

Meeting Minutes
Valley Area Command Community Policing Council
Thursday, November 16, 2017
6:00 - 7:30pm

Albuquerque Police Academy Training Center
5412-2nd St. NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Attendees:

Rowan Wymark
Edwina Kiro
Lava Sheets
Commander Donovan Olvera
Lt. David Rogers
Officer Regina Sanchez
List of Attendees attached

Call to Order -- Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

Determination of a Quorum -- A quorum of three was met at the start of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda -- A motion was made to approve agenda, it was seconded, and approved.

Approval of October 26, 2017, Meeting Minutes -- A motion was made to approve minutes, minutes were seconded, and approved.

Steve Allen, Director, APD Forward

Discussed “Criteria for our Next Police Chief.” To guide the new mayor in selecting a qualified police chief, APD Forward consulted experts and advocates from around the country to come up with the following criteria. Picking the right chief will put APD on track to embrace the kind of top-to-bottom culture change it so desperately needs.

A new chief must commit to: Department of Justice Reforms; must have Transparency and Accountability; must employ 21st Century Policing Tactics and Policies; and Address Biased Policing. Find full criteria at www.apdforward.org.

Chuck Barth, Former ADA Bernalillo County

Presented some alarming crime statistics. Crime rate out of control. Albuquerque in top 5 nationally for violent crime. Albuquerque #1 in increase in violent crime. To date 48% of violent crimes are committed in Bernalillo County. New Mexico is ranked #1 in auto theft. Property crime and violent crime have risen across New Mexico, much of that increase is carried by Albuquerque. Sixty-nine percent of Albuquerque citizens consider crime rate the top issue or concern facing the people of Albuquerque.

Staffing Shortage in DA's Office

Currently, there are 95 prosecutors in the DA's office; there should be 132 prosecutors. The case backlog is overwhelming; finances needed for additional special prosecutors.

Rape Kit Backlog

3700 untested rape kits in Metro Lab. Three-million-dollar grant received to expedite processing, yet, some testing may have to be done out of state to expedite processing.

Victim Services

Twelve victim advocates are carrying 500-600 cases. These advocates provide emotional support as well as support victims who make court appearances.

Traditional Prosecution Model

"Data Driven" -- prioritize cases based upon empirical assessment of the risk presented by individual defendants and allocate prosecutorial resources accordingly. "Who are people we need to go after." "Who are people we need to take off the streets."

Focused Deterrence

Make prosecutors responsible for assessing, prosecuting, and driving outcomes for individual defendants.

Principles of Reform

Do no Harm. Measure everything. Prioritize what works. Attack crime at the root. Community safety comes first. What is needed: Justice reform. Crime Strategies Unit. Independent Investigation Bureau.

Adult Diversion Program

An alternative to traditional prosecution where victims and criminals come together in a dialogue to develop a plan to repair harm, discuss the root causes, and find solutions agreeable to all parties.

The following questions were asked: “As citizens, how can we help fight crime?” The city needs more money for police officers, how can we help?

Response: write to your State Legislators, State Representative, form a group or committee and lobby at the Round House.

Regarding re-election of judges: how can we find out who are the good judges and, more importantly, the bad judges. Response: look out for inappropriateness of current judges and don't re-elect them. Consult League of Women Voters Guide. APD Facebook page names judges who may be questionable.

Mr. Barth's presentation was well-received and generated much interest such that he was asked to return to provide another presentation.

Meeting adjourned about 8:00pm.

Next Meeting: January 25, 2018. There will be no December meeting.