The External Force Investigation Team.”
    A. Deputy Chief Eric Garcia responds to presentation, spoke about issues with IMR-12, and Force Review Board findings.
    B. Simonson responds on APD’s systemic and procedural issues.
    C. Garcia speaks on remedies to Internal Affairs Issues
IV. Commander Cori Lowe Evaluated and listed challenges within Internal Affairs
    1- Training History, 2- Process of Interviews, 3- Multiple changes in I.A Supervision, 4- Covid Issues.
    A. Questions to Commander Lowe from the Panel regarding continuity.
    B. Commander Lowe responds; turnover an I.A Commander post has led to problems with mission completion, we have had three new deputy commanders within 2020.
V. 6:30 PM, CPOA Director Ed Harness speaks on prospective EFIT process, says that there are deficiencies within APD with detective training, and is hopeful of the long-term effects of EFIT.
    A. Panelist questions on EFIT qualifications for hire, and prospective candidates.
    B. D.C. Garcia; EFIT hires will not be APD and will be from throughout the country.
VI. 6:40 PM. USDOJ US Attorney Elizabeth Martinez spoke about the search process and a public hearing being held tomorrow, and invited attendees to watch.
    A. Councilmember Tom O’Keefe asks; “what will EFIT be investigating?”
    B. D.C. Garica responds; all level 1 and level 2 uses of force.
    C. Councilmember Jacqueline Ritz asks; Is discipline difficult for commanders to implement, as they are part of the police union?
D. Commander Jonathan Brown responds; *We are no longer part of the union, APD Police Commanders are now at will employees, and administering discipline is just part of the job.*

E. Ed Harness: Police union needs to be bifurcated, all supervisory officers should be removed.

VII. 6:53 PM, APD’s Michael Meisinger spoke on APD, Use of Force Training Program and the meaning of Tier-4 training.
   A. Question from councilmember Sledge on inequitable use of force for marginalized groups at demonstrations.
   B. Question from Council; “Does APD undergo conciliatory spirit training?
   C. Meisinger responds: *APD undergoes Crisis Intervention Training and De-escalation training,* and speaks about the manpower needed for Tier-4 training as to why progress within the department is slow.
   E. Attendee: “How do you think the training is working?”
   F. Meisinger: *Creating a training process is a seven-step program.*

VIII. 7:19 PM, Commander Brown speaks about rise in auto theft, using bait cars, and theft of catalytic converters.

IX. 7:23 PM, APD’s Laura Trujillo gives Valley Crime Report:
   A. Vehicle Break-ins – 50
   B. Auto Thefts – 54
   C. Commercial Burglaries -17
   D. Residential Burglaries – 15
   E. Auto Thefts – 58
   F. Recovered Vehicles – 28
   G. Carjacking – 1
   H. Commercial Robberies -4
   I. Robberies by Gunpoint -3
   J. “Most of the crimes went down from last month, the only ones that went up were auto theft and commercial robbery.

X. Continued discussion on Bait vehicles, catalytic converter theft.

XI. CPC Liaison Kelly K. Mensah on Building stronger CPC Communities

XII. Council Elections:
   A. Rowan Wymark re-elected as Co-Chair, no opposition
   B. Edwina Kiro re-elected as Co-Chair, no opposition
   C. Erin Cohen elected as Secretary, no opposition

XIII. 7:57 PM, meeting adjourned.