



CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

MEETING MINUTES
FOOTHILLS AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL
Monday, October 9, 2017
6:00 PM
HOLIDAY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
11710 COMANCHE ROAD NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

In Attendance:

- Rod Kontny, Chair
- Joseph Abbin
- Joe Abbin
- Mark Burton
- Kathy Brown
- Valerie St. John
- David Barbour
- Commander Fernando Aragon
- Lt. Bret White
- Yvette Marentes, CPC Admin

Absent:

- Ralph Butler – excused absence
- Ed MaCardle – unexcused absence
- Sabrina – Slauson –unexcused absence

17 members of the public were in attendance.

- Call to order and Reading of the Community Policing Council Goals- Rod Kontny, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 6:00

The meeting guidelines and rules were explained to the group.

Quorum 6 out of 9 was met at the start of the meeting.

- Introduction of Council, APD representatives, and Visitors

All council members went around the table and introduced themselves to the group.

Kathy Brown our newest board member introduced herself.

She is a registered nurse since 1983 works with the New Mexico Department of Health. Works for a program called Families 0Frist that works with families that are on Medicaid. She also has an extensive background in dealing with the public. She is here as a community member and is looking to provide diversity to the panel.

Joe Abbin, during his introduction let the group know that there have been three attempts to steal his truck in the last couple weeks. His window was broken during one instance, he has no real idea of the times that it was attempted but thinks it's in the middle of the night.

The members of the community introduced themselves as well.

- Review/amendment/approval of Agenda

Motion was made to approve agenda, agenda was approved, none opposed.

- Review/correction/approval of Minutes from September meeting*

Motion was made to approve minutes, minutes were approved, none opposed.

- APD Communications

- Review of Foothills Crime Report from APD with Commander Aragon

Commander Aragon encouraged everyone to login to the foothills command website for updates:

<http://www.foothillsareacommand.com/>

Numerous items, including weapons, were left in vehicles that were stolen. DO NOT leave any items, especially weapons, in any unattended vehicle. Another 17 guns have been stolen most coming out of auto burglaries. If you know anyone who carries guns, pass on the message to not leave them in their vehicles for someone else to get. 170 guns for the year already stolen from just the foothills area alone. Unspecified guns are of most concern because they cannot be tracked. If you own a gun, make sure to write down the serial numbers of your gun(s) in case they are stolen.

Other crime includes; commercial robberies 31, 1 home invasion, 1 carjacking, 120 stolen vehicles, 22 attempts, 59 burglaries (lots of doors being left open.) All kinds of things are being left in vehicles such as, state IDs, retired APD IDs, etc. Do not leave anything of perceived value in your car.

Other trends are vacant homes are being targeted when home owners are going on vacation or homes that are up for sale.

Question from the public: what is the difference between a residential home invasion and a home burglary? Commander Aragon - Invasion requires force into home when you are home and the burglar threatens you in your home and uses force with you to take your belongings as opposed to a burglar that goes in and takes things when you are not home. Make sure, if someone knocks on your door, that you are letting someone know that you are home, you do not have to answer but make sure they know.

Question from the public: What are the laws about securing guns and having guns locked in safe places? Commander Aragon – currently there are no laws like that. Maybe we can have a discussion with city council to see what can be done. So many guns are being stolen over and over due to people not keeping them safe.

Question from the public: What about gang activity, there were shots reported in an arroyo and there was a window broken? Commander Aragon stated that he hasn't had a chance to research the gun shots he is waiting on response to see what is going on. Some neighbors reported it as knocks on doors other reported as gun shots. It is important that if you are hearing these things that you call it in. If it is happening in an arroyo at night time, it might be difficult to pin point who it is. Air support would be helpful, that would be the best way. Near Monzano Mesa there have been reports, they were able to find some casings there all of those casings are being tracked; it will help to have the casings tracked in the event that a gun or other casings turn up at a different crime scene.

Commander Aragon - The easiest way to get rid of property that is stolen is to go into a pawn shop. There is a program called leads on line where you can go in and enter all of your property information. Pawn shops have to enter all of the items that they have bought into the same system. If the property comes up stolen, the person will get their property back and there will be record of who brought it in for sale. Every month they get two or three NCIC (National Crime Information Center) hits where something has an actual serial number on it. It is hard to prove an item is stolen if they cannot get a serial number or description of the item. A lot of victims will contact pawn shops to find their belongings. Taking a picture of your item with a description goes a long way, it is very helpful.

Other updates:

A park and ride parking lot in the foothills area is going to get a fence. There is always unwanted traffic. Council member Harris has approved a temporary fence and it has

been decided that they are going to fence it off. They will open up the fence only when there is an event.

Also the Problem Solving Project will be targeting the singing arrow neighborhood, as it is a violent area in the city. They want to make sure they are using all resources in the area and that they are working to try and make it a better area, it is basically tramway and central right before 4 hills area. Hopefully it will be successful so other areas can be addressed as well.

A question from the public was asked about Public Service Aids, what their involvement is with the community and if we are short staffed - Commander Aragon, we are not currently short staffed on them, we are authorized to have 60. We are short a few because of the budget reduction of 6%. The PSA's work with APD on crime reporting where civilians take calls that are not priority. There are trained to go out, take a report and collect evidence. Maybe more can be hired. The city is looking at other ways to figure out what they can do to make up the shortage of officers. There are 3 programs in place that are specifically staffed by civilians that can maybe see more growth in order to try and help with the crime issues happening. All public service aids are currently at the balloon fiesta, a lot of these events do take from officers that should be patrolling other areas. There aren't really many issues most times at these events.

Rod Kontny – what are the positions that are serving at the favor at the mayor? Anything commander and above is technically appointed. When the new administration comes in, they can appoint new personal. As well as all directors in all other departments that they city has. The mayor will come in and choose those people.

Question from the public, an attendee stated she was on hold when calling 911 and was waiting a very long time. Commander Aragon stated that this is the first he has heard about someone calling 911 and having to wait. Commander Aragon is going to reach out to the director of communications to see what is going on. He said that she is really good about following up.

An attendee wanted to congratulate the communications department as well she stated that she had to call 211 and they communicated with her very well.

- Pulse of the Neighborhoods – Brief reports from CPC members and citizens
- Recommendations from Council Members and Citizens

David Barbour – mentioned that he is looking at theft from vehicles he is still researching and hopes to have a report by next meeting. A fair amount of this has to do with laws from other states and what they require regarding weapons inside ones vehicle. He is going through state rules that are very interesting 300,000-600,000 firearm thefts per year throughout the country.

- Discuss providing sign-in-sheets to the Department of Justice

Rod Kontny – allegedly the DOJ has asked for copies for sign in sheets. There was a lot of discussions within the boards and the councils. He doesn't think that the public wants the sign in sheets distributed. He asked someone that works with Dr. Ginger and he received a nice response. They just want an accurate count of the numbers of people. They do not want any other information, they just want an accurate number. The council may want to do a headcount and bump it against the number of people sign in, but they will not make copies.

Kathy Brown stated that due to some emails she went through, she is thinking that the request for the sign in sheets are specifically from APD. She also expressed concern that APD has also taken pictures of the meetings and posted them to the website.

Commander Aragon explained that some of the instruction that was given to APD was that the monitor group is not believing the number of meetings they are going to and/or how many people are going to the meeting. The monitor group was not believing APD so they asked that a count be kept. They wanted proof and we need to prove it somehow for operational compliance. It is really hard to prove sometimes so we need to try and figure out a way to prove to them that we are actually doing what we need to be doing.

Member of the public stated she doesn't have a problem with the requests. The numbers from the community has been increasing. She understands from a business standpoint that numbers have to be provable. However, people in the neighborhood might have other expectations due to this.

There were several people in the meeting that do not want their picture taken in the meetings and to not list emails.

It is agreed upon that there will be a count of attendees and it is to continue to be put on the meetings.

Lieutenant White - Dr. Ginger does not work for DOJ if you ask DOJ they will tell you something different. Officer was in a meeting where it was asked by the monitors to take pictures. Officer is saying there has been different conflicting requests from other monitors.

A member from the community expressed concerned about the events that happened in Las Vegas and the mass shooting. He wanted to know if citizens can wear bullet proof vests. In this state, there is nothing really preventing the purchase of vests. The vests that police wear would not have blocked the rounds that were fired in Vegas. Nothing would have stopped what happened in Vegas, there was no reason to refuse the sale of weapons. We need to learn from it and try and prevent it from happening again.

- Other Business
 - Vote on Foothills Recommendation #10

Rod Kontny has been working for a couple months on a recommendation to the chief of police regarding having the DOJ meet with and discuss with APD reclassifying or somehow making reporting easier for the police department.

Kathy Brown wanted to know what certain incidences means.

Another member has additional language she wants to pass around to the group before they take a vote and requested that the vote be delayed until next month.

Rod Kontny decided that the council will read and study the new documents passed out and then a vote will be taken to present to the monitor in November.

Member of the community wanted it recorded in the minutes that she objects to a vote via email.

A motion was made, and seconded, to have the recommendation posted to the website and to get input from the community; that if 2 or more people objected to making a decision by email, then the decision would be made at the next board meeting. This motion was passed unanimously. Admin confirmed that it will be posted to the website as soon as it is available.

- Use of force presentation, part 3
 - See attached presentation.

Lieutenant White went over what is considered use of force and what is not. Settlement agreement says that any force will be investigated, APD cannot go against what is said in the CASA. Re-negotiation can be done to make changes but has to be agreed upon by everybody.

Kelley How does BCSO's policy correlate with APD policy? Lieutenant White doesn't know the situation, but policies are based on case law, state law and constitutional law.

- Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47

Next monthly meeting will be held Monday, November 13th at 6pm.