

Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

November 18th, 2010

Present Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Roz Clark, Morgan Doizaki, Paula Farris, Harry Gill, Zeeva Hammack (for Judy Holm), Lynn Ikeda, Pamela Kallsen, Elias Loera, Jesse McDonald Jr., Carol Mills, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Enrique Reade, Margarita Rocha, Keith Clement (for Kenneth Ryan), Bob Willis and Kathy Mitchell (for Bill Simon).

Absent Dee Berry, Doug Broten, David Cowin, Luke Raughley.

Guests Chief Jerry Dyer, Deputy Chief Patrick Farmer, Deputy Chief Keith Foster, Captain Andy Hall, Lt. Don Gross, Ofc. John Hall, Ofc. Martin van Overbeek, Ofc. Dave Ponek, 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 September 30, 2010, were approved without correction.

Opening Remarks

Chief Dyer thanked everyone for the great turnout.

Vehicle Impounds Policy

Chief Dyer introduced Captain Hall, commander of the Traffic/Field Services Bureau.

Rangel – Asked about the procedure for towing and implementation of the tow policy Department wide.

Captain Hall – Discussed the general reasons vehicles are impounded by the Department including: driving under the influence (DUI); driving on a suspended license (Vehicle Code §14601); and driving without a valid license (Vehicle Code §12500) when there is evidence to indicate the driver has been previously cited for the same offense and the offense is likely to continue. He went on to explain when the driver has been cited for VC §12500 and has no active license suspensions or previous VC §12500 violations, the vehicle can only be impounded if, pursuant to the Community Care Doctrine (CCD), leaving the vehicle at the scene would:

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

Captain Hall added that there was a comprehensive review of the Department's tow policy in conjunction with CCD case law with the City Attorney to ensure compliance.

Rangel – Are officers exercising/following the policy, and how do you know they are following the policy?

Captain Hall – Explained vehicle impounds are audited to ensure compliance with policy. Vehicles impounded pursuant to the CCD are required to have the specific condition that subjects the vehicle to impound listed on the impound paperwork. There have been instances where officers have made a mistake in impounding a vehicle, and Captain Hall contacts Risk Management to ensure the citizen is promptly reimbursed.

Aubrey – Confirmed that officers are notified of new/revised policies via email and that they sign for the policies electronically via computer.

Reade – Asked about unlicensed immigrants with green cards, and towing their vehicles.

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Captain Hall – Officers attempt to identify drivers in the field with any ID they have in their possession or through use of BlueCheck devices in their vehicles. Unfortunately many people lie about their identity when they are unlicensed, and it can be difficult to prove who they are if they have never been arrested before. In those cases officers have to release the vehicle to a licensed driver if they are in the vehicle or can respond to the scene in a reasonable amount of time.

General Traffic Discussion

Poptanich – Is it okay for drivers to wait with pulling over when being stopped by the police until they get to a safe location, or will it be another infraction?

Captain Hall – We encourage women to drive to a spot where they feel safe, so long as they are obeying the traffic laws and using all signals while doing so. Officers stress levels will naturally go up when someone doesn't pull over right away, but the reasons for doing so can be explained once the motorist is safely stopped.

Reade – Asked about curb sitting and the option for motorists to be seated in the back of patrol cars if they so desire.

Chief Dyer – Two years ago, curb sitting was one of the chief complaints among citizen groups. The Department implemented Character & Communication training, highlighting these issues and being able to read the need for curb sitting prior to doing so. Since that training, the Department has not received any further complaints regarding this issue.

Weaver – How is the Department impacting teen drivers with outreach?

Captain Hall – Discussed distracted driving presentations along with DUI presentations such as 'Every 15 minutes'.

Farris – Mentioned recent awards ceremony where Gov. Schwarzenegger praised the efforts of Chief Dyer and the Fresno Police Department.

Chief Dyer – Thanked Captain Hall for the Traffic Bureau's efforts which have resulted in traffic related deaths being cut in half from 2002 where 52 people had lost their life. Stated the Department's efforts were recognized recently in Orlando when it received the first-place award for National Traffic Safety. This is the third year in a row the Department has received this award.

Reade – Showed members a copy of a New Mexico newspaper which shows the photos of DUI offenders along with a description of their offense.

Captain Hall – Believes it is a good idea only after the offenders have been convicted, and then only if it is a second offense.

Chief Dyer – Officers make approximately 3200 arrests annually, which is the highest in the nation.

Captain Hall – Spoke of upcoming changes within the Traffic Bureau to include: the use of electronic ticket writers, and collision reports being available online for a nominal fee. Reports will still be available for free at Headquarters or for the fee online for those citizens that do not want to wait in line.

Chief Dyer – The Department is in the process of implementing a centralized vehicle impound release location to ease congestion and waits at Headquarters for vehicle releases. It will also be a 24 hour operation to aid citizens needing to get their vehicle in a timely manner.

Round Table

Roz Clark – Stated she is still receiving concerns regarding drug activity and graffiti in the area of Shields/Millbrook. The info has already been forwarded to Captain Maroney/Lt Rowe and she is working on trying to establish Neighborhood Watch in the area. Discussed upcoming Neighborhood Watch related events to include: the open-house at the SW District on December 1st; a fundraiser

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through the Second Space Theater for a performance on December 4th; and an open-house at NE District station December 7th. Looking ahead to next year, February 27th, 2011 is the date for the Officer of the Year Awards banquet and they are currently accepting nominees.

Rocha – Congratulated Chief Dyer on receiving the Heart of the City award.

Doizaki – Fulton Mall is having problems with numerous 290 registrants loitering near electrical outlets, plugging in their GPS ankle monitors. Stated they migrated to this location from Courthouse Park and he does not know what caused the shift of locations.

Chief Dyer – This problem has grown and some of these offenders are almost forced into a homeless status due to the restrictions on living near schools and other places where children are present.

Gill – This month is California Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month. He invited everyone to the parade in Fowler this Sunday the 21st, which commemorates the birthday of the religion's founder.

McDonald – How is the Mayor's program coming along regarding the homeless? He has noticed related problems from the homeless spreading into west Fresno.

Chief Dyer – There are sweeps/cleanups of homeless encampments in the future but does not when as the Department has not received notice of the anticipated dates.

General group discussion on the issues related homeless individuals, encampments, and the City's efforts to effectively deal with this problem. Request was made to have Greg Barfield, the City's 'Homeless Czar', attend the next meeting for questions.

Mills – Asked about the Department's response to recommendations proposed by Eddie Aubrey.

Chief Dyer – Recommendations are being reviewed by Lt Montejano of the Internal Affairs Bureau. Discussed current inquiry/complaint process and the future implantation of IA Pro software that will integrate all levels of review and provide for simplified tracking of inquiries and complaints. Also being worked on is the streamlining of the review for officer involved shootings so the process becomes more timely.

Closing Remarks

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

January 20, 2011

Future Meetings (tentatively scheduled)

March 24, 2011

May 26, 2011

July 28, 2011

September 22, 2011

November 17, 2011