



## **SOUTHWEST CITIZEN POLICING COUNCIL**

### **END OF THE YEAR REPORT – 2017**

**MEETINGS/OVERVIEW:** The Southwest Citizen Policing Council (SWCPC) met on the second Wednesday of each month at the Patrick J. Baca Library, 8081 Central NW., from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Attending board members introduced themselves and their position on the board. It is also customary for each person of the community to introduce themselves and, if applicable, their representation (i.e. business or neighborhood association). All voting members (Jan LaPitz, Larry LaPitz, Michael Zocholl, John Russo, and Don Burns) were present at each meeting, except where noted. Also present at each meeting, except where noted, were: commander Campbell, Lieutenant Perez, Mr. Ed harness, Celina Espinoza and Nicole Chavez-Lucero.

Each meeting had a crime update for the previous month. To this end the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) Southwest area command assigns a representative to provide a crime statistics report for the previous month. The representative also answers questions and addresses concerns from citizens of the Southwest area.

To better educate the community and provide more participation from the citizens of the Southwest area, each meeting had a guest speaker to provide information on how citizens can better protect themselves against crime. Each speaker also addresses questions and provides information on the topic presented.

The voting members in the Southwest area faced many challenges in 2017. The previous chair kept very few records, so it is difficult to ascertain exact dates and what was accomplished. Additionally, obtaining documents from Celina Espinoza and Nicole Chavez-Lucero was very difficult. Determining the status on submitted proposals was extremely problematic. Most challenging was communication of top command from Albuquerque Police Department, Celina Espinoza, and Nicole Chavez-Lucero. On numerous occasions the voting members of the Southwest Community Policing Council had requested status update on submitted proposals. These requests were never acknowledged. Finally, the voting members of the Southwest Citizen

Policing Council had requested meeting minutes for May, June and July. Numerous attempts at obtaining meeting minutes, via telephone messages and email, went unacknowledged.

Community participation and recruitment for voting members of the Southwest Citizens Policing Council was also very difficult. Sparking community interest was met with little or no response by the community. Members of neighborhood associations were encouraged to attend the month meetings. Other methods to encourage community participation was the use of Next Door, Facebook and the Citizens' Policing Council website. Citizen participation ranged from zero to five attending meetings. This topic was specifically addressed in detail (due to missing minutes exact dates are unknown). The voting members expressed on reason citizen participation was minimal was due to the location. It was theorized that being more central to neighborhoods and the community, more people might attend. A lengthy discussion on a change of venue was met with strong resistance from Nicole Chavez-Lucero. Nicole commented that new brochures were recently printed and that changing the venue would send a message that the council was not being transparent. It is worth noting, the voting council has no input on the brochures which contained information that was dated or inaccurate.

**January 2017:** Two voting board members were absent due to illness. No Quorum – no official business was conducted.

**February 2017:** New applicant, John Russo, was unanimously approved as a voting member of the Southwest Citizens Policing Council. Guest speaker Michelle Campbell, recently promoted to Commander, gave a comprehensive presentation on her vision of the Southwest area command and how members of the Citizen Policing Council can contribute to achieving goals. The commander also stated her ongoing efforts to assist the Citizens Policing Council achieve set goals through continued dialogue and cooperation. Albuquerque police Officers Commander Campbell and Toby Gallegos were removed as voting members of the board, per newly adapted guidelines, five members of the community were in attendance.

**March 2017:** Guest speaker, Celina Espinoza, presented an overview of the recent release of the fifth monitor's report. Ms. Espinoza answered questions from the community. Michael Zocholl was voted in as Chairperson of the board. There were two members of the community present.

**April 2017:** Guest speaker Shawn Willoughbe, current president of the Albuquerque Police Officers Association presented and overview of the APOA the views of the APOA on nonverified alarms. Officer Willoughby answered questions from citizens and voting members of the board. Voting members, Jan LaPitz, Larry LaPitz and Michael Zocholl completed the 12-week Citizens Police Academy (CPA) and received public acknowledgement with a certificate of completion. Four members of the community were in attendance.

**May 2017:** Scribe, Nicole Chavez-Lucero did not present meeting minutes.

**June 2017:** Scribe, Nicole Chavez-Lucero did not present meeting minutes.

**July 2017:** Scribe, Nicole Chavez-Lucero did not present meeting minutes.

**August 2017:** New administrative assistant, Yvette Marentes, was introduced to the group. Guest speaker Ron Kemp, crime prevention specialist, gave an in-depth presentation on crime prevention tips to protect personal property and staying safe. Ron provided crime statistics and trends in various “types” of crime (i.e. robbery, auto theft, larceny). The voting members discussed possible recommendations. Items discussed were: the possibility of having fueling stations on the west side of town so officers could remain closer to the Southwest area command; two orientations for family/friends of cadets in the academy. Rational is it would better prepare family and friends of cadets of changes likely to occur in family and friend relationships; explore the possibility of Electronic Control Weapons (ECW) be equipped with fingerprint identification. The rational, help investigations ascertaining who deployed ECW and why. Final possible recommendation for top command staff (Chief, assistant chief, deputy chiefs and majors) be made more visible to support field officers, sergeants, lieutenants, and commanders in the field. Rational: be more supportive to build moral. Two members of the community attended.

**September 2017:** Voting board member, Don Burns, voted to fill vacancy of vice-chair person, Mr. Burns accepted the position. Guest speakers Sergeant Ingram and officer Kupper, of the Albuquerque Police Department gave a concise and informative on the problem-oriented policing (POP) current project. Sergeant Ingram and officer Kupper also answered questions regarding officer retention, specifically officers ready to retire. Ideas of how to keep officers on the force were discussed. Two community members were in attendance.

**October 2017:** Guest Speaker, Detective Chris Whigham gave an insightful presentation on the use of lapel cameras. Detective Whigham answered questions from the board and gave information on new technology and to what extent the Albuquerque police Department is utilizing new technologies. Detective Whigham “modified” his presentation as no members of the community attended the meeting.

**November 2017:** Guest Speaker Albuquerque Police Department Academy staff reviewed arrest procedures. Questions were answered from voting members and community members. Comprehensive crime update was given by Albuquerque police department. Discussion continued regarding increasing membership and future guest speakers.

**December 2017:** Scribe, Yvette Marentes, was absent. To capture comprehensive minutes of the meeting, the meeting was tape-recorded. However, due to poor recording minutes could not be deciphered, therefore there are no minutes for this meeting.