Southeast Area Command Community Policing Council

Minutes

February 16, 2017    6:00pm – 7:55pm
Cesar Chavez Community Center – 7505 Kathryn SE, Albuquerque, NM

Introductions were made. SEACPC Board Member Present were Ron Halbgewachs, Chair, Todd Kersting, Frank Ernst, Tom O’Connell, Michael Kruchoski, Gary Peterson. APD officers present were Sgt. Diane Dosal, Ofc. Vincent Salas, Ofc. Scott Norris. Eight community guests signed the Visitors List at the meeting.

1. Introductions by all attending the meeting were made.
2. Call to order was done by Ron Halbgewachs, Chair.
3. A determination of a quorum was made.
4. The Agenda was modified by moving the Discussion of APD Use of Force Guidelines SOP 2-52 to be Item 11 (Agenda items for next meeting). The modified Agenda was approved by the Council.
5. The January minutes were approved as amended by Frank Ernst: to make a slight change in the wording regarding the percentage of homeless persons in Albuquerque that have drug or alcohol problems.
6. The 2016 Annual Report of the SE Area Command Community Policing Council was approved.
7. A presentation was made by Erika Wilson, Manager of the APD Emergency Communications Center, speaking on the 911 and 242-COPS functions of the Center.

Erika joined the Call Center in 2011, after previous experience in other Call Centers. The 911 Call Center currently has an authorized staff of 136 persons. In addition, each APD Area Command has a staff of dispatchers. Both groups are staffed to cover every hour of the year, 24/7.

There are 10 vacancies in the 911 Center and applications are being accepted for interviews. Each new operator attends a class for 10 months and dispatchers attend a class for 4 months.
Equipment in the Call Center is being upgraded or replaced and the replaced units are being provided for use in smaller cities. One of the major concerns is being able to physically locate the GPS coordinates of a cell phone caller.

Last year, over 1.1 million phone calls were made through the Center:

911 Calls – 350,000
242 Calls – 550,000

Call backs – 220,000 (Got a cell phone #, but no address – identifies the need for improved GPS locator system.)

Erika explained that in some remote locations, a cell phone may show “no reception”. For example, when out hiking in the mountains or traveling in a remote area of our state. However, that message is specific to the cell phone provider. But 911 calls are identified by all providers and a particular phone tower by another provider may pick up the call and all 911 calls are sent to the Call Center.

Erika also handed out information sheets for 911 and 242 calls.

8. Several comments, questions and responses provided regarding emergency calls. One concern was the number of false 911 calls that are made, but still need to be answered by an officer.

9. A brief description of a Ride-Along was provided by Mike Kruchoski. He traveled with Ofc. Thomas Vigil, from 8:00 PM to 4:00 AM. During this time they had 9 calls for response. Mike described three of the calls made.

10. A monthly crime update for the SE Area was given by Sergeant Dosal:

- 1795 incidents
- 178 auto burglaries
- 78 robberies
- 267 family disputes

A program of undercover and surveillance has been on-going between Louisiana & Wyoming along Central Ave. Some bicycle patrols have been stationed in this area.

11. Agenda items for the next meetings were discussed. Topics are as planned:

The topic “Discussion of new APD Use of Force Guidelines” was voted to be temporarily tabled. As a part of this effort, prior to our discussions, a presentation on this topic could be made by someone from APD knowledgeable about the Guidelines.

12. Other Business and Recommendations for future topics & speakers should include:

- City Councilor Patrick Davis has agreed to be our speaker at our April meeting. Suggested topics for his discussion will be considered at our March meeting.
- The concept and use of the techniques and methods of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), which diverts opiate abusers from the criminal justice system to social services, which is found to be less costly to taxpayers.
• Invite a judge in the Metropolitan System that talk about the problems of alcohol and drug addiction.

13. The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

14. A closed meeting was conducted to interview three new candidates to serve on the Council. At the conclusion of these interviews and meeting the new candidates, the following persons were elected to the Community Policing Council as voting members:

1. Amir Chapel
2. Paula Metzner
3. Jeffrey Archuleta

Next Meeting dates: March 16, April 20