

CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

FOOTHILLS AREA COMMAND COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

MEETINGS: The Foothills Community Policing Council (CPC) met on the second Monday of every month in 2017 from 6 PM to 7:50 PM at the Holiday Park Community Center at 11710 Comanche NE. Every meeting began by the introduction of each board member present and of each representative from the Albuquerque Police Department (APD). Then every member of the public identified themselves and their organization, if applicable. APD then presented the crime statistics within the last 30 days in the Foothills Command, often with comments and questions. Auto thefts figures were almost always very alarming along with the numbers and types of items stolen. Gun thefts were always identified and suggestions on how to prevent this serious change of possession of firearms which, most likely, resulted in their use during criminal activity. Jill Garcia also presented data on criminal elements within the Foothills Command and always rendered excellent advice on how to protect your property. The Pulse of the Neighborhood agenda item allowed and encouraged each individual present the opportunity to express concerns or discuss events concerning criminal activity or actions of police officers.

Total attendance of the public for the year was 282 as compared to a total of 182 for 2016. This was an increase of 55%. This equates to about an average of 24 individuals from the public at each meeting; however, if one includes the number of board members and representatives of APD, the figure is well over an average of 30 individuals at each meeting. The following is the attendance of the public by each month:

Jan 15 Feb 25 Mar 29 Apr 22 May 27 Jun 36 Jul 10 Aug 30 Sep 27 Oct 17
Nov 26 Dec 18

BOARD MEMBERS: The following board members resigned during the year: Carolyn Wilson (Chair), Doug Brosveen (Vice Chair), Dianne Layden, Sabrina Slausan (youth representative), and Valeri St. John. One member was removed from the board for non-attendance.

The following individuals were approved by the board: Rod Kontny, Ralph Butler, Mark Burton, Kathy Brown, and David Barbour. Rod Kontny was elected Chair and Ralph Butler was elected Vice Chair in June 2017. Joe Abbin is the only member who has been consistently on the board from 2016. At the end of 2017, there were three vacancies on the board. One individual was in the process of being vetted and approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

Jan: Lt. Bret White, Foothills APD, presented a detailed review of Use of Force (UOF) Definitions.

Feb: Commander Rogers spoke about violent crime and answered numerous questions from the public. Lt. White reviewed UOF issues as related to officer response to various situations.

Mar: Celina Espinoza presented the results of the 5th report regarding the Department of Justice (DOJ) Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA) and the APD response.

Apr: Lt. White continued his excellent presentation on UOF with the operative statement: "Is the Use of Force reasonable and with the minimum force necessary?"

May: Sergeant Josh Brown, APD Specialist on Vehicle Theft, provided information and answered all questions concerning theft of vehicles. Lt. White continued his review of UOF by APD Officers emphasizing de-escalation techniques.

Jun: Lt. White responded to numerous questions concerning UOF, response time, and cell phone use while driving. Chair Kontny spoke about his published article in the Albuquerque Journal and his intent to produce a Recommendation to the Chief of Police.

Jul: Commander Rodgers provided a detailed review of the crime report and Roger Mickelson spoke about how to improve communication with the CPC.

Aug: New Foothills Commander Fernando Aragon introduced himself and relayed his experiences with APD. He answered questions concerning gun laws and home invasion/burglary. Lt. White again presented information on UOF Intermediate. Sign-In sheets were discussed and Chair Kontny stated that there will be accurate numbers published in the minutes. Recommendation #10 was discussed and a revised version will be presented at a future meeting.

Sept: Thanks to board member Joe Abbin, The Foothills CPC had a superb guest speaker. Mr. Raul Torrez, Bernalillo County District Attorney, provided excellent information on criminal prosecution and the problems of funding for additional prosecutors. His delivery was well received by all present.

Oct: Commander Aragon relayed that auto thefts/break-ins resulted in 17 guns being stolen during the last 30 days. He emphasized the means of protecting firearms and the seriousness of this issue. Lt. White presented his last review of UOF. All attendees were appreciative of Lt. White's effort and dedication in presenting the Use of Force review—often a contentious issue with the public.

Nov: Officer Russ Alberti, APD Recruiting, spoke about this important issue and answered numerous questions from the public. Recommendation #10 was unanimously approved by the board and even numerous members of the public voted "Aye."

Dec: Sergeant Lockley, APD Police Academy, made a presentation concerning many aspects and figures from the Police Academy and answered numerous questions. Much to the surprise of all present, Deputy Chief of Police Medina attended the Foothills CPC meeting and spoke throughout the meeting concerning the new Chief of Police Michael Giere and the new philosophy within the APD. A member of the public made an intense speech to the new Deputy Chief concerning the identification and removal of "bad" cops. The new deputy listened attentively and basically asked for all to "give the new administration a chance to improve the department." Chair Kontny mentioned that the "Vehicle Theft" recommendation might be re-presented as no response was received from the past Chief of Police administration.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation #9: Vehicle Theft, July 2017

Recommendation #10 APD Policies on Use of Force. Dec2017

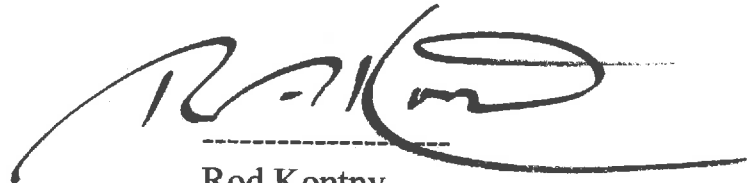
FUTURE PLANS FOR FOOTHILLS CPC in 2018:

1. Continue to recruit new and diverse member for the Foothills CPC Board.
2. Continue to review and assess the effectiveness of the new APD leadership and generate appropriate recommendations to improve policies and procedures.
3. Continue to solicit interesting and meaningful guest speakers which encourages the public to attend and participate in the discussions.
4. Explore methods and organizations to advertise ways that the public can protect their property.

APPROVED



Ralph Butler
Foothills CPC Vice Chair



Rod Kontny
Foothills CPC Chair