

# Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

November 19, 2009

- Present: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Doug Broten, Fred Clark, Roz Clark, Morgan Doizaki, Paula Farris, Tom Gentile, Harry Gill, Judy Holm, Jesse McDonald, Carol Mills, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Luke Raughley, Enrique Reade, Kulvir Sekhon (Indo-American Heritage)
- Absent: David Cowin, James Evans, Pamela Kallsen, Brian King, Kelly Nellum, Lorraine Person, Margarita Rocha, Don Weaver, Mui Mindy Vuong
- Guests: Deputy Chief Pat Farmer, Lieutenant Don Gross, Sgt. Mindy Casto, Ofc. Martin van Overbeek

Call to Order:

The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Training Room, was called to order at 5:45 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from September 24 were approved with a minor correction and the addition of the text of the new Mission/Vision statements.

Opening Remarks:

None

Agenda Items:

Budget Situation

**Chief Dyer:** Currently dealing with layoff notifications for members affected by the additional \$5.5 million budget shortfall. At the time of the meeting, personnel affected by the layoffs include: 16 dispatchers; 25 Community Service Officers; all cadets; Admin clerks; Crime Scene Bureau technicians; Property Room personnel; data transcribers; Range Masters; and staff assistants. In all, 92 employees were laid off with some transfers to other departments within the City. Additionally, the Department is currently holding 23 police officer vacancies which will expand to 38. There will also be a one week furlough period for most City employees at the end of the year, including Chief Dyer.

**Clark:** What happened at City Hall? (with regards to layoffs)

**Chief Dyer:** It is unknown what impact the layoffs have had on City Hall. For the Department, the proposed cuts most likely could affect response times to certain types of calls such as burglaries with no suspects present. In the last 12 months the Department has lost a total of 249 employees with the addition of these latest proposed cuts. This equates to about 50% of our civilian employees.

**Gill:** Will Federal funds be available?

**Chief Dyer:** The Department will be applying for more grants as they become available.

**Abu-Shamsieh:** When will you know the impact of the cuts?

**Chief Dyer:** The Department will not know the full impact of the current cuts for some time. Meetings with staff will start on Monday to begin the second restructuring of the agency. A key focus will be to maintain the core services provided by the Department which include: Responding to 0 and 1 priority calls for service; responding to violent Part 1 offenses; gang eradication; traffic safety; and rapid graffiti removal.

**Rangel:** Are any police losing their jobs?

**Chief Dyer:** The police jobs lost will be through attrition.

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## Barking Dog Complaints – Modified Response to Certain Calls

**Reade:** Is it possible to utilize commissioners to try and solve certain lower priority call such as barking dogs?

**Chief Dyer:** The Department still handles barking dog complaints but this will cease beginning in January. The City already contracts with the SPCA to handle certain calls involving animals and barking dog complaints will be shifted to them as well.

**Rangel:** Do you have a person that searches for grants?

**Chief Dyer:** We already have a person assigned to search for and manage our grants. At any one time, the Department is administering approx. 33 grants totaling \$12 million annually.

The Department will also be modifying responses to petty theft in-custody calls and false burglar alarm calls. A pilot program was started with two Target stores to deal with petty theft suspects caught in stores by their loss prevention officers. When caught, the loss prevention officer will phone dispatch and provide them with the name and birth date of the suspect(s). The dispatcher will run the person(s) for warrants and any probation/parole status. If the person's record comes back clear, they will provide the loss prevention officer with a case number for the loss prevention officer to follow-up online with a report. They in turn will submit any evidence to the agency and an assigned officer will review the cases and put together a package for filing with the District Attorney's office. The offender will then be mailed a court date. This will free up time for officers in the field and for loss prevention officers who frequently have to wait for officer response due to higher priority calls for service ahead of them.

With regards to response to false alarm calls, the Department wants to get out of the business of billing businesses for our response to repeat calls to locations for audible alarms that previously checked okay. The Department wants to limit officer response to those incidents where a suspect is witnessed breaking into a business or where they have active audio or video monitoring and there is confirmation that a suspect is still inside.

**Holm:** Suggested utilizing more T.I.P. volunteers for certain services provided to the public.

**Gentile:** How is the Department's training budget?

**Chief Dyer:** It is pretty good due to the fact it is State funded to meet the P.O.S.T. guidelines.

**Brotten:** Will you be expanding the petty theft response to all stores?

**Chief Dyer:** The Department is starting with two Target stores first to gauge feasibility and will be expanding it to all businesses that have store security or loss prevention officers. The Department will continue to respond to the small businesses that don't have security officers or those incidents where a disturbance is involved between store personnel and a suspect.

## Office of Independent Review

**Chief Dyer:** Eddie Aubrey has been selected to fill the Office of Independent Review position. He will be working out of offices at the Dickey Youth Center at Divisadero/Glenn. He officially starts on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Clark:** He was the person picked by the citizen advisory panel as well due to his varied job experiences and qualifications.

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## Strategies to Enhance Community Trust

**Chief Dyer:** Believes there are tough times ahead due to the state of the economy and job losses. The Department is experiencing increased cases of drug/alcohol abuse coupled with mental health issues for persons that are either undiagnosed or not taking their medications. This can lead to citizens blaming the government, which often gets directed towards officers they come into contact with. To take a proactive approach and enhance community trust, the Department will:

1. Review the files of complaint generating personnel in efforts to identify possible solutions for increased positive contacts with the community;
2. Change the uniforms of specialized units to the same one worn by Patrol officers due to concerns over these officers not appearing approachable;
3. Perform an analysis of officer involved shootings over the last five years to try and identify any common issues; and
4. Create District Advisory Boards and a Traffic Advisory Board in efforts to identify citizen concerns that are District specific.

## ROUND TABLE:

**Reade:** New FAX rules are going into effect January 1, 2010. Will the FAX officers be affected by the budget cuts?

**Chief Dyer:** No, the FAX officers are not funded through the Department's budget.

**Reade:** We will be providing training for the FAX officers and also make it available to the School Resource Officers.

**Abu-Shamsieh:** Can you provide an update on the DUI program?

**Chief Dyer:** The Department has received a mini-grant from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to fund 67 DUI checkpoints. The department will fund an additional 31 for a total of 100 throughout the year. This funding will provide for prosecution D.A.'s, a motorcycle DUI operation, bar operations, saturation patrols and the Scared Stiff program. The Scared Stiff program has shown to have a 96% success rate against recidivism for offenders that have attended the program.

**Rangel:** Spoke on concern of traffic stops involving unlicensed drivers where the driver is cited and the families, sometimes indigent, are made to walk home.

Group discussion on traffic stops and vehicle impounds ensued.

**Chief Dyer:** Advised the Department's current vehicle towing policy allows for another licensed driver to drive the vehicle from the scene, so long as the driver cited has not had similar violations within the previous six months. The vehicle can also be left at the scene to be picked up later unless, pursuant to the Community Care Doctrine, leaving the vehicle at the scene would:

- Jeopardize public safety;
- Jeopardize the efficient movement of traffic; or
- Subject the vehicle to vandalism or theft.

Added that he recently met with an attorney & presented our plan in dealing with similar issues. The attorney was impressed with our response and approved of our procedures.

**Brotten:** Spoke on recent mental health issues that occurred at his workplace with a staff member and the limited services available to him.

**Mills:** Discussed a recent incident where high school students were parking cars for a fee during games to raise funds for an exchange club. She learned after the fact that an unknown male was hanging around the parking lot and had patted a few girls on the back and it was believed to be

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inappropriate. Responsible adults at the scene were not sure if phoning Police was appropriate. In the future, adult supervision will be instructed to phone Police for any suspicious persons loitering around children.

**Chief Dyer:** Recently invited two new members to join the board: Bill Simon as a representative of the ACLU; and Leonel Flores representing the Migrant Community.

**Reade:** Announced that the Downtown Kiwanis recently fed 150 families totaling over 900 people during a pre-Thanksgiving meal for families.

## Closing Remarks:

None

## Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

## Next Meeting:

January 28, 2010