



CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

Northwest Area Command

COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

TITLE: Community Patrol Officers (Resubmission)

DATE SUBMITTED: 03/14/2018

APD RESPONSE DUE: 04/11/2018 Twenty (20) business days after submission

FINAL DISPOSITION: 06/07/2018 Sixty (60) business days after submission

RATIONALE:

This Recommendation was previously submitted. This resubmission is filed under the Keller administration for confirmation.

The Albuquerque Police Department needs additional manpower at all levels. While recruiting and the hiring of additional Police Service Aides (PSA's) has helped, there is still a need for more people on the streets. PSA's are trained to handle a variety of calls, leaving more sworn officers to handle priority calls. There are some functions that could be handled by volunteers with a minimum of training. These volunteers could assist with duties that do not require a sworn officer or the specific training of a PSA. In the event of a serious accident or complex crime scene, for instance, streets may need to be blocked for hours.

During power outages, large intersections may require traffic control. Neither of these duties would result in a written report or arrest. People on vacation or away from their homes for extended periods request additional patrols in their area. These low priority duties are an essential service to the community and enhance community relations. During busy shifts, officers may not have any time to provide these additional patrols.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that APO develop a volunteer force that can assist with routine, non-sworn functions that do not generate reports. These Community Patrol Officers would drive marked vehicles, enhancing the presence of APO in the community. They would be tasked with providing extra patrols, assisting with road closures, and traffic control duties. The use of volunteers would enable sworn officers and PSA's to concentrate on the duties they are specifically trained for.

Community Patrol Officers would not be armed. They would be precluded from carrying any type of firearm or bladed weapons. They would be equipped with a radio and a flashlight. They would serve as additional eyes on the street. During extra patrols, the CPO would observe, calling for law enforcement support if suspicious activity or circumstances are present.

CPO vehicles would be clearly marked, equipped with warning lights, and stocked with supplies like crime-scene/caution tape, traffic cones, and portable barricades. CPO training would include traffic control and observation. Existing Academy staff could conduct required training. CPO's would wear a modified police uniform with polo-style shirt, uniform pants, and black shoes/boots.

After training, CPO's would be expected to provide a certain number of scheduled hours per month, to be determined. CPO's could be assigned to specific area commands or stationed throughout the city as needed.

Respectfully Submitted by: