



**Minutes of the Southeast Area Command Community Policing Council
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2015
Cesar Chavez Community Center
7505 Kathryn Ave SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108**

1. Call to Order

Chairman, Colt Balok, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2015.

Council Members Present:

Chair - Colt Balok

Co-Chair – Clara Padilla-Silver

Frank Luna

Ronald Halbgewachs

Officer Tim Hotole

Officer Phil Moya

Cassandra Reckaway

Sgt. Jason Sanchez

STAFF PRESENT

Jeanette Martinez, Moderator

2. Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Agenda for the March 19, 2015 was voted on and approved. Minutes for the February 19, 2015 meeting was voted on and approved.

3. Discussion

Structure of Member/Non Member discussion

Council discussed the best options for allowing public comment during council meetings. Council agreed that public comments have a tendency to interfere with council business. During the next council meeting a decision will be made and voted upon to address the issue. The outcome will be added to the bylaws.

Transient, Mental Health Discussion

Discussion of transient, mental health issue was tabled until further information and mental health providers are available to participate in discussion.

Ride Along Reports

Council member Cassandra Reckaway shared her ride-along experience. Cassandra noted the excellent communication and interaction between Officer Tapia and the community throughout very tense and unclear situations. Cassandra also noted that the minor/non-emergency calls coming in from citizens were not responded to in a timely manner by officers and made a recommendation that more Police Service Aids be hired and utilized more. Police Service Aids could respond to calls that do not need an experienced officer. Hiring Police Service Aids would make the experienced officers more available for the unclear and difficult situations that require advanced communication/negotiation skills. Cassandra also shared the fact that officers are constantly looking down at their computers while driving. She also noted that an extensive amount of time is spent on writing police reports and questioned whether “voice recognition” could be useful for officers. Officer Sanchez noted that some officers have tried to use “voice recognition” and it did not appear to save time due to complexities of using the software. Cassandra also shared her experience while responding to a call in a “pitch dark” trailer park and noted that visibility was impossible. She also stated that house numbers were not posted on the trailer homes.

Council member Clara Padilla-Silver also shared her ride-along experience. She observed the tremendous amount of time police officers take to write police reports. She too discussed the possibility of officers using voice recognition.

Jeanette Martinez, also shared her ride-along experience. She mentioned responding to a pedestrian involved crash. It was the assumption of the officers, including the Sargent who was present at the scene that the pedestrian was severely injured and would most likely die. For this reason, three officers stayed at the scene, including the Sargent, for several hours waiting for the crime scene investigators to arrive so evidence could be tagged and investigated. While officers were waiting for the crime scene investigators to arrive they attempted to communicate with the hospital to find out if in fact the pedestrian was deceased. Their attempts were unsuccessful and they never found out if he died. She also stated that during this whole waiting period the older gentleman who hit the pedestrian with his car was also held in the back seat of the police vehicle for several hours until the officers could confirm whether the pedestrian died or not. After several hours of waiting and never hearing from the crime scene investigators or from the hospital, the officers decided to leave the scene. There was a pool of blood on the pavement from the victim. Peroxide was poured over the blood and the scene was no longer secure. Suggestion would be to find a better means of communication between officers, crime scene investigators, and hospitals during an accident so that officers and citizens are not held at a scene longer than necessary.

4. Public Comment

No public comments were made

5. Other Business

Celina Espinoza, the Communications & Community Outreach Director, shared that citizens, who would like to have a police report written instead of having an officer respond to an incident can call 768-2030 or go online to fill out a report as well.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the council, Chairman Colt Balok reminded everyone of the next regular meeting on Thursday, April 16 2015 at 6:00 pm. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.