

**MEETING MINUTES
VALLEY AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015
10:00 AM
LOS DURANES COMMUNITY CENTER
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

Council members in attendance:

- Maxine Cowton, Chair
- Officer John Burley
- Dr. Kathleen O'Malley
- Jennifer Rhea
- Joan Wierzba
- James Souter
- Officer Carmelita Michaud

Absent:

- Officer Jerome Armijo

Consultants:

- Sgt. Kenneth Johnston, APD consultant
- Diane Grover, CABQ Contract Facilitator

Resource persons:

- n/a

Call to Order 10:06. A quorum was present

Public attendees:

- Edwina Kiro
- William J. Kass
- Paul J. Watson

Introduction and welcome

- James Souter, new appointee to the Valley Area Command Community Policing Council
- Citizens/Community Representatives

1. Approval of March 18, 2015, meeting minutes

March 18, 2015 meeting minutes approved unanimously by voice vote

2. Approval of April 15, 2015, meeting agenda

April 15, 2015, meeting agenda approved by voice vote with the following additions:

- Dialogue discussion requests
 - How can squad cars/officer's computers be more efficient
 - Are patrols required to "sit in hospitals and watch criminals?" are detention officers available?
 - Response of officers to alarm calls in the VAC does not appear to be efficiently coordinated
- PSAs
- Additional questions for police:
 - Given that police officers work in an hierarchical organization that serves the community and the community accepts the DOJ report, how is the substation commander/hierarchy going to persuade the officers that they must take this report seriously and make changes?
 - What activity in the DOJ report are they going to start with to demonstrate their good faith in making changes in their command substation?

3.

- a. Jennifer Rhea Committee Report: Citizen's Police Academy (CPA)/Albuquerque Public School Curriculum

Academy class covered Active Shooting training, which was offered to APS but declined by APS and the Board of Education. Hope Christian School does bring in this training.

MOTION: Mr. Souter moved that Ms. Rhea request someone from the Academy to make a 5-10 minute presentation at the next Valley CPC meeting on the Active Shooter Training; Seconded by Dr. O'Malley and all were in favor. Ms. Rhea will follow up on this. Ms. Wierzba and Mr. Souter volunteered to serve on this committee

- b. Discussion on PSAs – Sgt. Johnston

Sgt. Johnson recommended that PSAs should respond to citizens' questions and to requests from officers' on topics such as traffic stops and other police/community interactions. Purpose of PSA is clarification of what citizens need and expect from police and what police need and expect from citizens. The chair directed Sgt. Johnston to pursue this and bring back recommendations for PSAs to the next

council meeting. Ms. Wierzba and Mr. Watson volunteered to serve on this committee.

4. APD Report for March, 2015: None

Discussion ensued regarding property crimes. The Chair stated that at Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) it was reported that there were 8 (eight) auto burglaries within the VAC. Officer Burley added that cars are being hit heavily around Rio 24 Theater. Officer Burley recommends PSAs warning citizens against leaving things of value in cars and leaving cars and homes unlocked. He suggested that Hotels/Motels could provide handouts advising guests not to leave items of values in cars. No action was taken on this matter.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Cass inquired about procedures. Is a police statement to stay in your car an order or request? Officer Burley explained that a traffic stop is a temporary detention due to some perceived offense in the eyes of the officer. The officer expects a citizen to follow directions. He stated that when a police officer tells a citizen to do something he expects he/she will follow directions. The best course of action would be to follow instructions and deal with any issues about the instructions after the fact. If citizens do what is requested then 99.99% of the time things will work out great. Arguing with an officer is not the best course of action.

Ms. Kiro recommended a web site be established to inform citizens of appropriate behavior when stopped by a police officer. Ms. Rhea will explore other ways to inform citizens.

6. Dialogue on Issues and Concerns

- a. APD Citizen's Police Academy – no report
- b. Community Outreach – no report
- c. Other
 - i. Officer Computer Efficiency

Mr. Souter observed that in regards to all that needs to be done by officers in filling out reports, a program called Dragon Dictates allows officers to dictate into it. This results in a report that can be printed out. Google Glasses can also be of assistance.

MOTION: Mr. Souter moved to recommend that the Valley Area Commander look at utilizing Dragon Dictates to make it easier for officers to submit reports. Motion was seconded by Ms. Wierzba and all were in favor. The Chair will make recommendations to the Valley Area Commander

ii. Requirement for Police Officers to guard hospitalized suspects

The group discussed the requirement for police to guard criminals with open felony charges who are hospitalized. All agreed this was a waste of an officer's time. Officer Burley stated that the Citizen's Transport Center officers will provide this service in the near future.

MOTION: Mr. Souter moved that a recommendation be made to the Valley Area Commander that patrol officers not be required to do hospital guard duty. Ms. Wierzba seconded and all were unanimously in favor. Chair will make recommendation to the Valley Commander.

iii. Officer response to burglar alarm calls

Mr. Souter observed that burglary alarm calls are not efficiently coordinated. Discussion ensued; no action taken at this time.

iv. Given that police officers work in an hierarchical organization that serves the community and the community accepts the DOJ report, how is the substation commander/hierarchy going to persuade the officers that they must take this report seriously and make changes?

Sgt. Johnston stated that officers have to do what they are told. There is no forgiveness for not following rules.

Dr. O'Malley asked "How do we bridge the gap so that officers are not beaten up but community is informed; how do we keep officers on same page? Sgt. Johnston responded:

- Takes time for changes to take place
- Many changes need to come from supervision
- Respectful treatment inspires respectful treatment

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business

The next Citizen's Police Academy has not been scheduled. Council members should submit applications immediately. Currently the classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 PM March 3, through May 26, 2015.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:46 am

MOTION: Ms. Wierzba moved to adjourn; Ms. Rhea seconded. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Old Business for next meeting

Action items

- Ms. Rhea will attempt to get someone from the academy to attend the VAC CPC meeting in on May 20, 2015, to give a 5-10 minute presentation on the Active Shooter Program
- The chair directed Sgt. Johnson to pursue potential PSA topics and bring back recommendations to the next council meeting. Ms. Wierzba will join the PSA Committee.
- Facilitator will find out from Celina where folks can view on-line information on how citizens should respond to traffic stops on-line and report back
- Ms. Rhea will find out what other information is available to citizens on line and report back
- Chair will make 2 recommendations to the Valley Area Commander as follows
 - Look at utilizing Dragon Dictates to make it easier for officers to submit reports.
 - Stop utilizing patrol officers to do hospital guard duty.

Committees:

Ms. Rhea's Committee:

Jennifer Rhea

Bill Kass

PSA Committee:

Sgt. Kenneth Johnston

Joan Wierzba

Paul Watson