

Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

September 22nd, 2011

Present Gerry Bill(for Rebeca Rangel) Roz Clark, Harry Gill, Judy Holm, Lynn Ikeda, Pamela Kallsen, Elias Loera, Jesse McDonald Jr., Carol Mills, Jim Poptanich, Margarita Rocha, Kenneth Ryan, Bill Simon, Enrique Reade.

Absent Kevin Assemi, Dough Broten, David Cowin, Paula Farris, Blair Looney, Luke Raughley, Don Weaver, Bob Willis.

Guests Chief Jerry Dyer, Lt. Don Gross, Officer John Hall, Officer Martin van Overbeek.

Call to Order

The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Room 210, was called to order at 5:33 pm.

Minutes

Minutes from July 28th, 2011, were approved without correction.

Opening Remarks

Chief Dyer – Spoke about the CALEA on-site visit and the Department being awarded Accreditation with Excellence. The Chief and CAB recognized the efforts of the CALEA Team.

Roundtable

Mills – She has inquired further about GPS monitoring and requirements within the Penal Code and the shortcomings of the law as it is currently written.

Chief Dyer – Explained that GPS monitoring currently only applies to persons on parole and there is no mechanism in place to continue monitoring once off parole. The Department sought authorization from the State to continue monitoring sexual predators once off parole, but he was advised there is no statutory authority or legislation to give the Department that authority or to enforce violations.

Lt Gross – Discussed the limitations of Jessica's Law and GPS monitoring. One issue is there is no funding for the logging of monitoring and there is no punishment when they violate the restrictions. Currently a sex registrant subject to monitoring may have restrictions on where they can live (e.g. Not within 2000 feet of a school), but they can't be restricted from standing in front of a school and watching children, or even going to Wild Water Adventures and play in the kiddie pool.

Chief Dyer – Would like the ability to continue to monitor serious sex offenders once parole ends.

Simon – What would determine who gets monitored once parole ended?

Chief Dyer – A set criteria would have to be developed so it would be applied consistently without bias to say the top 10% of the worst offenders.

Ryan – With the loss in personnel, are you seeing a rise in assaults on officers?

Chief Dyer – Assaults on officers have climbed upwards of 30%.

Loera – Believes the number is higher, as he witnessed an assault on officers during a ride-a-long and it wasn't reported.

Clark – Frequently suggests members of Neighborhood Watch perform ride-a-longs to see challenges that officers face.

Chief Dyer – At least one officer is physically assaulted every day within the City.

Ryan – Do you think the change in number of officers on the street will change this?

Chief Dyer - This leads straight into the next topic of restructuring.

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Department Restructuring

Chief Dyer – Previously the Department was at 1322 employees and currently we are at 922. Of those, we previously had 849 officers and we are now at about 752. The goal is to fully staff Patrol officers first to limit the overtime generated to meet minimum staffing levels. We have lost 40% of the overtime budget within the last 2 ½ yrs. Over the past six weeks, staff has been working on prioritizing what positions in addition to Patrol, need to be filled. This includes designated positions that must be filled as a result of grant funding or funding received from outside sources such as school resource officers, airport officers, and FAX bus officers. Once these are accounted for, staff has to factor in officers on long-term absence due to injuries, military leave, and those units which are self funded such as the Traffic Enforcement Bureau. Things that the Department used to do, it is no longer able to. The Downtown Policing Unit will be discontinued and policing will be done through additional staffing to the Southwest District and use of motor officers assigned to Downtown.

Ryan – Cautioned on the removal of personnel from units due to being in the unit too long. Has experienced this in his organization and it caused a void when persons with a large amount of experience went to work in other areas, taking that experience with them.

Chief Dyer – Previously the Department had experienced stagnation as a result of the inability to move senior officers in detective units. This changed when the Chief was given a 100% right of assignment to be able to move unproductive employees back to Patrol for the good of the organization and give up and coming officers the chance to excel in special units.

Rocha – What do you mean when you refer to the Matrix?

Chief Dyer – Explained how patrol staffing is accomplished while drawing a visual sample on the board to illustrate how City-wide patrol coverage is achieved utilizing the Patrol Matrix (scheduling). Discussed the use of Staff Wizard as an aid to determine where staffing is needed throughout the City based on calls for service and it recommends the minimum staffing requirements for any given shift and district. With officers signing up annually, it allows for rotation of personnel throughout the organization. This is healthy for the organization but it is becoming more complicated with fewer people. At the same time, the Department has to balance resources within the confines of established labor agreements (Memorandums of Understanding).

Roundtable(continued)

Mac Donald – Inquired about the status of the report from the Office of Independent Review with Eddie Aubrey leaving office and certain information the Fresno Bee is reporting.

Chief Dyer – Explained that he believed the report has been completed and submitted to the City Manager's Office but he has yet to see it. At issue appears to be the completeness of the report and its contents. Audits and reports are supposed to be written in such a manner as to not allow the identity of officers or specific incidents to be identified, thus protecting an officer's rights under the Peace Officers Bill of Rights. It has been set up that he did not have direct access to the report in order to remove any appearance that he had any influence of the reports contents. It will be released to him once it has been reviewed and the issues resolved between the City Manager's Office and the Office of Independent Review.

Loera – Over the last few years, it appears the budgetary issues outweigh problems with policing. Is there a point at which you can no longer do policing with the amount of officers you have when you have just over 300 officers and the program tells you 600 are needed?

Chief Dyer – This is where the delicate balance comes in related to the amount of officers on the street and the detectives that perform the follow-up investigations. Years ago it was so bad that patrol was beefed up but investigations suffered. We don't handle certain calls anymore, and response to other calls get delayed. Ultimately, the citizens will determine what is an acceptable number of officers needed. The Department is getting dangerously close to the minimum number of officers needed to get the job done safely. We are shrinking to staffing levels seen 10 years ago. The problem is that the population continues to increase and he has lost 275 civilian positions in the

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process. The need for the functions performed by civilians has not went away and as a result, certain civilian jobs are having to be done by officers, taking officers off the street.

Mac Donald – Commended the Chief on all of his hard work done over the years and suggested the Regional Training Center be renamed in his honor.

Rocha – Suggested taking the proposal before the City Council.

Ikeda – Requested the Department reconsider the removal of the Downtown Policing Unit, stating Downtown Association is really concerned about crime increases if they go away.

Chief Dyer – Discussed strategies to address the recurring issues in China Town and the Downtown area.

Poptanich – Asked about the use of video policing in this area.

Chief Dyer – Homeland Security monies are available and will be utilized to purchase the cameras which are \$5000 each. Additionally, the cameras still need monitoring to be effective. Currently the Department utilizes injured officers to monitor the cameras.

Clark – Has been advised by neighborhood watch representatives that people are not reporting a lot of the crimes due to little or no response by police for certain property crimes. Additionally, many street lights in areas have been out due to copper wire thefts.

Chief Dyer – Discussed re-occurring arrests and the opening of additional floors at the jail. He predicts a drop in the crime rate for Oct/Nov/Dec until the jail fills up again. This will continue to go up and down as more floors are opened until all the floors fill up.

Clark – Neighborhood Watch is having the challenge of people taking responsibility for crime prevention and not allowing crimes of opportunity to happen.

Chief Dyer – Hears a lot of feedback from Southwest residents. More resources go to police Southwest than any other district, including District Crime Suppression Teams (DCST) and motor officers. As a result, the violent crime rate is down, but there is still more to do. Property crimes (burglaries/auto theft) still continue however.

Clark – Commented on the K-9 Units recent success during K-9 competitions.

Chief Dyer – Added that their success was highlighted in several pages of National Magazine. Concluded by briefing the group on incidents of vandalism and arson that occurred recently against the FPOA offices, an attorney's office that represents police officers, vehicles at a district station, and an officer's home. The investigations are ongoing and information is still forthcoming.

Closing Remarks

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting

November 17, 2011

Future Meetings (tentatively scheduled)

To Be Announced