

Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

January 20th, 2011

Present Kevin Assemi (for Kamal Abu-Shamsieh), David Cowin, Morgan Doizaki, Harry Gill, Pamela Kallsen, Elias Loera, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Kenneth Ryan, Bill Simon, Bob Willis.

Absent Dee Berry, Doug Broten, Roz Clark, Paula Farris, Judy Holm, Lynn Ikeda, Jesse McDonald Jr., Carol Mills, Luke Raughley, Enrique Reade, Margarita Rocha, Don Weaver.

Guests Chief Jerry Dyer, Deputy Chief Patrick Farmer, Deputy Chief Keith Foster, Lt. Don Gross, Sgt. Mindy Casto, Ofc. Martin van Overbeek, Greg Barfield, and Eddie Aubrey.

Call to Order

The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Room 210, was called to order at 5:41 pm.

Minutes

Minutes from November 18th, 2010, were approved with a minor correction to the date for the Officer of the Year Banquet.

Opening Remarks

Chief Dyer introduced Greg Barfield, the City of Fresno Homeless Prevention and Policy Manager.

Homeless Issues in Fresno

Barfield – Explained his role in the project to end homelessness in Fresno. Spoke on the shutdown of the Storyland Motel which included the relocation of the residents. Also discussed the H Street encampment and the challenges faced in this area. Gave an overview of efforts so far, work yet to be done, and introduced how the 10 year plan to end homelessness in Fresno fits in.

Loera – Asked what percentage of the homeless population are involved in crime.

Barfield – Hard to track this data and believes a lot of incidents go unreported. The only way to track it is by the number of arrestees using the jail or the Rescue Mission (310 G Street) as their address. A tally of calls for service to the F Street encampment alone has reached 941.

DC Foster – Explained that 3 out of 4 incidents reported involving homeless persons are alcohol and/or drug related.

Rangel – Is Fresno going to have a goal of establishing a homeless shelter?

Barfield – No, because these are short term solutions and the City is working towards the long term goal of finding transitional and permanent housing.

Rangel – How much stimulus money did the City receive, and where did it go?

Barfield – The City received \$3.1 M and Fresno County received \$1.5 M. The monies have been spent for housing, case management, deposits, arrears, and utilities. All of the information from recent quarterly and annual performance reports are available on-line at the City's website at www.fresno.gov. (Mr. Barfield will follow-up with the report information and website address)

Simon – Speaking on crime amongst the homeless, 80% are in housing with 20% not in housing, why is that?

Barfield – The reasons vary and include recent arrests and a large percentage of the homeless clients not cooperating with outreach efforts. This information is documented in the annual report.

Gill – There are reports of homeless people coming to Fresno after learning there is housing available and the City will pay for it. What is the criteria for granting housing?

Barfield – They must be able to demonstrate that they have been a resident of Fresno County for at least 30 days.

Gill – What happens when the money runs out?

Barfield – The goal is to replace the monies with private funding.

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Rangel – How many people are employed with the stimulus monies?

Barfield – There are 19 people employed with the stimulus monies.

Doizaki – Spoke on the encampments near Chinatown at Van Ness/G Street and the encampments south of Ventura near the freeway.

Barfield – Stated one of the goals is to fast track the removal of the Monterey Street bridge due to the on-going issues encountered with the encampments in this area.

Doizaki – Asked about other cities that have had success in dealing with homelessness.

Barfield – Said Fresno is looking to peer cities to examine their best approaches that work and try to implement successful strategies here. Discussed some of the issues involving the portion of the homeless population that are sex registrants pursuant to PC 290.

Chief Dyer – Advised that PC 290 registrants must register with the Police Dept. annually or monthly if they are in a transient status. Added there is a team of detectives out in the field to monitor these individuals that go between the encampments.

Round Table

Kallsen – Inquired why the badly damaged patrol vehicle was parked in the lot between HQ and the Annex.

Chief Dyer – This serves as a visual reminder to officers of the potential dangers while driving on-duty. Training is critical in the areas of perishable skills which includes driving, shooting, building searches, etc. Discussed the groups interest in holding the next CAB meeting at the Fresno Police Department's Regional Training Center (FPDRTC).

Briefly spoke on efforts to reduce auto theft in Fresno through Operation Throttle Back. The goal of the operation is to facilitate a mass distribution of steering wheel club devices free of charge to owners of vehicles that have been identified as the ones most frequently stolen by auto thieves. The Fresno Police Chief's Foundation is seeking funding that will make this operation possible.

Closing Remarks

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

March 31, 2011

Future Meetings (tentatively scheduled)

March 31, 2011 (To be held at the Fresno Police Department Regional Training Facility)

May 26, 2011

July 28, 2011

September 22, 2011

November 17, 2011