



CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

Southeast Area Command Community Policing Council

Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2017: 6:00pm – 7:50 pm

Cesar Chavez Community Center – 7505 Kathryn SE, Albuquerque, NM

- 1. The Council meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. Those present introduced themselves:**
 - a. Eight (8) SEACPC voting members were present: Ron Halbgewachs (Chair), Todd Kersting, Tom O’Connell, Mike Kruchoski, Amir Chapel, Paula Metzner, Caroline Monie, and Gary Peterson.**
 - b. Six (6) APD officers were present: Lt. Tim Esquibel, Sgt. Diane Dosal, Officer Jeffrey Blutworth, Officer Joseph Gutierrez, Celina Espinoza, and Nicole Chavez.**
 - c. Sixteen (16) community members attended: Torild Kristiansen, Sandra Perea, Wayne Cook, Kathy Cook, Richard Metts, Cynthia Serna, J. Williams, Jarvis Boykin, Elizabeth Dhowly, Pat Wheeler, Greg Hobbs, Wendy Hohman, Bob Mares, Monte Perez, Becky Cox, and Ryan Kious.**
- 2. Ron Halbgewachs (Chair) called the Council meeting to order at 6:10p.m.**
- 3. A quorum was present: Eight (8) of ten (10) voting members (see above) were in attendance. Jeffrey Archuleta and Frank Ernst were unable to attend, with approved absences.**
- 4. The Council reviewed the proposed agenda. Mike Kruchoski moved that the agenda be approved; Todd Kersting seconded. Council members approved the motion unanimously by acclamation.**
- 5. City Councilor Pat Davis was not present yet, moved to next agenda item.**
- 6. The Council unanimously approved the March meeting minutes, without changes as written.**
- 7. Mike Kruchoski verbally reported on his Ride-Along of March 24, 2017, in the Valley Area Command. It was his fourth Ride-Along since attending the Citizen Police Academy.**
- 8. Public Q & A:**

- a. Can the new crime specialist help with stolen items? Yes, anything Priority 3 or lower. The official job title is *Property Crime Specialist*.
 - b. Are the Ride-Along reports available publicly? That is up to the Council. A lot of ideas come from Ride-Alongs, resulting in helpful changes within APD as well as to other CABQ departments. Numbering on houses is one example.
 - c. Will the Ride-Along report be posted on the CABQ website? They have not been posted in past, but the Council can discuss it. The decision is the Council's to make.
9. Ron Halbegwachs announced that Council member Frank Ernst was not present, because he was attending the Citizen Police Academy, a three-month commitment required for serving as a voting member of the CPC.
10. Sgt. Dosal presented the Monthly Crime Statistics Report:
- a. There were 4,388 incidents reported for the period
 - i. 471 auto burglaries
 - ii. 304 auto thefts
 - iii. 262 vandalism calls
 - iv. 183 residential burglaries
 - v. 83 commercial burglaries
 - vi. 142 aggravated assaults
 - vii. 119 robberies
 - viii. 161 simple assaults.
 - b. Additionally, the SE Area Command conducted 16 crime prevention events, four crime prevention workshops, and three Neighborhood Watch meetings.
 - c. Bike patrols have continued. Two officers will go on bike patrol to focus on specific areas of concern. Last week, Officer Bludworth rode Central Avenue from Wyoming to San Mateo. Typical problems encountered include public drinking (citations were given) and people with open arrest warrants. One "hot spot" for problems is Central at Texas, where there is frequent wrongful use of the bus stop; officers are working to clean up that area. Pedestrian-involved accidents are a problem, for example, a mother and daughter illegally crossing street. If there is an area with numerous reports, we need good "intelligence" from community members. At the apartment complex at Louisiana and Gibson we patrol the complex and alleys.
 - d. Question: Compared to last year, what are the trends? We can't speak to that, because this was the first year for making this report. The issue will be researched to see if there are options for making a comparison.
 - e. Celina Espinoza discussed progress on the Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) initiative with business owners, the Safe City Strike Force, and crime-free

housing. Will move around. This is one avenue toward fostering community-oriented policing.

- f. There was concern expressed about people who often gather at Lomas and San Mateo. There are a lot of panhandlers in that area. Sprouts and T-Mobile call APD a lot.
 - g. Another concern was about “down-and-out” calls near the Mile High district. Those kinds of calls are categorized as Priority 1, so they take a lot of time. They require that an officer respond with a paramedic to render medical assistance when necessary. There are typically one or two such calls an hour, and each response takes about 30-40 minutes to resolve.
 - h. Shifts are staffed based on the number of calls at particular times of the day. A 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. shift is necessary in three of the area commands.
 - i. There was a question about the availability and use of Narcan. Its use has been approved, and a funding grant application is in process, so hopefully kits will be on-hand this summer.
 - j. On one Ride-Along, for example, there was a backlog of 70 calls. In most of those, callers initially gave sparse information, so the dispatcher would attempt periodic calls back to provide updates to officers when possible. There are some types of calls that cannot be cancelled once placed.
11. Councilor Pat Davis discussed CABQ law enforcement initiatives. Some key points include:
- a. City's budget opened in April and it has until May to change budget. Public safety at \$7 million dollars; 980 positions are fully funded. The Property Crime Investigators program will fund 25 positions; 15 of those positions are already filled and training will be conducted in May and June. There were more than 40,000 calls on property crimes last year.
 - b. There were more than 41,000 calls on “down and outs” last year. Current policy requires that two officer officers and a parametric respond, costing \$1200.00 just to check on it. Fire fighters are being trained to take a different approach, which will be instituted on Central in April.
 - c. There is proposed funding of \$900,000 to address the rape kit backlog. Statewide there are 5,000 untested rape kits; 4,000 of those are here in Albuquerque. APD plans to hire three lab techs to test kits within 90 days.
 - d. The current budget proposal added a prosecutor at DA's office. But is will cut Main Street funding, Warehouse 508, substance abuse treatments, and homelessness. The City Council is taking a hard look at how to restore previous funding.
 - e. Regarding DOJ reform efforts nationwide, the Federal AG Sessions is not a fan. However, Judge Brack says agreement is a “done deal” and we will stick with the program. Ron Halbgewachs read a letter from Chief Eden, who supports the agreement and is committed to the reforms to improve APD.

- f. In response to questions about an independent investigation board for APD shootings and the use of body camera videos, Councilor Davis said a bill was filed last year as a placeholder for discussions the incoming Mayor and administration. Body camera videos are critical for these investigations, so video cannot be erased offline. APD uses an evidence management system offered through evidence.com, which both the District Attorney and the Attorney General have access to. Currently, there are separate, independent investigations – a criminal investigation conducted by the DA, and an internal disciplinary and policy investigation by APD – established by the DOJ to bolster confidence in the process.**
- g. Question: The increased funding for APD seems to cause funding cuts to programs that provide other deterrents to crime, so what can the public do to help strike a balance? The majority on the City Council think that these kinds of programs do provide a deterrent, so they are proposing a budget that supports them. Citizens should attend Council meetings to express their support.**
- h. Construction of the new Southeast Area Command substation and Community Policing Center continues at Katherine and San Mateo. It is designed as a multifunction center with classrooms, meeting rooms, veterans area, skate park, and more – all intended to support our wider community policing goals. Projected opening is in 2019.**
- 12. There was a brief discussion about the need to make progress on review of the APD Use of Force guidelines. It will be included on the agenda for the May 18 CPC meeting.**
- 13. The ACLU and APD Forward will jointly present their assessments of Dr. Ginger’s forthcoming progress report (due for release on May 2) at a future CPC meeting.**
- 14. Chair Ron Halbgewachs adjourned the public meeting at 7:50 p.m.**
- 15. In closed session, members unanimously elected Tom O’Connell to serve as Vice Chair. Mike Kruchoski volunteered to serve as Secretary, which was also affirmed unanimously.**

Upcoming meeting dates: May 18, June 15, July 20