



***CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE***

MEETING MINUTES  
FOOTHILLS AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL  
Monday, November 13, 2017  
6:00 PM  
HOLIDAY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER  
11710 COMANCHE ROAD NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

In Attendance:

- Rod Kontny, Chair
- Joseph Abbin
- Mark Burton
- Kathy Brown
- David Barbour
- Commander Fernando Aragon
- Sergeant Anaya, APD
- Lt. Bret White
- Officer Alberti, APD
- Yvette Marentes, CPC Admin

Absent:

- Ralph Butler – excused absence
- Ed MaCardle – unexcused absence
- Sabrina Slauson –unexcused absence

26 members of the public were in attendance.

- Call to order and Reading of the Community Policing Council Goals- Rod Kontny, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 6:00

Valerie St. John has resigned and the board now consists of 8 people. Ed MaCardle has missed the last two meetings, he will be contacted to see if he wants to be part of the board or he will be voted off. Sabrina Slauson, will also be contacted to see if she wants to remain on the board. We will have some openings all are able to apply through the system.

The meeting guidelines and rules were explained to the group.

Quorum: 5 out of 8 was met at the start of the meeting.

The members of the community introduced themselves as well.

Mark Burton announced that the transient task force that he is part of are moving transient people down toward Eubank and I-40. They are seeing CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) out there helping and working with the transient community.

Rod addressed the council regarding the agenda he will probably have another council member work on the agenda each month.

- Introduction of Council, APD representatives, and Visitors

The members of the community introduced themselves as well.

- Review/amendment/approval of Agenda

Motion was made to approve agenda, agenda was approved, none opposed.

- Review/correction/approval of Minutes from October meeting

Motion was made to approve minutes with amendments made by Katy Brown, minutes were approved with amendments, none opposed.

- APD Communications

Review of Foothills Crime Report from APD with Sergeant Anaya

For the month of October some crime stats include; 61 robberies, 2 home invasions, 2 car jacking's, 67 stolen vehicles, numerous cases of keys left in vehicle and vehicle unlocked.

Do not leave your car unlocked or unattended. APD has done some public service announcements on this, previously, it was on the water bill and they are looking to see how they can get the word out again. Some insurance companies will not even cover your vehicle if it is left unlocked with the keys in it due to a warmup. Rod Kontny, the council made a recommendation to the Chief about some sort of announcement to try and prevent this from happening. This recommendation was made about 4 months ago.

Sergeant Anaya, commercial burglaries 18, 4 were caught and in custody.

Residential burglaries were 45, people leaving garage doors open, keys outside, leaving doors unlocked. 99 auto burglaries, these are crimes of opportunity, people are leaving things in their vehicles and they are getting stolen.

Most of what is reported at these meeting are property crime, Lt. White will ask for updates on violent crime to report.

- Pulse of the Neighborhoods – Brief reports from CPC members and citizens

A member of the public had someone shoot his truck and shoot up his residence he reported what happened to the group and Lieutenant White said they are looking into it and think they may know the group that is causing this sort of crime. They could possible related to a group known as GHC that is connected and extremely violent. To him he felt he needed to come and share this information because he feels that the rest of this community is at risk. Lieutenant White, GHC, they start off as graffiti artists who got bored and started doing more crime and became violent just for the thrill of it knowing that they are juveniles and that they cannot get in much trouble because of this.

Another member of the public stated that just yesterday she was walking her dog in the foothills and there was a shooter at the top of the mountain there were bullets shooting everywhere. She wanted to know what has happened regarding this incident, Sergeant Anaya does not have information at this time but can look into it.

David Barbour gave report on hand guns, the report has been added to the minutes below. The board may write a recommendation on this data and present to the Chief of Police. The board will keep this as an open item.

Lieutenant White we are a unique state that considers your vehicle an extension of your home. It can complicate the licensing that you will need to be aware of when working on your recommendation.

- Other Business

- a. Discussion and vote on Recommendation #10

Rod Kontny distributed CPC foothills recommendation, see attached below. He did not write the recommendation, some civilians and members of the community wrote the recommendation. Essentially it is asking the new Chief to take to his first line and find out what is bothering them. He met with the campaign manager of Tim Keller about this issue as a private citizen and gave him information that was passed along to candidate Keller. The group discussed what should be added to and removed from the recommendation. This recommendation came out of a discussion about the use of force reporting requirements, to make it more streamlined as it is taking away from officers, being on the street. The recommendation is for the Chief to talk to his officers and see what can be done and make a judgement as to what to do to improve it or to make changes.

Member, why has this not been done already?

We do not know who the new chief will be.

Has the Chief ever responded to a CPC?

Rod Kontny will try to talk to the new Chief. Joe Abbin stated that 3 of our recommendations have been adopted.

Lieutenant White is part of a work group for use of force. In order for any recommendation's to be implemented they have to be submitted to the DOJ, the monitor and then to all of the community as part of the CASA (Court Appointed Settlement Agreement.) Lieutenant White suggest we invite the next Chief to a CPC meeting, some of the problems they have encountered is that other CPC's have not asked for the use of force presentations, some do not want officers in their meetings, some only want officers in their meetings if they are invited. The chief does meet with officers on a quarterly basis, if it is not constructive then they will cut off what is said in the meeting. Our best bet would be to find out who the interim Chief will be and then who the Chief will be, city council members and invite them all to a meeting.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation with the changes suggested. The motion was seconded and was passed. The recommendation will be presented to the new Chief of Police.

b. Proposal for Recommendation #11

A member of the public presented a recommendation that she has written to the council (see attached.) She explained that this is a concept paper to start looking into what to start thinking about when it comes to this issue. Another member advised, there is a program called hands without guns that does a lot of this already.

Rod Kontny we do not have to give a list of all of attendees all we have to do is say how many members from the public have attended.

What was the recommendation on tint in cars?

It was to lighten the tint in APD officer's vehicles. APD cars now how to follow the same tint laws as civilian.

Another member wanted to thank APD for everything that they are doing. They put together a plan for crime in the neighborhood and the neighborhood has been safer and they have seen a change in the signing arrow neighborhood. Sergeant Anaya, it is always great to hear positive things, signing arrow has been a huge problem area they have been working on and they will continue work on these neighborhoods.

- Speaker: Officer Russ Alberti APD Recruiting

Officer Alberti, is going to present us with the process first and answer any questions. This group is the largest CPC group he has seen. APD has fewer officers than it did 15 years ago, we are very short-handed. The election brought up the challenges that APD is facing, he would like to have another recruiter. It is not all recruiting, it is retention and keeping the people what we have.

The recruiting process is ongoing, the hiring process is ongoing, however, it is roughly a three month process prior to the academy. Officer Alberti has been with APD for 9 years he used to be a high school teacher in Albuquerque. The process to become an APD officer starts with testing, they call it test weekend a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. First they fill out an application where they take a test, if they pass they go in on Saturday for a physical assessment and if they pass they take another test. If passed, they show up on Sunday for a written psych evaluation, which is administered by the BSS (Behavioral Sciences Section.) Then they have a one on one interview with a licensed psychiatrist.

Officer Alberti, we do everything to ensure that only the right people get through. Regarding military, their full record is evaluated. A lot of people do not get through. Over 500 were tested for the last class and only 35 got in, APD is very difficult to get into especially with the DOJ (Department of Justice,) now being involved. Some are lost on the city entrance test but more are lost during the physical exam which is surprising because everything that anyone needs to know about the testing is on the website. There are practice exams on the site as well, the practice city exam is about 26 questions, and there are study guides as well. They have every opportunity to help themselves prior to coming in and testing.

Once you have passed testing, it does not get you into the academy, you must still go through background detectives. A thorough background test is conducted in house, they do a polygraph that must be passed (with discretion), and then the next phase is a one on one interview with a psychiatrist. The whole process can take anywhere between 2-3 months, some times longer. There are a lot of out of state applicants as well but they usually end up going elsewhere due to the pay. Other officers retire for various reasons, some officers leave because they are simply burnt out.

All officers have crisis intervention training, it is scenario based training that all officers continue to go through. 11 ½ months minimum is the training that happens prior to an officer being hired into the city, some people do not make it through the academy. APD is a very well trained department, if another agency knows an officer has been trained through APD, they will pick them up in a second.

There are no age, height or weight requirements however, there is a 60 college credit requirement just to test to get in, but it has been since reduced to 32, there is also a military path way of 2 years, or if you are of a certain age and have good financial status as well as employment you would be able to test.

Cultural diversity training is being pushed right now, you have to know the community that you are serving as well as being able to communicate. Training is ongoing for all officer including the Chief. Current numbers in APD, 782 sworn officers doesn't include officers that are retiring or on military leave. It includes airport personal, detectives, the bid was around 450 officers that are doing patrol, and 12% of officers are female.

Where and when does sexual harassment training happen?

It happens in the academy as part of their training. And is part of the OTJ (on the job) training process for officers, it is ongoing as well.

CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training and the CIT (Citizens Police Academy) are open to the public.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50

**Next monthly meeting will be held Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.**

## **Theft from Vehicles Report – David Barbour**

**Two months ago, I was asked to look into and report on theft of firearms from autos and what could be done about it.**

**At that time we had heard about attempting to raise public awareness of how to protect against theft and it appeared that a lot was already being done in this area so I thought I should look at the issue from a different angle. Are there laws or systems which could be changed which would affect the problem?**

**It has been estimated that there were approximately 192 million guns in the hands of US civilians in 1997. In 2015, the estimate has grown by more than 70 million guns, to approximately 265 million. The guns acquired over the past 20 years, are disproportionately handguns; of the total gun stock the share of handguns is 42%.<sup>1</sup>**

**First of all: Theft Is a problem.**

**There are between 300,000 and 600,000 firearms stolen in the US every year. Many thefts are not reported so the best data comes from surveys. Many of these guns end up used in crimes.**

**In particular theft from vehicles is a problem:**

**Data from Atlanta Georgia, the city with the most reported gun thefts, showed 70 percent of all reported gun thefts were from cars and trucks in 2015. In 1992, national data showed only 3% of gun thefts were from vehicles. The difference: Many states, including Georgia, have specifically rolled back restrictions against leaving firearms in vehicles.**

**Cars and trucks make easy targets. They are often left unattended for long periods of time, and there is little defense even against the most rudimentary break-in techniques, such as a brick or tire iron through a window.**

**What can be done about it?**

**Twelve states and DC require a license to carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle. New Mexico does not. My recommendation: Add restrictions to carrying a firearm in a vehicle.**

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<sup>1</sup> **The Stock and Flow of US Firearms: Results from the 2015 National Firearms Survey**

**Caveat: There does not appear to be any study showing firearm theft broken down by state.**

**What can be done about it? 2:**

**While there are no criminal penalties for leaving a loaded firearm in your vehicle, one might be sued for negligence. If a criminal steals the gun and uses it in a crime then there is an intervening cause, but suppose a five year old sees the gun, grabs it and shoots his sister. You could be sued for negligence for leaving it there. Rare, sure, but it might help convince someone to be more careful.**

(States which outlaw carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle:  
Maryland

States which require a license to carry a loaded handgun in a vehicle  
Illinois, Iowa, California, Connecticut, DC, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington)

“(Many states, including Georgia, have specifically rolled back restrictions against leaving firearms in vehicles. In interviews, gun owners said they take their weapon with them when they travel in their private vehicle — and because they feel empowered to do so, or because they underestimate the risk — routinely leave it there or while they work, shop, or play. Thieves have apparently caught on to this trend.

Last year, Atlanta tallied more gun thefts from vehicles than any municipality The Trace examined. Police logged about 850 gun thefts from cars in 2015, an almost 90 percent increase over 2009, when about 450 were reported stolen. Cars and trucks represented the most common source of stolen firearms in that city, accounting for 70 percent of all reported gun thefts last year.)”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thetrace.org/2016/09/stolen-guns-cars-trucks-us-atlanta/>



## CPC Foothills Recommendation

The Recommendation would be under “B” category which is “Reviewing and assessing concerns or recommendations about specific APD policing tactics and initiatives.”

### RATIONAL:

As a result of meetings conducted between the Foothills CPC and officers and supervisors of the APD Foothills Command, it is a conclusion of all parties concerned that the current Use of Force (UOF) policies and procedures have the unintended consequences of lowering morale, wasting limited resources, negatively impacting retention and negatively impacting officer and public safety. The reporting of CASA UOF requirements are not the issue, but rather the interpretation and expansion of additional reporting requirements of the APD policies which are interpreted differently by the different area commands.

Reference is made to a report of APD’s UOF policy and it’s impact on APD dated 10/27/2017.

### RECOMMENDATION:

The Foothills Command Community Policing Council recommends that the new Chief of Police in cooperation with APD senior leadership, meet with a cross section of APD field officers and sergeants in order to understand how the UOF policy is impacting the APD and to find and document solutions that both meet the CASA requirements and address the above identified and unintended consequences.

Attached: Foothills CPC report dated 10/27/2017

**Goal: To recruit regular citizens within each APD Area Command to develop tailored crime prevention messages using public health educators. A secondary goal: To have as many ABQ citizens as possible involved in developing crime prevention messages.**

**Process and Implementation of the Public Health Model:**

- 1) Have a public health educator on contract assigned to each area command. When an issue, such as guns stolen from vehicles, isn't responding to traditional crime prevention methods ask the area command to request the augmented public health messaging process.
- 2) The public health educator recruits groups of stakeholders in the area command. The stakeholders are all types of businesses and organizations-- churches, doctors, business owners, crime victims, residents, bars, health clubs, gas stations, flower shops, day care centers, laundry mats, Rotary, PTA, etc., etc.
- 3) The public health educator facilitates several meetings with stakeholders asking them to brainstorm and identify new messaging. The process is to put all their ideas up on a board and prioritize the ideas. Messages are developed from the top ideas. The messages would focus on responsibility not blaming or regulation and APD would not be involved in the facilitated meetings.
- 4) From these new messages--all types of materials are developed for all types of media.
- 5) A comprehensive strategy is developed with a timeline of 6 to 9 months (or longer) for implementation. For example, for one month all churches in the Area Command could include the responsible gun ownership message in their bulletins; next month all the schools include the message on their bulletin boards, etc.; then doctors put handouts in their waiting rooms; and next month the neighborhood association newsletters carry the new messages. **The idea is to have a continuing rotation of messages for various stake holding communities over an extended period of time.**