



Minutes of the Northwest Area Community Policing Council

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Northwest Area Command

10401 Cibola Loop NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. with six board members, 11 members of the public and 10 members of the Albuquerque Police Department present.

The council said the Pledge of Allegiance, approved the November minutes and agenda for the meeting without any changes.

CPOA/POB update:

- Ed Harness described the purpose of the CPOA/POB. He recently presented to the 118th APD Academy cadets.
- The Police Oversight Board has two openings that will be filled in February. City Council is interviewing candidates.
- The CPOA/POB reviewed three old APD shooting cases and the officers were exonerated in each case.
- Ed Harness has not met with the new chief but has met with the Field Services Deputy Chief, Harold Medina. The police and transition teams are currently meeting with the DOJ in retreats. There will be a new compliance plan in January.
- The next Interim Monitor's Report is expected in May 2018, but is likely to focus on the transition.

- The next CPC Summit is scheduled for January 17, 2018. It will be held at 6:00 PM in the Plaza del Sol Building, 600 2nd St NW.
- Q: When officers are assaulted, does the CPOA investigate?
 - A: The CPOA is not involved in criminal investigations. Their focus is on police behavior and civilian complaints.
- Q: When is full compliance with the CASA expected?
 - A: Three to four years. Once 95% operational compliance has been reached, it must be maintained for two years before the DOJ will sign off. It is not clear what would happen if APD dropped below the 95% compliance level during the maintenance period.
- Q: Is the CPOA doing body camera audits?
 - A: No, those are being done by the monitoring team.
- Compliance continues to lag around use of force investigations. Issues with resources are a part of the problem, but the process of reviewing and correcting reports is cumbersome.

Area Command Update

- The Holiday Tac Plan has been very successful thus far:
 - 39 felony arrests
 - 20 misdemeanor arrests
 - 6 citations
 - 14 moving violations
 - Several parking violations
 - 20 shoplifting arrests
 - 45 auto burglary reports in the Area but only three in the Tac Plan area
 - 209 calls for service
 - 183 activities (officer initiated)
 - 582 contacts with citizens
- The City Council committee meeting about the proposed pawn shop ordinance had good attendance by the community. Councilor Gibson is working on the bill with APD's

support. The final hearing is coming soon and passage appears likely. The ordinance is a step in the right direction but does not contain all of the provisions APD sought.

- Q: Is there any provision to hold pawn shops accountable for buying stolen items?
 - A: No. The thieves know who will buy items from them. The new ordinance is intended to slow the process of converting stolen items into cash.
- Q: Does the Northwest Area Command have bait cars?
 - A: No, the bait items are handled by Central Investigations. The Area Command can request a bait car and it will be placed by Central Investigations. The bait program has been very successful. Deputy Chief Harold Medina spoke about the possibility of bringing the program back to the Area Commands or improving it in other ways. One possibility is hiring civilians to administer parts of the program. The current bait cars were purchased in 2011 but the providing company has gone out of business, so the bait items have had to be reworked. Advertising is a key part of the bait program by acting as a deterrent to thieves. In 2011, APD had a good relationship with the media and were able to get stories out to educate the community.
- Q: Could private security companies be used to administer the bait program?
 - A: Hiring civilian employees would limit the exposure of the bait items to fewer people. The program would require specific training, also. The Deputy Chief will raise the idea of using contractors as a stop-gap until civilian employees are ready.
- Q: Why are so many criminals released from custody so quickly?
 - A: The revolving door is not new. APD will continue arresting individuals as many times as necessary until they are imprisoned. APD will not stop arresting people even if they are quickly released. One offender was arrested 12 – 15 times before she was imprisoned. APD is working with District Attorney Raul Torrez to sort out the “worst of the worst” and make sure those people are being charged and jailed. Federal charges are sought when possible. The DA’s office had a backlog of 8,000 uncharged cases but they’re working through those cases. The community needs to reach out to all levels of government and the courts. The City Council is very supportive of APD, but other politicians need to

hear from the community. There are 110,000 people in the NW Area Command, but only 11 attended tonight's meeting.

- Q: Is drug testing done when a person is arrested?
 - A: No. Most offenders are released before any results would come back. Offenders are most likely to request help when they are arrested. APD needs to build relationships with providers to help people get into treatment programs. Many lack a support network so immediately go back to drug use. Some drug users have been found carrying lists of items to shoplift for faster cash conversion. There are drug diversion programs in the courts, but many offenders abscond from probation when they start using drugs again. APD seeks to form partnerships with the community to divert offenders into support and treatment programs.
- Q: An area officer was recently bitten by a suspect. Is there any accountability?
 - A: Officers are held to a higher standard than civilians and are not afforded any special protections. Committing a crime against an officer is an aggravating circumstance for charges, though. Such incidents serve as training opportunities for officers.
- Q: If an officer is stuck by a needle belonging to a suspect, is there a charge?
 - A: No. The responsibility is on the officer to avoid the needle stick.
- IMPACT teams will be working with Juvenile Probation starting in January, going house to house confirming probationers are where they're supposed to be. They will be bringing resources to assist with social problems, drugs, etc. The goal is to end "mobbing" where groups of juveniles invade an area, committing crimes such as auto burglary.
- The Deputy Chief spoke about Community Policing. It has three tenets: Partnerships with the community, developing problem solving strategies, and transforming the department. Participants were directed to the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) page maintained by the DOJ: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/>. APD needs to get officers into community meetings so the residents get to know their local officers. The CASA addressed issues in APD, but the community needs to reform, also, making changes and providing resources to take over after APD has arrested a person. APD officers are very

dedicated. The Deputy Chief emphasizes the need for empathy in interactions with the community – “How would I feel if that was my family member?” Part of the community policing effort will include how to utilize CPC’s.

Old Business

- Suggestion box: Cmdr. Szych will follow up with staff to try to determine status.
- New meeting day and location: The NWCPC will seek a new meeting location starting in February 2018. That meeting will likely mark the change to the third Wednesday of each month. Will meeting in community centers affect ability of officers to participate?

New Business

- The NWCPC will seek community support agencies and services to present at future meetings.
- Gilbert Gallegos is the new APD Communications Director.
- There need to be CPC business cards that can be handed out, featuring meeting times and places.

Matters from the Public

- What is the status of the Civilian Police Academy? Who will be facilitating it? The CPA is a great vehicle to reach and educate the public. CPA participants were able to experience APD scenario training. One graduate reported it was wonderful and really allowed him to understand an officer’s perspective. The next CPA is scheduled for February.
- Could there be a CPA refresher course?

Adjournment

- The next NWCPC meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM, on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. It will be held at the Northwest Area Command Substation, 10401 Cibola Loop NW.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.