



**CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE**

## **Southeast Area Command Community Policing Council**

### **Minutes**

**Thursday, May 18, 2017: 6:00pm – 7:30 pm**

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

- 1. The Council meeting convened at 6:05 p.m. Those present introduced themselves:**
  - a. Eight (8) SEACPC voting members were present: Ron Halbgewachs (Chair), Mike Kruchoski (Secretary), Amir Chapel, Paula Metzner, Caroline Monie, Jeffrey Archuleta, Gary Peterson, and Todd Kersting.**
  - b. Eleven (11) members of the APD Aviation team and nine (9) other APD officers were present: Lt. Tim Esquibel, Sgt. Diane Dosal, Officer Jeffrey Bludworth, Officer Joseph Gutierrez, Officer Joseph Grider, Officer Tyler Marney, Officer Richard Castillo, Officer James Sanchez, Officer Jonel Williams, Officer Manuel Catunuch, Sgt. Ken Chavez, Officer Andrew Wickline, Officer Joseph Vaiza, Officer Todd Wooldridge, Officer Earl Higgs, Officer Gilbert Esquibel, Officer Robert Dilley, Officer Jermaine Wilkins, Officer Rubin Garria, Nicole Chavez. The aviation team had just come on-board and was getting acquainted with the CPC. The K-9 team was also represented.**
  - c. Twelve (12) community members attended: Flora Silva, Robby Heckman, Hanh Nguyen, Torild Kristiansen, Diane McCash, Charles McCash, Pat Wheeler, Ana Moran, Jean Silesky, Hech Williams, Ann Beyke, Wendy Barker. These community members represented the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association, APD Forward, League of Women Voters, the Southeast Corridor Public Safety group, and residents.**
- 2. Ron Halbgewachs (Chair) called the Council meeting to order at 6:09 p.m..**
- 3. A quorum was present: Eight (8) of ten (10) voting members (see above) were in attendance. Tom O'Connell and Frank Ernst were unable to attend, with approved absences.**

4. The Council reviewed the proposed agenda. Jeffrey Archuleta moved that the agenda be approved; Caroline Monie seconded. Council members approved the motion unanimously by acclamation.
5. The Council reviewed the May 2017 minutes. Mike Kruchoski proposed that approval be postponed until the June 2017 meeting in order to edit the minutes. Chair Ron Halbgewachs agreed, with a tentative review by email within the coming month, with final approval at the June meeting.
6. Presentation(s): Lt. Bret White, a long-time APD veteran, began the first of an ongoing series on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 2.52, regarding Use of Force. Only the key points are included here, with some public questions and answers.
  - a. APD rules, responsibilities, and procedures are based on legal precedents that focus on protection of community members as well as law enforcement officers. The goal is to exercise appropriate control over potentially violent situations by using the most effective and efficient tactics while ensuring the least harm to all parties. Not every violent encounter, however, can be deescalated.
  - b. Ability to use the “lowest level of force” varies among officers, depending on both their training and experience. Younger officers have to be in the field to gain experience, yet they are hampered by that very lack of experience.
    - i. Question: Given the increased emphasis on more training, and the commensurate decrease of field duty time, does APD assign less experienced officers with those who are more experienced?  
Whenever feasible.
  - c. Officers must continually review the (changing) laws and standards; the situations and factors they must consider in the field are complex and evolving. Officers must think “three steps ahead” to handle incidents appropriately without overreacting.
  - d. Important advice for officers: Know yourself – that is, your emotional limits, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. Beyond their commitment to serve the public, they should have no emotional attachment or involvement. They must stop once subjects “give up.” Courts decide matters of guilt, not the officers themselves.
  - e. Use of Force is evaluated by juries, based on four factors. These include the severity of the crime; potential for imminent threat to the safety of officers or others; whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or trying to evade arrest by flight.
  - f. The 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires that use of force be “objectively reasonable” under all circumstances. This determination must be from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, not simply from a citizen’s perspective. Lack of knowledge about a subject’s mental health issues cannot be used against an officer. In APD, the initiative for Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) has resulted in better training about drug and

mental health matters. After 10 years of higher court deliberations, laws have recognized what officers often have just 10 seconds to judge on-scene, where they must make split-second decisions.

- g. **Question: Are officers training to “shoot to kill”? No, they are trained to shoot to stop action, when necessary; that requires shooting at the subject’s center of mass. There are no attempts to shoot a firearm out of a subject’s hand, as often shown on television police dramas. APD’s administrative investigations are not criminal investigations. Still, they cannot use leading questions that might taint later actions. There has been great progress at lower levels within officers’ ranks; progress among higher ranks is becoming better. Supervisory reviews now involve three levels of supervisors, using a standard set of questions to ensure uniformity, fairness, and quality.**
  - h. **Question: How much input do officers have in development of standards regarding use of force? All officers have opportunities to provide feedback and recommendations.**
  - i. **Neck holds are considered appropriate only in connection with “deadly force” incidents.**
  - j. **APD Lieutenants must now review all videos related to use of force or “show of force” encounters. These include any use of electronic control weapons (ECW), such as tasers.**
  - k. **Question: How can we (community members) help or be proactive? Make recommendations through the CPCs.**
7. **Public comments, questions, and responses were primarily focused on Use of Force guidelines so they are addressed above (paragraph 6).**
8. **Ride-Along reports: None.**
9. **Monthly Crime Statistics: Sgt. Dosal presented the report for the April 20 through May 17 period. She recommended that visitors not come to just one CPC meeting, but instead come to all meetings in order to the progress. For this monthly reporting period, there were:**
- a. **1912 calls total, including:**

    - i. **204 auto burglaries**
    - ii. **172 larcenies**
    - iii. **150 auto thefts**
    - iv. **110 vandalism**
    - v. **77 residential burglaries**
    - vi. **44 commercial burglaries**
    - vii. **239 domestic abuse incidents**
    - viii. **34 robberies**

- ix. 2 homicides
- x. 14 sexual assaults
- b. The APD COAST (Crisis Outreach and Support Team) is working “vagrant” issues in collaboration with the St. Martin’s Hospitality Center. A significant problem is that many people referred to the Center decline to take advantage of the services offered.
  - i. Bike patrols can be effective, however the officers must be trained first.
  - c. Question: Can “Use of Force” incidents be included in future monthly reports? Yes, but they should not just cite the numbers. The general background and explanation of those incidents should be included.
  - d. Officers will continue to cite and remove offenders (“vagrants”) but not necessarily arrest them. Residents need to continue to be involved by watching their neighborhoods and reporting questionable activities.
  - e. Question: Flora Silva asked if crime prevention statistics could be reported over time, rather than just the past month, in order to identify trends. APD could not answer at present.
- 10. Representatives of the Southeast Corridor Public Safety group attended our CPC for the first time. They will try to stagger their meetings so they won’t conflict with regular CPC meetings. Their meetings are not on a regular schedule anyway, usually quarterly. They focus on other issues, with a goal of educating community members about crime prevention.
- 11. Agenda for the next meeting: APD Forward offered to present its analysis of the Fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) DOJ Monitor’s report at the June SEACPC meeting.
- 12. Other business: None.
- 13. Ron Halbgewachs (Chair) adjourned the Council meeting at 7:52 p.m.