

Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

August 5, 2010

Present: Ali Nekumanesh (for Kamal Abu-Shamsieh), Roz Clark, Morgan Doizaki, Paula Farris, Judy Holm, Lynn Ikeda, Pamela Kallsen, Elias Loera, Jesse McDonald Jr., Carol Mills, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Kenneth Ryan, and Bill Simon

Absent: Dee Berry, Doug Broten, David Cowin, Harry Gill, Pamela Kallsen, Luke Raughley, Enrique Reade, Margarita Rocha, Don Weaver and Bob Willis.

Guests: Chief Jerry Dyer, Deputy Chief Patrick Farmer, Lt. Don Gross, Sgt. Mindy Casto, Ofc. John Hall, and Eddie Aubrey.

Call to Order:

The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Training Room, was called to order at 5:34 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from May 27, 2010, were approved without correction.

Opening Remarks:

None.

Communications Center

Chief Dyer: Call response time has increased due to ComCen personnel cuts from 95 to 76 employees. The Department is trying to mitigate the impacts of the personnel losses, but calls for service have increased substantially. Between June 2009 and June 2010, 911 calls increased by approximately 22%, and the call to answer time has increased from 3.5 to 12.2 seconds.

Farris: Suggested a revised phone tree to redirect calls to appropriate locations.

Poptanich: Suggested promotion of e-reporting to minimize call load.

Holm: Discussed having volunteers, possibly from TIP, answer phones.

Ryan: Advised that FSU has many interns available to assist in various capacities within the Department, and that light duty officers be used to answer calls in ComCen.

Chief Dyer: Advised he is looking for interns, specifically those with scientific or analysis expertise.

Ryan: Named Keith Clement as his intern coordinator at FSU and was advised that Sergeant Brenda Trobaugh is the Department's new volunteer coordinator.

Chief Dyer: Discussed that 911 calls from kids on cell phones were contributing to the increase of calls to ComCen. Conversation about how 911 calls from cell phones are directed to FPD vs. CHP in our area.

New Initiatives:

Ceasefire – Update

Chief Dyer: The first Ceasefire meeting took place, the focus of which was African-American gang members. 36 gang members attended the meeting with Chief Dyer, the US Attorney's office, DA's office, parole, a Catholic Bishop and other service providers within the community. The message was put out to stop the violence, or face federal prosecution upon being arrested for any violent crime. The gang members' families also attended, and of the 36 gang members, 8 of them signed up for the program the day of the meeting. Others were expected to follow suit.

During the past 5 weeks, African-American gang shooting numbers have plummeted, and there were no African-American gang related homicides since Ceasefire was launched.

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Rangel: Expressed approval of the Ceasefire results so far (along with multiple other CAB members).

VCIT

Chief Dyer:

The Violent Crime Bureau is being run by a Captain who is responsive to violent crime incidents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As a result, information about violent crime is being shared among Department members around the clock in an effort to investigate and prevent violent crimes.

COP's

Chief Dyer: Volunteers are being used to ease the call for service load experienced by the Department, some of whom are being trained to write police reports. Chief Dyer plans to recruit additional reserve officers, with the goal of increasing the reserve unit to 75 officers.

Rangel: Suggested using groups such as Copwatch to volunteer in some capacity for the Department, possibly by answering phones. Also suggested that a commercial might be helpful in soliciting volunteers for the Department.

Concentrated Policing

Chief Dyer: The "core" has been identified as the most actively violent area in the City, and is currently bordered in part by Divisadero, Fwy 180 and First Street. As other hotspots of violent crime occur in the City, the core can be adjusted. Currently, the Department has about 35 reserve officers helping to saturate the core area with police presence, along with other Department personnel. Since the core strategy has been employed, Chief Dyer believes crime in the area has been cut in half.

Fresno Crime Watch

Chief Dyer: Burglaries are up 16% and auto thefts are up 21%, increases never before seen during his tenure as chief. The increases are partially attributed to theft suspects getting released from jail the same day they are arrested and booked. Chief Dyer advised that citizens must be armed with information in order to prevent crime, and that Neighborhood Watch Patrols are a viable way to prevent crime.

Lieutenant Gross: Provided demonstration on how the Crime Watch website works, how information is provided to the company, and what information is available on the website. The website offers up-to-date crime prevention videos by FPD personnel, links for becoming a volunteer and joining neighborhood watch, as well as crime occurrence information.

Kallsen: Discussed the need for instructional videos about citizens not confronting criminals in dangerous situations.

Chief Dyer: Society has moved toward a "self-producing" philosophy, because citizens can't afford the cost of a "full service" police department.

Doizaki: Inquired about outreach efforts to the public regarding available on-line information.

Chief Dyer: Television, radio and billboard public service announcements will be made public soon, and were funded by a combination of donations, including Crimestoppers. \$2,500.00 still needed to complete project.

Nekumanesh: Asked if businesses have been approached for funding.

Chief Dyer: Chief discussed how donations may be made to the Chief's Foundation.

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Round Table

Loera: Discussed that parks are not being locked at night because of personnel cuts, and that graffiti appears worse and remains up for longer periods of time than previously. Was told response time for graffiti eradication has grown from 48 hours to about a week.

Chief Dyer: Graffiti abatement teams remain largely intact, and should still be offering same day eradication. Both 621-TAGS and 621-CITY are available for reporting graffiti for eradication.

McDonald: Asked if Aubrey had anything to offer the group.

Aubrey: Interim report due to be released soon. In September and October, Aubrey plans to switch gears towards public outreach. Cited concerns about DA Office's refusal to respond to OIS's. All other large cities in California have DA response on OIS incidents.

Rangel: Also concerned about DA's lack of response to OIS incidents.

Closing Remarks:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Next Meeting:

September 30, 2010