

Valley Area Command Community Policing Council Annual Report for 2017

Present voting members: Rowan Wymark, Edwina Kiro.

The Valley Area Command CPC has been in a state of flux this past year, with only two voting members for much of the time. The majority of the membership for the 2014-2016 period had reached the end of their terms, and others chose to resign, and we had one resignation due to health concerns. We have not made any recommendations this year, partly due to low attendance and to what we saw as a 'lame duck' period as Chief Gordon Eden and Mayor Richard Berry were nearing the end of their time in city and APD leadership. Now that the administration for the city and APD have changed and there is a new coordinator for the CPC's, we feel encouraged and plan to start working on forming stronger partnerships with the new administration, e.g., Mayor's office, APD Chief, CPC liaisons. Additionally, we presently have four voting member applicants and plan to interview all of them by mid-March.

Attendance has been low for a while, even prior to this past year. In the last twelve months our highest attendance has averaged about thirty people and our lowest, for two of the meetings, was three. We recently changed venues from the APD Academy to Wells Park Community Center. The more intimate space and easier access for attendees already seems to be improving the overall nature and feel of our meetings. The huge space of the room that we were using at the APD Academy felt rather formal and uncomfortable we have great hopes that our new venue will improve things.

Despite the impediments we've encountered, there have been some very interesting and engaging presenters, the list is noted at the end of this document. We are also planning to have presentations from the APD Call Center and the Metropolitan Court in the near future and are looking into other agencies and individuals to present. We hope that recommendations will come out of some of these.

We have been blessed with our APD participants, Valley Area PACT Sergeant Nicholas Sanders and Officer Regina Sanchez have been great resources and very responsive to

participant's questions and concerns. Lieutenant David Rogers was also a wonderful asset as was Commander Donovan Olvera, and it has been good to have Lieutenant Valarde present for recent meetings. We look forward to a productive relationship with the newly-appointed, Valley Area Command, Commander McDonald, who has already been highly responsive and supportive.

We are feeling hopeful about the new year and feel that we are 'turning the corner.' The Valley area is a unique and highly diverse part of the city. We encompass both the downtown area and some rural parts of Albuquerque, and also have the largest amount of organizations that serve the homeless people in our city, plus some of the most affluent neighborhoods. It is a challenging area to serve--our love for where we live, our concern for the overall safety of our community, and a constructive and respectful relationship with APD are what motivate us.

2017 Speakers and Presentations

January: Meeting cancelled due to lack of council members who were unable to attend.

February: Officer Brent White, Foothills Area Command, presentation on APD's "Use-of-Force Policy"

March: Celina Espinosa, CPC Liaison, presentation on "APD's Interim Report of Independent Monitor: Questions and Answers"

April: Ed Harness, Executive Director, Civilian Oversight Board, presentation on "Review of Use-of-Force Incidents by the Civilian Police Oversight Board and How the Process Works"

May: Paul Haidle, ACLU, presentation on "APD Forward's Analysis of the Independent Monitor's 5th Report"

June: Isaac Benton, Chair, ABQ City Council; Justice Remer-Thymer, Director, NM Faith Coalition of Immigrant Justice; Daniel Vega, NM Faith Coalition Staff Member; Panel Discussion on "Immigrant Friendly Resolution and Police/Immigrant Relations"

July: Presentation by Officer Larry Edmondson, instructor at APD Academy, on the expanded role of Police Service Aides.

August: APD Sgt. Nicholas Sanders, APD Officer Regina Sanchez, Michaela Bruzzese, Neighborhood Crime Alliance, Panel Discussion on "Increase in Crime in Downtown and Adjacent Areas and Neighborhoods"

September: Detective Christopher Whigham, Coordinator of APD's Lapel Camera Program, presentation on "Use of Lapel Cameras and Their Function"

October: Detective Matthew Tinney, presentation on "APD's Crisis Intervention Unit"

November: Charles L Barth, former ADA for Bernalillo County and current employee in the D. A's office, presented on Albuquerque's crime statistics and staffing shortages in DA's office,.

Paul Haidle, APD Forward, presentation on "Criteria for Our Next Police Chief"

December: No meeting held.

2/27/18