



**CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE**

**MEETING MINUTES  
NORTHEAST AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2016  
6:30 PM  
NORTH DOMINGO BACA MULTIGENERATIONAL CENTER  
CLASSROOM 5  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

**In Attendance:**

- Eric Olivas, Chair
- Bettina Eklund
- Troy Taylor
- Dorothy Woodward
- Lieutenant Joe Burke
- Nicole Chavez-Lucero, APD Community Outreach Coordinator
- Officer Simon Drobik
- Celina Espinoza, APD Communications and Community Outreach Director
- Jessie Lawrence, CABQ Contract Facilitator

Approximately 60 members of the public were in attendance.

**1. Call to Order/Welcome - Eric Olivas**

Eric Olivas called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed participants to the meeting. He requested that meeting participants abide by the CPC meeting guidelines, limiting speaking time and being respectful of one another. He also requested assistance in recruiting individuals to serve as CPC board members and sharing information about CPC meetings.

**2. Old Business: Approval of February 2017 Meeting Minutes and March 2017 Meeting Agenda - Eric Olivas**

Dorothy Woodward moved to approve the February 2017 meeting minutes and the March 2017 meeting agenda as written. Troy Taylor seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

### **3. Report from APD on Crime and Crime Prevention in the Northeast Area Command – Lt. Joe Burke**

Lieutenant Joe Burke reminded meeting attendees to be aware of unsecured cars and houses as the weather gets warmer. He answered questions about bait cars, coordination with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department, and the "Get Hard Crew." A meeting participant also commented about the need for higher taxes to fund better pay for officers.

### **4. Report from Neighborhood Watch Advocates Committee – Janet Butts**

Janet Butts presented a summary of the work of the Neighborhood Watch Advocates Committee in the past year and recommendations for the future. She stated that the Neighborhood Watch Advocates has connected with at least 200 people within the Northeast Area Command. She recommended that 1) the Neighborhood Watch Advocates Committee continue for another year to further research and facilitation of block captain communication; 2) the Neighborhood Watch Advocates Committee continue to partner with the Northeast Command via the PACT unit to strengthen neighborhood watches, build the block captains' communication network, and facilitate community policing; and 3) APD revise the number of people included in a neighborhood watch from as many as 40 houses to no more than 10-20 houses.

Ms. Butts presented a written copy of the report to the Northeast CPC board. (See Attachment A for a copy of the report.)

### **5. Guest Speaker: Denise Torres, Chair, Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC)**

Denise Torres presented information about the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission, with information available at [www.nmjpec.org](http://www.nmjpec.org). JPEC conducts evaluations of judges statewide, and is evaluating 92 judges this year.

Discussion included questions about the work of JPEC vs. the work of the Judicial Standards Commission, questions about the operations of JPEC, and concerns about decisions of certain judges. Ms. Torres referred interested citizens to the JPEC website or the JPEC office for more information about the Commission's work and evaluations.

## **6. New Business: Status of Previous Recommendations and Vote on Outreach Director Recommendations**

Eric Olivas stated that APD is in compliance with CPC requirements regarding their responses to recommendations to date.

Dorothy Woodward moved to submit the recommendation defining duties of the APD Community Outreach Director as discussed at the February meeting. (See Attachment B.) Troy Taylor seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Mr. Olivas stated that upcoming meeting topics may include Raul Torrez, Albuquerque District Attorney, and a DOJ representative; the Police Oversight Commission; Crime Stoppers; and information on lapel cameras and evidence handling from APD.

## **7. APD Update on CASA: Celina Espinoza, APD**

Celina Espinoza presented information about APD's report of progress under the settlement agreement covering the time period from August 2016 through January 2017. (See Attachment C.) Her presentation included information about use of force review, APD training, work to address mental health needs, changes to policy analysis, staffing, and community outreach. Meeting participants asked questions about these topics as they were presented.

Ms. Espinoza also shared a news clip on APD's use of force training (<http://krqe.com/2016/05/09/inside-albuquerque-police-departments-new-use-of-force-training/>) and said that she would share a video clip titled "Caught on Camera" as well (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JigFUo2fKQ&feature=youtu.be>).

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM. The next meeting will be on April 11 at 6:30 PM.

## **Attachment A: Report of Neighborhood Watch Advocates Committee by Janet Butts, NWAC Chair**

Good evening.

Before I start my report tonight, I would like to introduce the members on our Neighborhood Watch Advocates committee which represents over 40 years of Block Captains experience:

- Annie Onderdonk you know as our previous CPC Council President. She has been a block captain for 12 years.
- Penny Hoe, also a recent member of NE/CPC Council, has been a block captain for 8 years.
- Rona Hammetter has been a block captain for her area for 8 years, with Terri Deviencio serving as her co-captain.
- I am the Crime Watch Coordinator for Academy Estates East Neighborhood Association and a Block Captain, and have worked in this capacity for my neighborhood for a little over 12 years. I am also the NE Council Chair for the Albuquerque Block Captains Association.

Last March, this CPC created a committee to partner with APD in an effort to recruit, educate, and support neighborhood watches and their block captains. Some of you may remember that this action was in response to the neighbors who attended the Jan. /Feb. meetings gravely concerned about the crime in their areas, but not knowing what to do.

By April we had our volunteers for the committee and began to consider methods of reaching out to help the NE Command neighbors to discover how we might best meet their needs. Our objectives led us to the plan of action of hosting 2 symposiums and a coffee last summer and late fall, during which we provided connections with APD and information about how to start a neighborhood watch and how to sustain and support the block captains and their neighbors' efforts to fight crime.

I hold before you a map which you may not be able to see very well, but hopefully you can see the boundaries of the NE Command and the dots that represent those who attended our symposiums. As you see, we had a comprehensive response throughout the NE. I feel confident, because the response we have had, that we have been able to get a good sampling of what citizens throughout the NE are thinking and experiencing when it comes to crime prevention.

Here is what we have learned over the past year during our meetings and conversations with over 100-200 people who have attended our meetings and talked with us via email and phone:

1. Neighbors are frightened, frustrated, and furious about the crime that occurs in their neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

2. In general, the citizens do not know how to best contact APD, when to report, and what they should do to prevent crime.
3. Although APD tries to educate the public, in general, many citizens do not attend CPC meetings or occasional training events put on by APD, nor do they know about or frequently check the command website. They therefore do not learn best crime prevention tactics.
4. Even the neighbors who know what they should do, do not see themselves as "First Protectors" of their property, possessions, and personal safety. They expect APD to do the work; **they do not accept their responsibility to make crime prevention a habitual part of their daily lives.** In reflection, one victim confessed, "**Don't let inconvenience make you a victim.**" Unfortunately he realized that truth too late.
5. Block Captains are frustrated, also, because their neighbors expect the block captains to do all the work required to help the neighbors build community. In reality, the Block Captain is the facilitator, not the worker bee, **and creating a community takes the time and effort of each person in the group.**
6. Block Captains need more connection and communication with APD beyond that one organizational meeting where neighbors meet with APD, create a contact map and pay for a Neighborhood Watch Sign. They need ongoing informational, educational trainings to keep them and their neighbors functional as good crime prevention fighters. Intimate meetings involving 10-20 people are more effective than large meetings because the people have a better chance to interact personally with the facilitators and the other meeting attendees.
7. Block Captains feel like small islands in the NE because they do not know other BCs in their area with whom to communicate and share crime info. And, after a while of struggling by themselves with little help with APD to keep neighbors energized to fight crime, they give up and the Neighborhood Watch dies.
8. Neighbors do not have to love one another to make a good crime watch. They just need to be committed to prevent crime and have good communications with their block captains and APD and know what is happening in and around their areas on a regular basis.
9. Nextdoor.com is the only connection some neighbors have, but unfortunately it is not a good venue for crime watch communiques. Reporting a crime to nextdoor.com does not get to APD since APD is not a part of that social media, and documentation of crime events die in nextdoor.com discussions because no one reports them directly to APD; it really is a case of blind leading the blind because the participants are not well informed on how to fight and report crime.
10. One or even two informational meetings do not result in getting people to commit to a neighborhood watch or volunteer to be block captains. Unfortunately it takes neighbors experiencing several crime events and their becoming desperate before they realize they need to be proactive.

11. Neighbors are understandably concerned when they see multiple police cars, road blocks, and vehicle checks in their area. People want to be informed by APD in some manner so they can know how to best secure their property and loved ones during what appears to be a serious situation too close for comfort.
12. Considering "line of sight," and reasonableness of a Block Captains' time and efforts to cover his/her area as well as the success in getting neighbors to pull together, 10-15 house Neighborhood Watches are more likely to sustain their active vigilance and commitment than those watches that involve 25-40 residents.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Neighborhood Watch Advocates respectfully request the following as our recommendations for 2017-2018;

- 1) That the NWA continue another year as a CPC committee to further the committee's research and facilitation of Block Captains' communications via meetings and a developing email network
- 2) That the NWA continue to partner with the NE Command via the PACT leader beyond his and the commander's tenure, to strengthen NE Neighborhood Watches, build Block Captains' communication network, and facilitate Community Policing.
- 3) That APD revise the number of neighbors assigned to a Neighborhood Watch to consistently include no more than 10-20 residents, depending upon the locations of the homes, to facilitate the success of neighbors remaining connected and actively practicing crime prevention tactics.

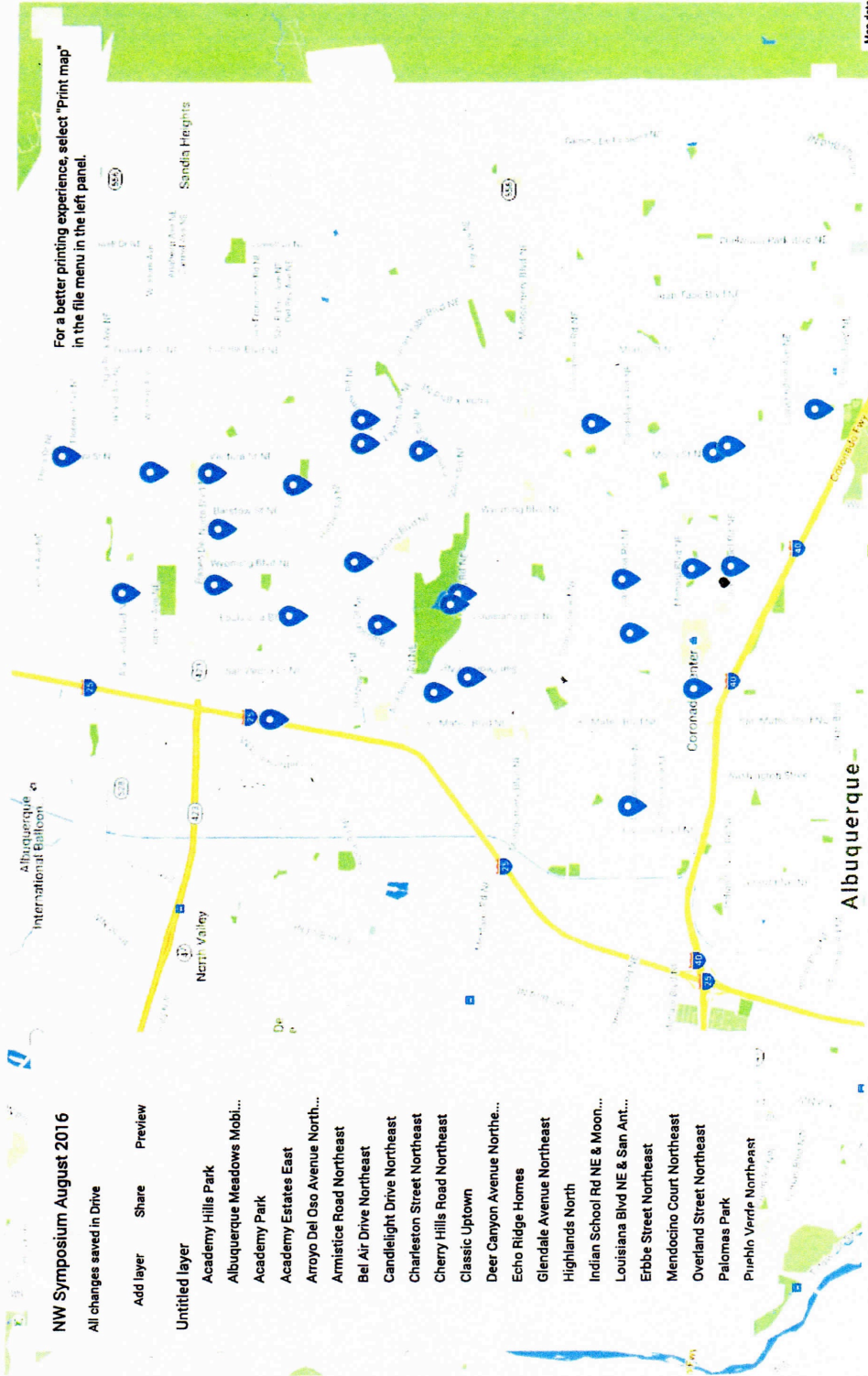
### NW Symposium August 2016

All changes saved in Drive

Add layer Share Preview

#### Untitled layer

- Academy Hills Park
- Albuquerque Meadows Mobil...
- Academy Park
- Academy Estates East
- Arroyo Del Oso Avenue North...
- Armitage Road Northeast
- Bel Air Drive Northeast
- Candlelight Drive Northeast
- Charleston Street Northeast
- Cherry Hills Road Northeast
- Classic Uptown
- Deer Canyon Avenue Northe...
- Echo Ridge Homes
- Glendale Avenue Northeast
- Highlands North
- Indian School Rd NE & Moon...
- Louisiana Blvd NE & San Ant...
- Ebbe Street Northeast
- Mendocino Court Northeast
- Overland Street Northeast
- Palomas Park
- Pirehin Verde Northeast



**Attachment B: Recommendation Regarding APD Community Outreach Director Responsibilities**



***CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE***

**Northeast Area Command  
COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL  
RECOMMENDATION**

**DATE SUBMITTED:** \_\_\_\_\_ Seven (7) business days after submission

**RECEIPT DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_ Twenty (20) business days after submission

**APD RESPONSE DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_ Sixty (60) business days after submission

**RATIONALE:**

Currently, the APD community outreach director is tasked with helping to coordinate outreach and communications efforts on behalf of each of the 6 community policing councils among other responsibilities. Despite these vast responsibilities on behalf of councils, there is no defined oversight of this position by the councils it serves. Given the broad reach of this task and the effect that unequal or inconsistent outreach can potentially have on each council's ability to function and serve the citizens of Albuquerque, we recommend that the responsibilities of the director be more specifically defined in some areas. This recommendation will also ensure continuity of the CPCs should turnover in this position occur. In order to make CPCs accessible, diverse and inclusive through high quality and consistent outreach efforts, we recommend the following:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

We recommend that the Chief require the community outreach director to post notice on the department's social media accounts, including Nextdoor, Twitter, and Facebook, one (1) week prior to each meeting in each area command, and one (1) day prior as a second reminder. While individual council members and councils often independently make this effort, they do not have the larger social media presence afforded to the



department. This notice should include the correct location, time and date of the meeting as well as the general topic, if available. The director should receive this information well in advance of these deadlines from each CPC; however, if information is not timely available, the director should reach out to the respective CPC chair. The director should also work with media outlets, including the Albuquerque Journal, the Albuquerque Free Press and ABQ365, to be sure that meeting locations, times, and dates are accurate in publications these outlets release to the community. We also recommend that the director be required to publish a quarterly report to all CPC chairs of outreach efforts conducted on behalf of CPCs during that quarter. This should include a summary of meetings with faith, veterans, homeless, mental health, learning institutions, community radio, print press, youth/teen service, neighborhood associations, and other community groups. This quarterly report will ensure that the director is accountable for outreach and will allow council members to offer guidance on how to improve outreach in targeted ways.

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**Attachment C: APD Progress Update Presentation Slides**

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