



MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHEAST AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL
Thursday, March 15, 2018
6:00 PM
CESAR CHAVEZ COMMUNITY CENTER
7507 KATHRYN SE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

SEACPC Board Members present: Ron Halbgewachs (Chair), Frank Ernst (Vice-Chair), Michael Kruchoski (Secretary), Todd Kersting, Paula Metzner, Kathleen Burke, Jeffrey Archuleta, Ron Goldsmith. (8)

APD Officers present: Sgt. Roger Legendre, Ofc. Angelo Metzgar, Yvette Marentes (CPC Admin). (3)

Visitors were: Christine Barber (Street Safe NM), Jim Carson (POB), Torild Kristiansen (LWV), C.W. Book, Thomas Dent, D.L. Strong, Debbie Sarinana, Rosemarie Baca, Anne Kass, Bill Kass, Joan Searer, Carl Schenck, Haniff Sealy, Sherei Tenorio, Gina Naomi Dennis, Pat Wheeler. (16)

A total of 27 persons attended the meeting.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:11 by Ron Halbgewachs, Chair.

Introductions

The council and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Be sure to sign in with your email address so that you can receive special notices. This is private communication and no email addresses are released.

Attendees are encouraged to attend or start a neighborhood watch in their area.

Council members had a CPC Coordination meeting last night with the Mayor and the DOJ and we have a lot of good things to look forward to. Everyone is very enthusiastic; it will take time but the Council believes crime prevention will get better.

Determination of Quorum

Quorum of 8 was met at the start of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made to approve the agenda, seconded and approved unanimously.

Approval of February Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded and approved unanimously.

Ride-Along Reports (5 minutes)

Community members can also do a ride-along if they choose. They can request to do the ride-along at the command station nearest to them. It does require a background check. Board members are required to do a ride-along and they are to take notes during the ride along. The CPC finds recommendations, at times, based on experiences that board members have had during the ride-along.

No members on the board did a ride-along this month. Paula Metzner attended the Citizen's Police Academy; it was an interesting class. For the first time the class has been abbreviated to allow time for attendees. There were some controversial things which caused some hiccups and disagreements; but there was also information provided to show what the department has been doing such as the real time crime center, reality-based training, crisis intervention unit and cognitive training.

Ron Halbgewachs: The good thing about the reality-based training is that they can stop while in the scenario and discuss what the officers can improve on.

Todd Kersting: They were impressed with the Crisis intervention Team detectives and think that there are many good things going on that APD might be specialists in the country. There is valuable content that can be filmed and put into YouTube videos for others to view around the country; it might be something the CPC can recommend.

Sgt. Legendre: that it is a good idea and he will put the CPC in contact with those who are able to help move it forward.

Public Comments, Questions, Responses (30 minutes)

Question from the public:

One member wanted to know what the stats are in District 6 for homelessness. How can we connect the treatment component with Street Safe?

Kathleen Burke: They will go into some stats in the SE area during the Street Safe presentation. She knows that Chief Geier is working on a diversion project right now; however, they do not have the details as of yet. The group will be updated once they have more information.

Frank Ernst: We hear a lot about violence in schools that is becoming more common. He sees a potential for making schools safer like we do our airports. He is looking for suggestions on how to make schools safer.

Todd Kersting: Knows someone who runs a school and this is something that is going to be an ongoing discussion.

Sgt. Legendre: A lot of offices are out working on this, looking at best practices and more training; such as active shooter training with the schools.

Public: What are the procedures for APD to engage an active shooter?

Sgt. Legendre: It depends on what department you are in. Some officers are trained to wait for 4 other officers, some are trained to wait for 1 other officer before going in. If the shooting stops they are instructed to wait. But for APD, if there is active shooting going on, they are to engage. It is all about learning from experiences, best practices and staying up to date.

Public: If there is an incident and an officer has a camera does the council have access to the footage?

Ron Halbgewachs: No, that stays with APD and is analyzed by APD. The police oversight board does have access to lapel footage.

Ron Halbgewachs: He has seen that many schools are increasing their security and he is going to look into more information.

Comments from the Public:

A member is retired from APS and feels that having teachers with guns is not the way to proceed.

A member stated kids are most concerned about all the different ways someone can get in and out of their school and it is a major concern. This needs to be looked at as opposed to arming teachers.

Another member is a teacher and doesn't see how a teacher can separate emotionality out of handling a gun.

Presentation/Discussion: (30 minutes)

Street Safe New Mexico

Christine Barber, Executive Director and

Kathleen Burke, Associate Director & SE Area CPC Board Member

Street Safe New Mexico is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that follows a harm-reduction philosophy by striving to reduce the harmful consequences associated with life on the street. Most of the women we serve have been victims of human sex-trafficking, while others have struggled with homelessness and addiction.

A presentation regarding Sex Trafficking in Albuquerque was presented to the group. The presentation is added to the end of these minutes.

90% of the homeless women in Albuquerque's International District are victims of sex trafficking. At Street Safe they have spent a lot of time to try and keep women safe, rehabilitate them and get them off of the street and out of this lifestyle. They are partnered with APD, the FBI, Homeland Security and the Attorney General's officer.

Most women are on Central along San Mateo and Wyoming. A lot of the sex traffic victims are also in hotels.

Massage Parlors are a direct example of the Chinese Mafia in our community. The women are usually recruited in small towns in China.

A lot of the police that go into a parlor and are offered sex will go back to the parlor. The parlor staff are asked about their business license and most just say that they are not doing it; they do not live there and it is not them. It is hard to prove with current law. Strip mall owners turn a blind eye and do not want to admit what is going on.

You can get on the Street Safe email list and obtain information (attached at the end of the minutes). Information is updated every week and describes new attacks every week. This helps women to be able to recognize a specific vehicle or the description of someone who may harm them.

Recommendations have been made to Chief Geier and Mayor Keller. Chief Geier is entirely onboard and very sympathetic to this situation. They need the city to agree and commit to their recommendations and requests.

Questions & Answers:

Q: You described providing clothes to these women. Where do the clothes from?

A: Donations

Q: What kind of impact do you think that legalized prostitution would have on this type of issue?

A: They have been studying this for a few years but it will probably never happen in the state of New Mexico. Decriminalization is a possibility, and they have an idea that they will present to legislature regarding the harm reduction act. They want to suggest a similar program be adopted. They are trying various things but coming from a medical aspect is a good way to go. They want the State to monitor more closely business and business licenses. There are a lot of technicalities. It has to be taken care of at a city, county and state level. They will also be meeting with the new City Attorney.

Q: What is wrong with our culture as a state where we do not value human life, what goes on in the mind of these attackers, what happened?

A: It is a good question but not one that they are able to answer. Hopefully we can be more aware as a State and make efforts to try and combat this issue.

Q: Are there any health laws that can regulate the massage parlors?

A: Not currently. There is a massage parlor license but there is nothing that discusses the license being displayed. Most of what is displayed is also counterfeit.

A: Sheriff's office no longer makes arrests based on prostitution. APD does not do this and they are looking for a possible change.

Q: What would protecting victims entail?

A: Law enforcement arresting and investigating off of the bad guy list. Changing of policies to help women get out of the lifestyle.

Q: If a victim comes up to you on the street how do you help them?

A: There is a state hotline number (505-GET-FREE). You can report a tip and ask questions via call or text. There are several places in the state that they can go to. Unless these women are identified by police, it is hard for them to come out on their own.

Monthly Crime Report from SE Area Command (5 minutes)

Sergeant Legendre gave a crime report to the group with statistics for the SECPC area for the month.

Larceny has gone up, auto theft is down due to the tremendous effort that has been put on over the last couple months. APD has recovered around 55 stolen vehicles and made around 60 arrests. Auto burglary is down, residential burglaries is up, vandalism is up, commercial burglaries is up, simple assaults is up, aggravated assault is down, robbery is up, criminal sexual penetration up, homicide is the same, kidnapping is up.

PACT is getting concerns from the community and as they get the concerns, they look for a long term solution to the problem. They are partnering with business and the community to build better relationships and to find a solution to whatever the problem may be.

Sergeant Legendre recommends focus groups to help with the Sex Trafficking problem.

Q: Do you keep statistics of how many citizens have complained about police or reported police committing crime?

Sgt. Legendre: This goes to APD Internal Affairs or the Police Oversight Board. Citizens can file a complaint online.

Q: As the weather gets warmer and kids are out of school, what is the best way to say something if you see it?

Sgt. Legendre: Through the APD app or 242-cops, 311, and if it is an emergency 911.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 for closed session.

Executive Closed Meeting

Thomas Dent was interviewed and elected to the SE Area Community Policing Council.

Next meetings: April 19, May 17