

**MEETING MINUTES
VALLEY AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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 John Burley
- Paul Watson
- Joan Wierzba
- Edwina Kiro
- Richard Deichsel
- Officer Carmelita Michaud
- Officer Jerome Armijo

Consultants:

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

Not in attendance, Resource person:

- Celina Espinosa, APD, Communications and Community Outreach Director

Community members:

- There were 7 community members present at the meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:04. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME:

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS: n/a

1. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2015, MINUTES

Note: At the October 21, 2015, Council meeting Councilor Rhea requested addition of the following to the September minutes. She clarified that the reasoning behind councilors not being invited to the youth meeting (Section 4b) is that meetings are

held in private homes. Others could attend if arranged in advance with Councilor Rhea and with the permission of the host.

Motion: Councilor Deichsel moved for Approval of September 16, 2015, meeting minutes with the above addition requested by Councilor Rhea; Councilor Wierzba seconded and all approved by voice vote.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2015, AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Wierzba moved for Approval of September 16, 2015, meeting agenda with the following correction: move 4.b. from COMMITTEE REPORTS to 5.b. under New Business; Councilor Watson seconded and all approved by voice vote.

3. APD OFFICER'S REPORT

Note: Chair read a letter from Consultant, Sgt. Kenneth Johnston, who regrettably resigns as consultant to the VAACP. His transfer from the Valley Area Command to the Academy precipitated this resignation. The VAACP thanks Sgt. Johnston for his service and wishes him the best.

MOTION: Councilor Wierzba moved that a replacement be requested for Sgt. Johnston, who is of similar responsibility and rank; Councilor Michaud seconded and all approved by voice vote

- a. Valley Area Crime Statistics/Trends: Officer Burley submitted statistics relayed to him by Scott Seibel, VAC Crime Prevention Specialist. Officer Burley will invite Mr. Seibel to attend the November VAACPC meeting to give clarification on Statistics. Officer Burley also clarified that "Burglary" at the top is year to date 2014 and 2015 figures: at the bottom is 8/1/15 to 8/31/15.

Discussion item: Gathering information on crimes by the homeless is problematic as they are not categorized on the CAD system. It is also difficult to categorically identify the homeless.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on VACCPC Guidelines: Chair Joan Wierzba

Councilor Rhea had concerns about section 9, media contact. She requested addition of an APD contact person identified (suggestion was for Communications and Community Outreach Director Celina Espinoza); clarification on full approval of VAACP (suggestion was for approval by super-majority); a grievance process added. Joan will address and bring back to the November VACCPC Meeting.

Councilor Deichsel had concerns about Page 1, Item 1, Structure and composition. He officially works for APD in the Traffic School Safety Unit and made that clear before joining the VACCPC.

MOTION: Joan moved that she look into what other councils have adopted in regards to Item 1, Structure and Composition and that this item be tabled until the November meeting; Councilor Deichsel seconded and the motion was approved by voice vote.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appointment of Nominating Committee
This will be moved to the November Agenda after presentation of the new Guidelines document
- b. Suggestion: APD training and recruitment: Councilor James Souter
Counselor Souter presented his suggestions on recruitment, which is one of the assignments of the CPCs. He requests the assistance of at least two of his fellow counselors to compose a recommendation from the council in regards to high school diversified education.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Follow-up information – APD Communications and Community Outreach Director: Celina Espinoza
 - i. Safety Partnership Committee
 - ii. Rape Kit FundingMs. Espinoza was unable to attend this meeting.

7. PRESENTERS

- a. ACLU - Peter Simonson, Executive Director of NM ACLU gave a presentation on the NM ACLU, affiliate of the national organization, and the work they are doing with Albuquerque Forward.

- b. Milwaukee Report – William Kass
Proposal for a Citizens’ Policing Commission: Mr. Kass made a power point presentation of the Milwaukee model for a Citizen’s Policing Commission. He suggested that enactment of such a Citizens’ Policing Commission would assure citizen input into the formation of police policies.

8. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

- a. One citizen was concerned that Ms. Espinoza is charged with guiding the councils while the CPCs are not supposed to be under APD control. He is concerned about a conflict of interest.
- b. One citizen had questions about the consent decree and another question for the City Council.
- c. One citizen wanted to see the officer report include a report on what reforms have been advanced since the last meeting with regard to the consent decree.
- d. One citizen issued compliments for Officers Daniel Sanchez, #5454 and Eric Place #5460 after completing an involved ride-along with them.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50

ACTION ITEMS:

- Councilor Burley will invite Scott Seibel to the November 18, 2015, VACCPC meeting.
- Councilor Wierzba will modify guidelines regarding the media, to add a contact person at APD; clarification of “full approval” of council; a grievance process.
- Councilor Wierzba will, with the help of facilitator, look into what other CPCs are doing about Guidelines and Bylaws

ACTION ITEMS PENDING FROM SEPTEMBER:

- *Ms. Espinoza will provide a response to Councilor Rhea’s Youth Committee Report.*
- *Ms. Espinoza will get details about the Safety Partnership Committee*

