

The 2017 Annual Report of the Northeast Area Command Community Policing Council

Compiled by Brennan Williams, Council Member & Vice-Chair

The Northeast Area Command Community Policing Council (NECPC) held eleven public meetings in 2017, one per month except for December. In January, 2017, five (5) voting council members continued their service: Chair Eric Olivas, Vice-Chair Brennan Williams, Dorothy Woodward, Troy Taylor and Bettina Eklund. New members seated in 2017 are: Tom Ehrhorn and Ane Romero. Jessie Lawrence served as facilitator until August, 2017, then Yvette Marentes of APD Community Policing Council Staff filled the role. Non-voting APD representatives/advisors included NE Area Commander Randy Remiker, Lt. Joe Burke, Detective Christian Baker, and Officer Simon Drobik. Other APD officers attended as available. Also frequently present were Nicole Chavez-Lucero, APD Community Outreach Coordinator and Celina Espinoza, APD spokesperson.

Meetings were held the second Tuesday of each month at North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. Community members were afforded opportunities to engage council, APD advisers and guest speakers with questions, comments and suggestions.

NECPC meetings were publicized via emails to attendees. Outreach was made to City Council Districts 4, 7 and 8 Coalitions and presidents of applicable neighborhood associations to forward to their members. Internet posts were made via Nextdoor.com and NE Area Command webpage. Several block captains and two Neighborhood Crime Watch coordinators also received notice. Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority customers received a CPC informational insert in their November, 2016, billing statements to publicize the 2017 meeting schedule.

January 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance – 8 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 40 members of the public.

Actions – The Bike Cop Recommendation was discussed and approved by the council. The recommendation asks APD to reinstitute bicycle patrols as soon as possible in an effort to increase community policing across all area commands. Such patrols will support proactive, constitutional, community policing as outlined in the CASA.

Guest Speaker - Assistant APD Chief Robert Huntsman presented information about APD staffing and compliance status of the settlement agreement. He explained the role of the APD auditing group working to monitor progress within APD. Meeting participants discussed the monitoring of progress with the settlement agreement and different ways to address recruiting challenges.

Other Topics – Lt Joe Burke spoke on Crime and Crime Prevention and Janet Butts from the Neighborhood Watch Advocates Committee presented information about the committee and its support for the work of neighborhood watches and block captains.

A survey was distributed to attendees and was intended to gather community demographics and topic suggestions for future meetings. The survey was voluntary and anonymous.

14 February 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance -- 8 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 70 members of the public.

Actions – The 2016 NECPC Annual Report was approved by council.

Guest Speakers – Chief of Police Gorden Eden presented information about the importance of the CPCs as community entities and recent changes at APD including improvements in recruiting, a new public service aide pilot project and coordinated crime briefings with the district attorney's office. Meeting attendees asked questions the sustainability of CPCs, discrimination, protection of one's right to protest, the public's role in the development of APD policy, neighborhood crime, APD culture, behavioral health triage centers, immigration policies and crime reporting.

Other Topics -- – Lt Joe Burke spoke on Crime and Crime Prevention. He shared information about the Police and Community Together (PACT) unit. The unit has been focused on community outreach and APD's goal to staff detectives in all PACT units. Plans also include a Books with Badges program in which officers would visit elementary schools and read with students in an effort to promote literacy and positive student-officer relationships.

Council members also discussed a recommendation draft of which APD would codify the tasks of the community outreach coordinator and provide quarterly updates of community outreach progress.

The council received APD responses of three recommendations re-submitted in October 2016

14 March 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance -- 9 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 60 members of the public.

Actions – The recommendation defining duties of the APD Community Outreach Director was voted on by the council and passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers – Denise Torres, Chair of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC). Torres presented information about JPEC duties. Information available at www.nmjpec.org. JPEC conducts evaluations of judges statewide, approximately 92 judges this year. Discussion included questions and comments about: the work of JPEC versus that of the Judicial Standards Commission; JPEC functions/operations; and concerns about bench rulings/decisions. Torres referred interested citizens to the JPEC website or office for more detailed information.

Other Topics – Lt Joe Burke spoke on Crime and Crime Prevention. He provided crime prevention tips to secure homes and autos as warm weather approached. Burke also answered questions about bait cars, coordination with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office and area gangs.

Janet Butts from Neighborhood Watch Advocates Committee presented a summary of the group's work and future recommendations that included: continue with goals for another year to conduct further research and facilitate block captain communication; continue partnering with NE Area Command via PACT to strengthen neighborhood watches, build block captain's communication network and promote community policing; and recommend revision of APD's minimum requirement of 40 homes to no more than 20 to qualify for neighborhood watch program status.

Celina Espinoza presented information about APD's progress report under the settlement agreement covering August 2016 through January 2017. (See Attachment C). Her presentation included information about use of force review, APD training, work to address mental health needs, changes to policy analysis, staffing and community outreach.

11 April 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance -- 10 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 58 members of the public.

Guest Speakers- James Burton from the Albuquerque Metro Crime Stoppers presented information of the program's history, operations and funding. Discussion included ideas about how to stop rising crime, questionable tips, and concerns regarding the role of the judiciary.

Other guest speakers were: Raul Torrez, Bernalillo County District Attorney and James Tierney, Acting U.S. Attorney, District of New Mexico. Torrez and Tierney presented information of their offices' collaborative work in the "Worst of the Worst" Anti-Violence Initiative.

Other Topics- Lt Joe Burke spoke on Crime and Crime Prevention in the NE Area Command. Discussion highlighted on auto theft and burglary. Participants were reminded to be aware of potential obscure property areas when trimming shrubs and landscaping. Burke provided a PACT team update, responded to questions about mailbox vandalism/theft and reporting crime in progress while witnessing.

9 May 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance -- 11 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 45 members of the public.

Actions – The recommendation on strengthening Neighborhood Watches was voted on by the council and passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers – APD Detective Chris Whigham spoke about Lapel Camera Policy and Operations. His presentation included history of APD's on-body camera use, the current policy and officers' operation of cameras.

Other Topics: Lt Joe Burke spoke on Crime and Crime Prevention in the NE Area Command. Information presented included: personal safety; awareness of surroundings and other people; and phoning police if intimidated or scared. Discussion included safety during garage sales, the logistics of high-speed emergency responses, and the work of the district attorney.

Penny Hoe presented information on the work of the Neighborhood Watch and Safety Advocates Committee. Block captains May 11 seminar announced.

13 June 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance -- 10 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 60 members of the public.

Actions – The council voted on the recommendation involving improvements to the Citizens Policing Academy and it passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers-- Peter Simonson, ACLU of NM and Amy Whitfield YWCA of NM on behalf of APD Forward. APD Forward presented an analysis of “the good, the bad, and the ugly” of CASA Monitor Dr. James Ginger's fourth report.

Other Topics: Lt Joe Burke spoke on Crime and Crime Prevention in the NE Area Command. Of particular concern was the increase of unlocked doors and open windows in homes and vehicles, creating opportunities for auto/property crime. He encouraged residents to secure property. He also highlighted the Command's Impact Team for their work investigating property crimes and commercial burglaries along the Menaul corridor.

11 July 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance -- 10 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 25 members of the public.

Guest Speakers- Ed Harness, Executive Director of Civilian Police Oversight Agency (CPOA); Joanne Fine, Chair of Civilian Police Oversight Board (CPOB); and Dr. William Kass, recently-seated CPOB member. Harness presented information on CPOA's duty to respond to citizens' complaints about APD and the agency's struggles and challenges to investigate those complaints.

Other Topics – Nicole Chavez-Lucero presented an APD status and progress report CPC outreach and recommendations.

Lt Joe Burke spoke on Crime and Crime Prevention in the NE Area Command. Burke presented information about the Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Project in the Northeast Area Command.

August 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance – 13 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 30 members of the public

Guest Speakers- APD School Resource Unit Officers Kiel Higgins and Joe Lehocky. They presented information about their work as school resource officers (SROs) at La Cueva High School and Sandia High School. Their jobs include working with the students, protecting the schools against active shooters and enforcing the law on campus and in surrounding neighborhoods.

Other topics – Crime and Crime Prevention in the NE Area Command; Officer Simon Drobik and Lieutenant Joe Burke presented information about recent crime and police activities in the Northeast Area Command.

Eric Olivas, NECPC Chair presented information about the responses to past NE CPC recommendations:

- 1) The recommendation requesting more bicycle patrols was approved pending growth and stabilization in the number of officers.
- 2) The recommendation to obtain more clarity about the work of the community outreach position was largely met, with a quarterly report at the July 2017 meeting and a hard-copy report provided.
- 3) The recommendation for more training for youth in driver's education courses about interactions with officers has not yet been met, but the council has been assured that coordination and planning with APS is occurring at the administrative level.
- 4) The recommendation regarding support for the neighborhood watch and block captain programs is not yet met, but a response is in progress.
- 5) The recommendation regarding improvements to the Citizens Police Academy is not yet met.

Meeting attendees were asked to use notecards and write down ideas for meeting topics, speakers, and issues of concern that they would like to further discuss.

12 September 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance -- 13 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 32 members of the public.

Actions – Ane Romero was voted on by the CPC and was unanimously welcomed to the council. Ane Romero introduced herself. Her background is in behavioral health including policy and suicide prevention. She expressed interest in CPC proactive initiatives, youth engagement and addressing behavioral health needs in the community.

Guest Speakers- Lt. David Saladin, Acting Commander of Violent Crimes Section with Family Advocacy Center; Sgt. Josh Brown, Auto Theft Unit; and Detective Adam Perea. Each presented information about their work and answered questions from meeting attendees.

Other topics – Report from APD Sgt. Dain Symes on Crime and Crime Prevention in the Northeast Area Command. Symes presented information about recent crime and police activities. Discussion included a request to provide more data about the numbers of burglaries and apprehensions.

Penny Hoe presented information on the work of the Neighborhood Watch and Safety Advocates Committee. A workshop was scheduled for Monday, September 25, Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The topic of the meeting is the role of APD's SWAT team.

10 October 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance -- 8 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 38 members of the public.

Small Group Discussions- The meeting was set up differently this month. The audience and council members broke up into three groups: Community Organizing---Fighting crime block by block from the grass-roots; Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health--- Rehabilitate and repair broken populations and children and young adults---Breaking the cycle of crime; and Police Priorities and Tactics---Using resources more efficiently

The groups were to focus on: What is going well, what is not going well, and what is not being addressed at all? What are recommendations on what needs to happen? How do we implement the change?

The groups then presented oral reports of discussions and recommendation to other audience members.

Other topics- Report from APD on Crime and Crime Prevention– Sgt. Symes discussed current crime trends in the NE area and prevention strategies.

9 November 2017 NECPC Meeting

Attendance -- 9 Council Members and APD Advisors/Representatives at the head table, plus approximately 35 members of the public.

Guest Speaker – UNM Professor Thom Alena, PhD, spoke on Restorative Justice. This approach to justice shifts the focus from the offender to the community and the victim. Victims are then empowered, the whole system begins to say that crime impacts people, it isn't just a statute. The decision making is put on the community. The community has to be acting participants. Offenders need to understand the impact of their actions onto others. This is about transparency and taking responsibility.

Other Topics- Report from APD on Crime and Crime Prevention. Acting Commander Joe Burke discussed current crime trends. He highlighted recent decrease in auto thefts due to cooperative efforts of the auto theft unit and increased use of bait cars.

Pawn Shop Ordinance: Eric Olivas discussed the ordinance and his own personal experience. The purpose of the ordinance is to address the fencing of goods that are often stolen. The ordinance proposal requires seller to produce a photo IDs and shop owners to snap photos of said seller and goods in order to create a paper-trail. A 3-day waiting period would apply to ensure goods are not stolen before a shop formally accepts goods for payment.

Citizen Police Academy Recommendation: Eric Olivas discussed the recommendation and his concerns about the response from APD or the lack thereof. The goal of the recommendation was to improve and professionalize the course for CPC and community members.

Additional Training, Summits, Hearings, and Other Meetings attended by Members of the NECPC Board

All-day **training session** for members of six area CPCs attended in April 2017 by Vice-Chair Brennan Williams and Council Member Dorothy Woodward.

Public **Summit Meetings** of six area CPCs were held on March 1st attended by Vice-Chair Brennan Williams and Council Member Dorothy Woodward and June 12th attended by Vice-Chair Brennan Williams, Council Member Dorothy Woodward, and Council Member Tom Ehrhorn.

Meeting on proposed changes to the CPA attended by Chair Eric Olivas August 17th, 2017 at the APD training Academy.

Council Chair Eric Olivas attended two **CPC Chairs' Meetings** with other area CPC chairs to discuss meeting plans and other incidental topics.

Council member Dorothy Woodward attended **Annual Tribute to Women in the Military**, promoted CPC goals and encouraged attendees, one by one, to become involved. March, 2017.

Council members donated to and attended **APD- Community Appreciation Day** on July 28, 2017.

Council member Dorothy Woodward organized **National Night Out** events and generally promoted CPC engagement 2017.

Council member Dorothy Woodward attended **Neighborhood Watch and Safety Advocacy meetings**. May 15 and September 25, 2017.

Council member Dorothy Woodward attended **Office of Neighborhood Coordination Meet and Greet** event for neighborhood association board members and other community volunteers on September 16, 2017.

Council member Dorothy Woodward attended NE Area Command's **Coffee with a Cop** events. July 15 and October 20, 2017.

Council member Dorothy Woodward attended, provided updates and elicited feedback during City **Council District 4 Coalition** monthly meetings, January, 2017 to November, 2017. Chair Eric Olivas attended several of these meetings throughout the year as well to present on CPC matters.

Council Chair Eric Olivas attended, provided updates and elicited feedback during **Districts 7 coalitions meetings**, held monthly in 2017.

Council member Tom Ehrhorn attended **District 8 Coalition** meeting and presented as a CPC representative, November 16, 2017.

Council Chair Eric Olivas and member Dorothy Woodward presented testimony during Monitor's Status Report **hearing before US District Judge Brack**. November 16, 2017.

Council members, in casual interactions, informed community members about NECPC in neighborhoods, local businesses, houses of worship and social/cultural/entertainment venues. 2017.

Continuing Voting Members as of January 2017:

The voting NECPC members of 2017 are Eric Olivas (Chair), Brennan Williams (Vice-Chair), Bettina Eklund, Troy Taylor, and Dorothy Woodward.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center.