

# Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

July 30, 2009

Present: Roz Clark, David Cowin, Morgan Doizaki, James Evans, Tom Gentile, Harry Gill, Zeeva Hammack (for Judy Holm), Pamela Kallsen, Dr. Janice Saleem (for Brian King), Carol Mills, Edward Moreno, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Enrique Reade,

Absent: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Doug Broten, Paula Farris, Jesse McDonald, Kelly Nellum, Lorraine Person, Luke Raughley, Margarita Rocha, Mui Mindy Vuong, Don Weaver

Guests: Chief Jerry Dyer, Deputy Chief Pat Farmer, Lt. Dennis Montejano, Lt. Don Gross, Sgt. Brian Rogers, Officer Martin van Overbeek, Bob Aaranson (Office of Independent Review)

## Call to Order:

The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Training Room, was called to order at 5:38 pm.

## Minutes:

Minutes from May 28, 2009 were approved without correction

## Opening Remarks:

Chief Dyer introduced Bob Aaranson, Interim Auditor – Office of Independent Review, and commented on final process of hiring the full-time reviewer.

## Agenda Items:

### Update on Community Meetings

**Chief Dyer:** Reviewed the feedback received from the various community meetings involving members from the Southeast Asian community, African-American community, and all five policing districts. This feedback was needed information for the strategic planning session held July 13-14.

**Rangel:** Provided feedback she received from people that attended community meetings. Overall concerns include more foot patrol by officers, additional follow-up community meetings, and officer involvement in the meetings without their uniform because they are perceived to be more down-to-earth. She added that a main concern was that officers show a reasonable level of respect during their initial contact with citizens, no matter what the context of the contact.

**Chief Dyer:** Discussed the 4-hour block of Character & Communication training that was developed to get officers back to the basics of good communication.

### Strategic Planning Session/Department Re-organization

**Chief Dyer:** Discussed the goals of the staff strategic planning session which included focusing on the core services of the Department in light of budget cut-backs. Commanders presented their results from community meetings to aid in the planning process. One result of the planning session included a focus on six core services which are:

Responding to calls for service; reducing crime; enhancing traffic safety; eradicating gangs; eliminating graffiti; and maintaining public trust.

Additionally, the mission statement for the Department was revised to create a clear, concise goal for members to follow in the years to come. Effective August 31, 2009, the new mission statement will read as follows:

*"The mission of the Fresno Police Department is to enhance safety, service, and trust with our community."*

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A new division titled the Professional Standards Division was created during the planning session. This division, headed by Deputy Chief Robert Nevarez, will be comprised of the Office of Independent Review, Internal Affairs Bureau, Audit & Inspections Unit, CALEA Unit, Policy & Procedures Unit, and Employee Services Section.

The audit of the Narcotics Unit has been completed by the Police Executive Research Forum. A new strategic focus will be on addressing street level narcotics sales. This will be accomplished with the addition of a second Street Narcotics Enforcement Team.

### Budget and Grants

**Chief Dyer:** Due to the several million in budget cuts, a focus was placed on handling priority calls and lowering the response to certain types of calls. There will also be 16 re-assignments of officers from units being eliminated in order to cover current vacancies in patrol.

**Clark:** Expressed concern of the Mounted Patrol unit reductions due to the budget.

**Chief Dyer:** Explained reasoning behind the unit reductions. Discussed the staffing of the unit by Reserve Officers, the numerous uses of horses, and continued benefits of the program. Stated it will not be going away due to all resources for the unit being donated.

### ROUND TABLE:

**Reade:** Discussed Chinatown growth and current problems area is facing at night. Stated main problems are drug sales, intoxicated persons, and the alcohol sales that begin in the evenings. Daytime it is okay to walk through area but different feeling at night, especially with pan-handlers asking for money for alcohol.

**Doizaki:** Homeless residents that were displaced from the encampments near the Mission have moved to the area of Ventura/F Street. Some have taken up residence in front of houses and frequently knock on doors to use the restroom. This activity has spilled over into Chinatown.

**Chief Dyer:** Discussed the staff movements effective August 31 that are part of the re-organization.

**Rangel:** Expressed concerns regarding the possible re-focus on the homeless population in the Chinatown area. She hopes they are not merely targeted due to their homeless circumstance.

**Chief Dyer:** Discussed the Mayor's re-vitalization efforts in the Lowell area. The goal is to bring in all the core services from various City departments together in order to turn one neighborhood around at a time.

**Mills:** Asked about the re-focus of core functions and what affect that will have on property crimes, elder abuse, identity theft, etc.

**Lt. Gross:** Spoke on the current efforts regarding identity theft and the lack of support from credit issuing agencies making it difficult to prosecute offenders.

**Mills:** Spoke on efforts related to recent Public Works projects in the Central District and asked what input does the Police Department have during planning.

**Chief Dyer:** Explained the Police Department is consulted on the various projects to provide input on the impact to police services.

**Clark:** Announced the 26<sup>th</sup> annual National Night Out will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at various locations throughout Fresno. She also stated there will be a Town Hall Meeting at the Retired Teachers Hall on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

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**Doizaki:** Mentioned a Chinatown fundraiser that will occur on September 25<sup>th</sup>. He added that a satellite office for the Bike Patrol officers is available for use in report writing and includes a restroom.

Closing Remarks:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next Meeting:

September 24, 2009