

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

Council members in attendance:

- Maxine Cowton, Chair
  - Dr. Kathleen O'Malley
  - Jennifer Rhea
  - James Souter
  - Officer Carmelita Michaud
  - Officer Jerome Armijo
  - Officer John Burley
  - Paul Watson
  - Joan Wierzba
  - Edwina Kiro
- Absent: None

Consultants:

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

Resource persons:

- Celina Espinosa, APD, Communications and Community Outreach Director

Community members:

- There were 4 community members present at the meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 with the Chair noting that a quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME:

CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMENTS: None noted

1. Approval of June 17, 2015, meeting minutes

**Motion: Councilor Rhea moved to approve the June 17, 2015, minutes; Dr. O'Malley seconded and all approved by voice vote.**

1. Approval of July 15, 2015, meeting agenda

**Motion: Councilor Wierzba moved to approve the agenda; Councilor Souter seconded and all approved by voice vote.**

2. Approval of Applicants for VAC Council

Whereas: The Mayor's office has not responded to the applicants who wish to serve on the Valley Area Command Community Policing Council the following motion was entered:

**Motion: Councilor Wierzba moved that the Valley Area Policing Council provisionally accept the following applicant as Council member effective immediately:**

**Edwina Kiro**

**Councilor O'Malley seconded and all approved by voice vote.**

3. Presentation: MICHELE FRANOSKY

Michele is a Social Worker in the Public Health Department and helps find alternative placement for homeless individuals who are not in jail, but who have been accused of felonies. Challenges to finding housing include landlords not renting to folks charged with a felony or misdemeanor; unavailability of Section 8 housing for folks with a criminal history on a case to case basis; inability to rent or find placement in a group home for those charged with or convicted of a sex crime. There are 2200 homeless on any given night in Albuquerque and most are on Social Security or disability. Incomes are frequently \$700-\$800 and average rent in Albuquerque is \$844/month. To secure a rental property first and last month's rent plus security deposit are required. 66% of Albuquerque residents make less than \$16,400/year

She also discussed the difficulties homeless face in finding employment including having no access to phones, computers, bus fares, etc. The homeless have no addresses and can't get messages from potential employers. Landlords won't rent to folks charged with a felony or misdemeanor.

The shelter system has time limits unique to facility (sometimes 7-30 days per year). Joy Junction takes folks indefinitely. As a rule facilities are large, dark, crammed full and depressing. Most clients prefer the streets.

Homeless folks also face many challenges in getting the prescription drugs they need. Out of 1500 MDC inmates 600 receive psychological assistance but when released have limited access to medications.

Individuals can help by writing to congress and asking for a crisis response team and crisis resource center. Laws need to be changed.

4. APD Officers' Reports

a. Crime Statistics

Officer Burley submitted the following statistics for the Valley Area Command:

Auto Burglaries: 44 for in June; 18 to date in July  
Thefts: 34 for June; 13 to date in July  
Residential Burglaries: 21 in June; 9 to date in July  
Commercial Burglaries: 11 in June; 2 to date in July

b. PSAs: Sgt. Johnston

There are pamphlets available at the substations for what to do when you see police on your property or blocking your street and what to do if you are involved in an accident.

Regarding suggestions to make better quality videos, Sgt. Johnston would like to see some in English only and some in Spanish only, rather than combining languages in one video. Commercials will cost \$1685 each. He wants to investigate any avenues for getting the media to donate some time and is gathering information on making public service announcements. Councilor Rhea suggested fundraising once we have a solid foundation.

c. U-Visa Status: Celina Espinoza

Ms. Espinoza reported that the City is developing the procedure for handling U-Visa Status requests, in cases where illegals who are victims of a crime or willing to help prosecute a criminal case can come forward without fear of deportation.

5. STRONGHURST INCIDENT: Councilor Watson

Councilor Watson described an incident where a neighbor came home finding police in her house, and discussed the traumatizing effect on the neighbor. Sgt. Johnston, while not in attendance at the event, was involved in the aftermath and presented what happened from the police perspective. Council members agreed

that a PSA detailing what to do when such an incident occurs would be a win/win for the police and the community.

Sgt. Johnson offered to gather additional information and visit with the neighbor in her home or at the substation to discuss the incident with her.

6. COUNCIL DIALOGUE ON ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Councilor Wierzba noted that an article from June 29, 2015, discussed officers failing to appear at court and that the notification systems are changing. Ms. Espinoza detailed problems with court's scheduling of off duty officers, those on sick leave, officers in rehab due to injuries on duty and the lack of coordination within the judicial system. Officer Burley detailed cases where his email notification was in error.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS: None noted

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Monthly Meeting Schedule

The council discussed changing the VACCPC meeting schedule. The group decided the meeting schedule was best left as is at this time.

b. Citizen's Police Academy: Councilor Rhea

**MOTION:**

**Councilor Rhea moved to recommend to Chief Eden that the Citizen's Police Academy ("CPA") be streamlined to 6 weeks instead of 12; and that the CPA be offered twice a year in March and October, beginning October of 2015 . Councilor Watson seconded and all approved by voice vote.**

c. Mental Health – Proposed City ¼% allocation: Councilor Souter

Councilman Brad Winters is sponsoring a bill to get matching funds to the \$20 million raised by the County and the \$14 million raised by the City for a Mental Health Triage Center. Councilor Souter will follow up with Councilman Brad Winters in August. Discussion on this matter will be continued next month.

d. Revised CPC Policy Manual: DOJ, APD, January 2, 2015

Postponed until the August meeting.

- e. VACCPC – Development of guidelines postponed until the August meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Recognition Award: Councilor Rhea

**Motion: Councilor Rhea moved to accept a Recognition Award Certificate she created for the VACCPC that, and to award the first Certificate to the Los Duranes Community Center. Dr. O'Malley seconded and all approved by voice vote.**

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 by voice vote.

Action Items:

- Councilor Souter will follow up with Councilman Brad Winters on matching funds to the City and County funds already allocated to a Mental Health Triage Center, and bring information back to the August VACCPC meeting