



Minutes of the Northwest Area Community Policing Council

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Northwest Area Command

10401 Cibola Loop NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. with 5 board members, 21 members of the public and 6 members of the Albuquerque Police Department present, District Attorney Torres and Crime prevention Specialists Pete Gelabert and Sandy Martinez.

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

- CPOA/POB Update

Nothing for the CPOA tonight they have not been seen in a while.

- Area Command Update

TACT plan, mobbing is an issue, this is where juveniles run through neighborhoods going in and out of vehicles, some have been armed and it has led to a homicide. This issue is not going away, after the holidays and when tact plan is over they will select an area to start to target and pressure these individuals. There will be a zero tolerance policy because of the severity of the issue. They are working hand in hand with probation/parole, geographically they know where this occurring.

You had mentioned these kids go into a mob and are stealing everything they can, is there any sync with pawn shops to give them a heads up? There is some pawn shop legislation on the 29th of November at city hall on the 9th floor 5pm, they will be discussing the pawn shop ordinance. There will be many owners of the pawn shops that do not want this ordinance to go through. There is a definite connection with drug use due to being able to pawn off articles.

What is the range in age? 12-17 years old, these stories can be found in the media.

Unfortunately they have caught kids that were caught on camera with guns in their hands but have not been able to catch them in person. In January they are going to focus very hard.

Is there monitoring of online apps or websites such as offer up? To someone that is using drugs, most of the time they are not going to be patient. The thieves that know for sure they can take something and get money right away are the ones that are being targeted.

Is there nothing in the books that doesn't allow pawn shops to buy stolen or illegal merchandise? No they are not allowed to, the problem is how to prove that it is stolen. The key is making what you have in your cars less valuable. If they cannot move it they won't steal it.

Say an officer goes out to a burglary how long does it take for the item to get online? Not quick enough, that item usually gets sold immediately. By the time you realize it is gone it could already be fenced or pawned.

A member is having a horrible problem with kids in their neighborhood trying to break into houses and to vehicles. We have them on video, what do we do with this information? Nextdoor.com is a great place to inform your neighbors.

Criminals love to do this and pry the neighborhood whatever way they can, they want to know whose home. If someone shows up to your house that should not be there, call the police and let them know what the person or persons look like and what they are wearing so that they are aware and can check it out. Also let them know if you have a video or pictures as well, police may not be able to take a report at times, but they can forward the information to either the daily 39 (daily email to police) or a tact team. License plate numbers are nice but a lot of the time it can be the wrong license plate on the car. However, any of the information that you have can be helpful. These people are very brazen and will even break into an officer's car in their driveway when they are home and steal their equipment.

If you do see someone suspicious make sure that you do not follow them, it is not your job to stop these people and APD does not want to see you hurt.

A recommendation was made to maybe have a briefing on what a civilian should know when approached by a perpetrator.

Information can be sent out on nextdoor.com regarding what to look for. A pamphlet was handed out at the meeting on how to report a crime and be a good witness (see attached.)

Community policing has more to do with the public than APD, which is the essence of community policing. If you are interested in neighborhood watch or patrol, Pete and Sandy can help you set all of this off. There are people at the meeting involved that do patrols around the neighborhood as we are the 2nd largest area command in the city. Pete and Sandy are amazing resources and are the folks to start with.

- Old Business

Pete and Sandy have had meeting with Cottonwood Mall and Lieutenant Norris has a holiday tact plan preparing for the holidays, there will be holiday tips that will be handed out. There is a substation that is going to be opened into cottonwood mall but it has not been set up just

yet. There are some issues with the contract and they are still in renovations, they are negotiating and working to get it fixed. There is a new director at Cottonwood Mall that is a retired commander that many are familiar with.

- New Business
- Presentation: Bernalillo County District Attorney Raul Torrez

Thank you to everyone for being here, the most important thing that everyone needs to know is that it is up to everyone to make this city safe again. The DA's office is the largest office in the state screening about 25,000 cases a year with 97 attorneys. Felony arrests are at a historical high and misdemeanors are down. We are the number one state in America for property crime, number two for violent crime, we are 4x national average on the rate of crime. There has been a 117% increase in auto theft we are also number one in the nation in auto theft. Homicide record is about to be broken, the record is 70.

The DA's office needs more prosecutors just like APD needs more officers. The DA's office still relies mainly on a paper system, APD has a data system, probation parole has a different data system that is separate and none of these systems communicate together. 20% of the criminals are responsible for 80% of the crime, we have to identify who they are and find them. On paper when charged, someone can look the same as another person that has committed the same exact crime. However, one can be someone that regularly commits crime and the other can be a one-time offender but the DA's system doesn't differentiate that information.

The DA's office is not able to base their cases on this, they have to do all cases in order. This does not allow the DA's office to get to the most impactful people. The DA's office is in the process of redesigning the entire system to look at who is committing the most crime and prosecuting their cases first. However, there is no list or data that was collected to see who the people are that are committing the most crime. They are trying to build an integrated system that looks into risk assessment, there is also an alert system in the real-time crime center and lists are now being compared.

Another problem is when a case is brought into the office and someone does a plea deal, the data is not processed. The DA now has a warehouse where his office is scanning all files and trying to digitize all of these records, they should be done with the project by the end of the year. This is something that the DA's office is doing all on their own, the files need to start to be stitched together with other departments in the city so that these felonies can be charged. The incoming case load, usually 865 a month is at that rate about 10,000 a year, with the shortage of attorneys they have, they are not able to do all of these cases a year. There needs to be an additional 30 prosecutors, legislation said that they are going to take a look at it and see if they can get any additional prosecutors. Regardless the DA's office is trying to look for individuals that commit the most crime and prosecute.

There is an explosion in opioid addiction in America. There is a shortage of help available to those people that are not committing crime but addicted to drugs and sometimes the easiest way for them is to be arrested and be prosecuted. A lot are sentenced to rehabilitation as it is more cost-effective and allows officers to focus on the front-line crime. We also need to focus on what other tools that we can use to help people. It is also important to look at the younger

generation and kids that are committing crime and try and stop them before it becomes a lifestyle. There needs to be a crime reduction strategy tailored to what type of crime is going on in the area. There should be community prosecution were they are responsible for crime reduction in that location and tailoring strategy to that location.

There are corporations that are thinking about leaving our city due to the risks of their brand image. Corporations that are heavily connected through social media feel something that could happen here could be a threat to their brand image if they get the wrong exposure. The chamber can be involved but it takes the citizen involvement as well. Raul Torres is the biggest DA in the state but all other agencies get the same amount of time when they go the capital and or legislation. If things continue to be as out of control as they are they will spill over to outlining communities. Aside from oil and gas, terms of the future of economic development we need a functional city that has ordinance and works economically. UNM has kids from all over the state of New Mexico that come down to UNM to see the university. If there is crime in the area, most of those kids will not go to our area and will go else ware.

Are officers being sent to multiple court cases at the same time and cases being dismissed? They make great efforts to avoid this from happening but sometimes it can happen.

Raul Torres, is not going to stop what he is going to do whatever he can to make this happen. Do not let anyone tell you they do not know how to solve the problem, they know what to do. But they need help to get the tools that they need to get the job done. We are in a deep hole but we can get there, it will take time. It took time to get into the hole that our city is in and it will take time to get out of it. Raul Torres is trying to host at least two event in December, he will go anywhere and talk to anyone who can about this. His hope is that in one of these conversations that someone will take the time to petition their neighbor about crime and see if they will listen to the DA and learn with needs to be done in order to help the DA's office.

You can register your cameras with APD so that they know you have a camera in the event that a crime does happen, they do not have access to the camera. Also, police cannot read nextdoor.com they can post on there but cannot read it so it leaves it up to the public to make sure to send this information to the appropriate sources.

- Adjournment - meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm