



Foothills  
Community Policing Council  
June 10, 2019  
Meeting Minutes of CPC

Call to Order – Chair Joe Abbin 6:02 pm

Council present: Mickey Hagg, Trish Singh, David Barbour, John Clark, Mark Burton, Lovey Frazier, Justin Hadrych-Rosier and Carmon Ryals

Approximately 40 attended from the public, 7 from APD

Agenda:

1. Mission of CPC was reviewed. The guidelines for the meeting were recognized.
2. KOB News was recording
3. Alterations to agenda: Lt. Anaya presentation.
4. The agenda was approved.
5. May's minutes will be posted on the website soon. There was a delay.
6. Lt Adam Anaya: spoke to CPC to announce the gun buy back program. This is designed to get guns off the street or be secured in a safe manner. July 13 community center 7505 Kathryn (Chavez community center) no questions will be asked and monetary value will be assigned to weapons based on working order. Each gun will be checked through NCIC. This will aid in crime identification. Flyers were left for residents.
7. Guest speakers: Introduced by Camille Baca, Metro Court, PIO
  - a) Judge C. Brown (District Court)
  - b) Judge H. Alaniz (Metro Court)
  - c) Judge Engle (Metro Court)
  - d) Judge S. Whitaker (District Court)
8. An educational discussion with the courts was presented.
  - a) Judge Alaniz discussed specialty courts within the judiciary
  - b) Chief Judge of Metro Court (Judge Engle) discussed her role in the court system.
  - c) Judge Brown (District Court) introduced himself and his role:
  - d) Judge S. Whitaker Presiding Chief Judge of District Court: discussed his role in the system and an overview of district court.
  - e) Questions from audience:

Why are high profile crime offenders being released at an apparent increasing rate? The judges discussed least restrictive release conditions for individuals that are accused of crimes. The residents discussed concerns about release of individuals.

Judge Engle discussed Metro pre-trial release program. It was stressed that are offenders that receive services and many are successful, yet that does not generally make news. Repeat offenders were a topic of discussion as was the tool that is used to factor release post arraignment of the crimes charged.

9. APD presentation:

Crime reports: Commander Collins Area Commander discussed

- a) Lawsuit regarding arrest and holding offenders. APD due to this lawsuit does not arrest on misdemeanor low criminality cases.
- b) May crime reports were discussed. Commander Collins stressed not to leave weapons in your vehicle. Stressed buying a gun safe.
- c) 40% reduction in crime has been reported. The current initiative is to reduce gun violence. An example is consistent collection of stolen guns.
- d) Lt Garrett is officially a PRT (Problem Response Team) leader. This team is responsible for being proactive with citizens, to help reduce crime rates and engage with the public.

10. Pulse of The Neighborhood:

- a) Singing Arrow: Shooting and state police speeding
- b) Discussed response times in the foothills.
- c) Discussed 242-COPS or 911, social media is not monitored by APD this includes Nextdoor.
- d) Clarification of alleged sexual assaults on the foothill's trailheads. Lt Garrett clarified what was happening in these cases.
- e) A Facebook group has been established: Community Policing Council Foothills Albuquerque
- f) The raffle was drawn for community events tickets.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 800 pm.

12. Additional notes from the Chairman on the June 10, 2019 Foothills CPC Meeting featuring a panel discussion: "Public Safety vs. Defendant's Rights"

The subject meeting was one of our best Foothills Community Policing Council meetings with a great crowd and KOB TV coverage to boot. Camille Baca, the Public Information Officer for Metro Court along with her cohort, Sidney Hill from District Court recruited an all-star panel of judges. We had two Chief Justices, Stan Whittaker from District Court and Sandra Engle from Metro court. Along with them we had Henry Alaniz, former Chief Justice from Metro and Charles Brown from District Court.

We had several advance questions for the judges to address. They actually never got past the first two questions: "How do we explain the fact that so many high profile crimes seem to be committed by people who apparently should have been incarcerated for previous crimes?" and "Where are we failing?" These questions sparked numerous other questions and intense discussion on repeat offenders and pre-trial detention factors for over an hour.

The judges asked to be invited back and many audience members expressed their thoughts that the meeting was worthwhile with one attendee saying "this was the best civics lesson she had had in the last sixty years".

The following are some key points made by the judges.

Judge Alaniz

- a) There are 11 different specialty court programs dealing with different offenses, such as drug court, that focus on rehabilitation rather than jail for defendants deemed suitable.
- b) Jail overcrowding does not influence sentencing.
- c) Less than 1% of cases are dismissed for officers not showing up for trial.

Judge Engle

- a) Judges are **not** held to use of “tools” (example Arnold Tool) for determining suitability of defendants for pre-trial release or sentencing.
- b) 2500 people/day show up in Metro Court.

Judge Brown

- a) There is a 35% conviction rate in Bernalillo county court cases that go to trial.
- b) The current Bernalillo county case management system prioritizes felony cases allowing up to 6, 10 or 13 months before going to trial, otherwise dismissed.
- c) There are three standards for judicial decision making; beyond a reasonable doubt (highest standard), clearly and convincing (intermediate), and preponderance of evidence (lowest). Pre-trial detention requires that the prosecution make their case using the highest standard. 53% of pre-trial detention petitions from prosecutors are rejected for not meeting the high (too high?) standard.

Judge Whittaker – There are 27 judges in District Court, 10 handling criminal cases, 4 family, 4 children, and 9 civil.

Thanks again to all who participated!  
Joe Abbin, Chair, FH CPC