

**MEETING MINUTES  
VALLEY AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 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
- James Souter
- Officer Carmelita Michaud
- Officer Jerome Armijo

Absent:

- Joan Wierzba

Consultants:

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

Resource persons:

- Celina Espinosa, Chief's office

Public attendees:

- GP Lovato
- Richard Deichsel (dick@endion.co)

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. noting that a quorum was present

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME:

- Committee members, consultants, resource persons and citizens/community Representatives made their introductions.

CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMENTS:

- The Chair discussed attending the Academy and requirements for ridealongs,
  - Celina Espinoza stated that it is now up to the council whether members have to attend the Academy and how many ride alongs would be required
- The chair requested clarification of the impact of the open meetings act on the CPCs and their members interactions with each other.
  - Celina Espinoza stated that the CPCs do not actually fall within the open meetings act as they are not a government entity. There are some requirements i.e. agendas being posted 72 hour prior to meeting; minutes will also be posted. CPC members can talk amongst themselves and interact between other CPC groups as long as no actions take place outside of the public forum.
- The Chair asked Ms. Rhea to discuss efforts to give members of different CPCs an opportunity to meet informally.
  - Ms. Rhea stated that as of June 6, there will be weekly, informal meetings to include members of various CPC groups. Meetings will be held at the Flying Star, at 8<sup>th</sup> and Silver, at 3 p.m.
- The Chair asked Ms. Grover about stakeholders' meetings
  - One meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2015, at the Palo Duro Senior Center from 3:30 to 6:30. The stakeholder group is "Veteran's Advocacy and Interests"
  - The final meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2015, at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, from 11:30 to 2:30. The stakeholder group is Pueblo and Native Communities. This will conclude Phase One of the Community Dialogue effort
  - Phase II will follow, with 2 meetings scheduled for July 11, 2015, and July 18, 2015. The goal of these meetings will be to do planning for moving forward utilizing the reports produced from UNM incorporating information received from all of the dialogues. Location TBD.

1. Approval of April 15, 2015, meeting minutes

**Motion: Officer Burley moved to approve the minutes after correcting the name of William J. Cass to William J. Kass under "Public Attendees"; Dr. O'Malley seconded and all approved by voice vote.**

2. Approval of May 20, 2015, meeting agenda

**Motion: Ms. Rhea moved to approve the agenda with additions to Item 6 proposed by Dr. O'Malley and Mr. Souter; Officer Burley seconded and all approved by voice vote.**

3. Committee Reports

- a. Citizen's Police Academy/Albuquerque Public School Curriculum Committee: Ms. Rhea states she has been speaking with school officers and will proceed with some meetings with them. Meetings to explore APS/APD relationships will tag on to the newly planned Saturday meetings discussed above.
  - b. PSA Committee: Sgt. Johnston stated that there were some pamphlets (i.e. What to do if pulled over), and information on the web site that is buried within the site and is hard to find. He gave members a flier listing "Public Service Announcements Idea" and asked anyone interested in joining this effort and being involved in email forums to contact him at [kjohnston@cabq.gov](mailto:kjohnston@cabq.gov)
    - i. Ms. Espinoza added that folks can view a PSA on "What do when being pulled over by police" (headed "APD Public Safety Announcement") at [www.talkwithacop.com](http://www.talkwithacop.com)
    - ii. Pamphlets are available at the substations
4. APD Officers' Reports
- a. There is an ongoing attempt to curb cruising and response has been overwhelmingly positive by the downtown community.
  - b. Tactical Operation Plan: Started mid-month to address illegal activity in the Alvarado Transit Center and Silver Gardens Apartment Complex. Results were as follows.
    - i. 9 felony narcotics arrests
    - ii. 2 misdemeanor narcotics arrests
    - iii. 2 felony warrant arrests
    - iv. 2 misdemeanor warranty arrests
    - v. 4 criminal trespass arrests
    - vi. 6 misdemeanor citations
    - vii. 16 criminal trespass notifications
    - viii. 11 graffiti referrals
5. Citizen's Comments
- a. Reporters from TV stations are looking for things to report. Our reporters can jump on stories and give air time.
  - b. Look at what Tucson is doing in the mental health area
    - i. Celina stated they are looking at other successful models

- c. Mr. Lovato has been talking with Ms. Saavedra who recommended ride alongs are done after attending the Academy and evening ride alongs would be preferred, possibly in the SE sector.
- d. Mr. Lovato also stated that currently homeless counts are going on (i.e. How many are being fed; recently 600 one Saturday and 400 another Saturday; tracking homeless in various ways)

6. Council Dialogue

- a. April recommendations to the Valley Area Command
  - i. "Dragon Dictate": Mr. Souter stated that Lt. Lafayette passed this suggestion on to IT (Information Technology Dept). They are looking at different programs to help with reports.
  - ii. APD Hospital Duty: Uniformed officers are no longer doing this.
- b. Community Outreach: Scott Seibel is our contact. We have a list of all Valley Area Command Neighborhood Associations and sent a corrected announcement to all groups.
- c. Citizen's Police Academy/Ride along experiences
  - i. Ms. Rhea had an eye opening ride along experience and was impressed with the level of patience shown by officers. She and Sgt. Johnston will review the email Ms. Rhea wrote about the experience and possibly submit it to the newspapers.
  - ii. Mr. Souter had similar experience with a busy ride along and extreme patience of officers.
- d. Other Topics:
  - i. Discussion of proposed  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent mental health tax. No action taken
  - ii. Council would like more information on mental health needs. Neil Rosenblume is a psychiatrist working for APD. Ms. Espinoza will reach out to him to collect information on mental health needs.

- iii. Mr. Souter has additional items, which will be added to next month's agenda.
- iv. Council acknowledges their need to determine terms and term limits at a future meeting

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: Ms. Rhea moved to adjourn meeting; Officer Burley seconded; unanimously approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:55**

Business for next meeting:

- Mr. Souter had additional discussion topics will be added to next month's agenda
- Council needs to determine member terms and term limits

Action items

- Ms. Rhea and Sgt. Johnston will look into submitting Ms. Rhea's letter about her ride along to the news paper
- Ms. Espinoza will reach out to Dr. Rosenblume for information on mental health needs