

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**VALLEY AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, June 23, 2016  
LOS DURANES COMMUNITY CENTER  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Jim Souter**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM.

### **II. COUNCILOR ROLL CALL: Chair Jim Souter**

#### **Present:**

James Souter - Chair  
Edwina Kiro – Vice Chair  
Richard Deichsel - Secretary  
Jennifer Rhea  
Joan Wierzba  
Paul Watson  
Kathleen O'Malley  
Maxine Cowton  
Officer John Burley

#### **Also Present:**

Resource Director:  
Celina Espinoza, APD, Communications and Community Outreach Director

#### **Absent**

Consultants:  
Sgt. Terysa Bowie  
Det. George Gabaldon

Facilitator:  
David Gold

Community members present: See attached sign in sheet

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Maxine Cowton, seconded by Paul Watson, and approved by voice vote.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF May 26, 2016 MINUTES**

A change was noted; the proper spelling of Maxine Cowton's last name. Motion to approve the May, 2016 Minutes was made by Joan Wierzba, seconded by Vice-Chair Edwina Kira, and approved by voice vote.

#### **VI. OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

##### **A. Discussion of Increasing Public Awareness for Traffic Stops**

1. Members discussed changing methods of increasing public awareness of appropriate behavior during traffic stops.
2. Maxine Cowton suggested including adding information to the drivers manuals.
3. Members and attendees discussed the need to present both sides.
4. A motion was made by Joan Wierzba and seconded by Paul Watson to create a committee to work on documents. Chair Jim Souter stated he would like to include two guest members to include their input on the committee. Members nominated include: Guest Members: Tony Perard, Brennon Williams, and Members: Officer Burley and Det. Gabaldon. The motion passed by voice vote.

##### **B. Understanding Recent Narcotics Division Arrests of the Homeless**

1. Richard Deichsel asked for clarification on recent arrests of the homeless by the Narcotics Division.
2. The homeless were targeted by reverse stings, officers selling drugs to the homeless and entrapping them.
3. Discussion included:
  - a. Many felt it was inappropriate to target the homeless, and it made more sense to go after "bigger fish". Concern was expressed about taking a needed jacket as payment.
  - b. The treatment programs in jail are often superior to outside.
  - c. Concern about releasing 8 oz. of cocaine from evidence to be sold.
  - d. The harshness of crack vs. cocaine sentencing targeting the poor.
4. Celina Espinoza stated these arrests constituted no more than 4% of the total program, and the rest was targeting larger dealers. The goal was to ultimately get homeless drug users into treatment rather than jail.

##### **C. Recommendations for a 3 Year Rotation.**

1. Members discussed the having officers stay in an area command for three years instead of one. The goal is to promote better familiarity between the police and the community.
2. Several discussed the need for more positive interactions, and community policing.
3. Shawn Willoughby, police union leader, argued that police valued their seniority. This allowed better shifts and assignments. He felt

officers' career paths would be hampered. Also that increased staffing would promote better relations.

4. Officers stated given their workload, which has worsened over the last 8 years, they only have time to go from call to call.
5. Members stated that 3 years would allow encourage better familiarity. The intent would be to allow officers to bid and change positions, within the same command.
6. A motion to require officers to remain in an area command for three years to encourage community involvement was made by Richard Deichsel, seconded by Kathleen O' Malley and passed 6 for, 2 opposed, 1 abstention.

#### **D. Richard Deichsel – Discussion of Office of Neighborhood Coordination**

1. Members and attendees praised the work of the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC).
  - a. They could provide information like the list of Neighborhood Associations to the CPCs.
  - b. Many had positive experiences for a number of years and were concerned that the Office had been vastly reduced in size.
2. Members and attendees felt the Office of Constituent Services (OCS) was “useless” and not helpful.
3. A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Jennifer Rhea to move the two current ONC positions in the Planning Department to be overseen by the City Council, along with their budgetary alignment. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **E. Jim Souter – Training/DOJ/Mayor's Response 1.**

Address and phone # of monitor's new office:

700 4th St SW. 767-5833

2. DOJ
  - a. July 14th is the tentative date for CPC's to meet with the District Judge of our C.A.S.A. (time to be announced)
  - b. July 25<sup>th</sup> will be a conference call and summit meeting for all CPC's with the monitors team (time to be announced)
3. Jim Souter read the response of the Mayor's office to the letter sent by our CPC regarding background checks. Members were not satisfied by the response.
4. Celina Espinoza described new criteria for CPC membership that APD was considering.
  - a. No violent felonies within last 5 years
  - b. Same for ride-a-longs.
  - c. Help with concerns about criminals being privy to sensitive information.

## **V. DISCUSSION**

### **A. Kathleen O' Malley Discussed Use of Force Policy**

- a. The discussion began with bringing up the following points:
  - i. The desire to protect the "sanctity of human life" is a good idea.
  - ii. "Where feasible" has no specific criteria.
  - iii. "Active resistance" could be "from using and instrument, to tensing body" and was too broad.
  - iv. On page 3, "intermediate force" and "less lethal force" are basically the same, but should be different.
- b. Other concerns with the document were expressed.
  - i. "Reasonable" is better to use the "feasible" as it is a well understood legal term, rather than a new term.
  - ii. The policy appears to be too broad and offers no real guidance.
  - iii. There was an undesirable shift in 1978 from "peace officers" to "code enforcers".
- c. Rationale for the document was expressed.
  - i. The Reactive Control Model is no longer used. A more flexible approach is recognized to be useful as each situation is different.
  - ii. It is important to understand the difference between theory and practice and the totality of the situation must be considered.
- d. The need for a list explaining different acronyms was discussed and will be implemented.

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:05 PM, seconded, and approved by voice vote

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Richard Deichsel - Secretary