



Minutes of the Northwest Area Community Policing Council

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Northwest Area Command

10401 Cibola Loop NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120

1. Call to Order

Chairperson, Eric Jackson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. (MST) on Tuesday, July 18, 2017.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Eric Jackson

Eric Nixon

Jill Greene

Thomas Borst

Yolanda Sandoval

Commander Michael Runyan

Lt. Scott Norris

Pete Gelabert

Sandy Pino

STAFF PRESENT:

Celina Espinoza, APD

Nicole Lucero Chavez, APD

David Gold, Facilitator, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

CITIZENS PRESENT:

15+ Citizens attended.

2. Agenda

Jill Greene's motion to approve the July 18, 2017 agenda, seconded by Eric Jackson, passed unanimously.

3. Minutes

Jill Greene's motion to approve the June 20, 2017 minutes, seconded by Eric Jackson, passed unanimously.

4. Area Command Update

Officer Appreciation Day is Aug 4. Luncheons and barbeques were used in the past. Breakfast will be served at the area command this time. Others are invited to come by. Graveyard shift can hopefully come to breakfast.

The bid starts next month, maybe before next the meeting. Staffing was touch and go. We'll stay where we are at 56-57. With Sergeants and Lieutenant it is 61. We're starting with 54.

LT: Details on getting PACs taken care of. The area commands are working to be on the same page. Each area command has specific set of concerns.

5. CPOA/POB Update

None.

6. Presentation

None.

7. Old Recommendations

Safe Zones

The policy is in place. The department is looking at striping. Foothills was painted green and says Internet Exchange Zone. A Safe Exchange Zone is for things like Facebook, Craigslist sales. These are easily identifiable, safe places for internet purchases. For increased safety, APD has surveillance cameras, that will trigger alerts at the Real Time Crime Center. The NW Zone is in front of the substation. After research, the best procedure is when the RTCC sees someone park there, they will begin to monitor. There is no need to call in. Country-wide internet sales have had associated crimes. Now it will be recorded. A extra set of eyes is helpful. Also for folks who do custody exchanges. There is video, so both parties are protected, and someone is monitoring. It will be at all six substations. We look forward to a media story soon.

Mail Theft

APD is still sorting out how to work with US Postal inspectors.

8. New Recommendations

The goal of this part of the meeting was to solicit recommendations from officers to influence policy. For the most part the statements are from other attendees.

For input:

- An anonymous suggestion box in the squad room
- Email.
- Through CPC chairs?

These guys say hi to each other, but they don't introduce themselves to civilians. I don't know if these young men can relate to each other.

Thank you for serving. CPC supports law enforcement. As taxpaying citizens we understand the pressure the consent decree, CPOA and being undermanned places on officers. I respect you. It's harder than ever before. We're here to support you. We want you to be safe every day. When you are in these meetings you should know where we're at. I wave to 6 officers who live in my neighborhood. We look out for you guys, even when you don't think we are. We realize what you are going through.

Let's thank officers at each meeting.

Let's stop and wave. A friendly wave is always a good thing.

We have a sign that says "We honor and support APD". Many people go by and express appreciation.

I taught at the Presidents College. They spent hours talking about what faculty needed. I suggested they ask faculty what they consider is rewarding. What is rewarding for APD?

Eric: You can email me confidentially. No IPRA is used because we're not a public board. One CPC had a recommendation about the uniform because it's hot.

The modern version of a suggestion box is Survey Monkey.

LT: Officers by nature are suspicious. Officers, the more time they're in, the more cynical they become. Officers should be in as functional a uniform as possible. Also tradition is concerned. What officers need is a success.

Officer: I am an officer for 10 years. One thing I like is to have resources available. We need more manpower. The number of officers gets lower and lower in this area command. We're getting to a point where losing one officer/per squad. We try to go all calls. Sometimes we have priority 1's. Citizens shouldn't need to wait for 5-6 hours. We need to have a minimal level of officers.

LT: We are trying to authorize OT. 12 hour shifts are good because officers can come in on days off. PACT officers are crime prevention specialists, but we don't have other manpower. We want to have positive effect on stakeholders.

Q: What stress does OT put on officers? There is an OT cap. Also good supervision comes into play. It does have a ripple effect. The settlement and CPOA are stressful. Not the job. The vast majority of the job has nothing to do with putting handcuffs on.

Q: Politicians are saying they will add more. Is that realistic? Are pols trying to pacify you? I don't know.

You have 42 cadets. We're budgeted for more officers.

Q: Is APD still budgeted for 1200 officers? Yes. They could hire them now. Budget is used for OT instead. Previously it was dropped. Now it is back. #1 thing is officers. Like business, employees must give 100% and are the most important thing. Let the officers do their job. Cincinnati said you will have more officers killed and crimes will spike.

Q: How does CASA effect you? What would make you stick around? What can we push city to do to keep you?

Q: My husband and I have gone out and walked in New Hampshire. I was angry at a neighbor's illegal fireworks. I also have questions about lighting? Call 311 about lighting. Hit up the city council. Let Pete know about systematic areas.

Q: There is a fireworks person near me. I know them. They are violent persons. There are only two officers on graveyard shift. There are not enough officers. They don't have manpower to address these things. I don't want to put them in undue danger? Substations are given officers based on # of calls. So call in. Don't not call because you are worried about manpower. RTCC keeps track of things like problem residences.

I put fireworks in our neighborhood newsletter, about PTSD effects of fireworks on combat vets. NHs should notify members.

Lots of vehicles don't have license plates.

We don't have enough officers. Scrutinize every person on a ballot. Ask them "are you committed to making our city safer by committing resources to APD?". Be careful judging politicians' standard responses. Will you commit more resources? When a city is not safe, all of us are not safe. Look at judges too. Look at their voting record and history.

How can we have a venue for sharing what we know? Officers testify. You officers know judges more than I know. Could a suggestion box include knowledge of judges. If you guys are seeing things, we want to earn your trust. We could put out recommendation for having more officers. We need to know the minimum # and then we can push. We can push and say we want the commander's number.

On the westside we pay 1/3 of the taxes. We have smallest police force.

Our calls mostly require 2 officers. So we don't have the same number of calls for service, but we do have officers at our calls. Our area command is widespread. It takes longer to respond to call. The more calls for service an area command has, the more use of force (UOF) it has. UOF takes an officer off streets due to reporting. They also take that into consideration.

The new bid starts Aug 18th. There will be staggered shifts including a swing shift. Officers are working 8, 10, or 12 hour shifts.

Does “calls for service” include non-emergency? Non-emergency goes on a dispatch board. With multiple people call in the same call, it is one call.

Who is taking calls on mailbox break-ins? Falls into the federal domain. 242-COPS will not accept calls. We do take reports. There is confusion though because we take in-progress calls. The problem is you don't know that. The Postal Inspector has referred us to get statistics from APD. Coordinates APD statistics on the 5th floor. It's good to put up cameras in non-obvious places. Portable cameras are a deterrent. The post office won't do it. There are only 4 postal inspectors in the state. Now they are breaking into better boxes. NH's can put in their own lights.

Additional funding for RTCC portable video would deter thefts. More funding for red flag areas. Get hold of your councilors. RTCC has 6 video trailers. We have speed trailers. Cameras are assigned to RTCC. Ask Ken Sanchez for cameras and video trailers.

For \$20-30 you can get motion sensors lights solar powered. Could be installed high enough. It costs about \$50. Great for NH Watch to take on.

How would we get a suggestion box? Maybe it can be a pilot program in NW area command.

Staffing level was at 1200. APD is now authorized for 1000 officers with 7% vacancy factor.

Ask mayoral candidates: “how will you have more officers in first 60 days?” You need more recruiters, academy's. Bring more people and manpower into academy's.

You also need infrastructure to support police. No revolving doors for criminals. Our jails are not full because they keep letting them out.

In the International district, people came from Memphis. Said you guys don't do s***. There is no accountability.

Westside is safest place for lack of DUI drivers. Very few people are stopped and charged. It's worse in other areas. The DUI unit is very professional.

Q: I don't like tinted windows? There is a law against it.

Survey Monkey doesn't require suggestion box. We'd need to ask questions.

9. Matters from public

None.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairperson Eric Jackson reminded everyone of the next Regular Meeting of the Council on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Area Substation. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

READ AND APPROVED:

Mr. David Gold
Secretary to the Board

Mr. Eric Jackson
Chairperson of the Board