

# Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011

- Present Kevin Assemi, Roz Clark, Zeva Hammack (for Judy Holm), Lynn Ikeda, Pamela Kallsen, Blair Looney, Jesse McDonald Jr., Carol Mills, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Patty Ayela (for Margarita Rocha), Kenneth Ryan, Bill Simon, Bob Willis.
- Absent David Cowin, Paula Farris, Harry Gill, Elias Loera, Luke Raughley, Enrique Reade, Don Weaver.
- Guests Chief Jerry Dyer, Deputy Chief Keith Foster, Lt. Don Gross, Sgt. Mindy Casto, Eddie Aubrey, and Ofc. Martin van Overbeek.

## Call to Order

The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Room 210, was called to order at 5:32 pm.

## Minutes

Minutes from January 20th, 2011, were approved without correction.

## Opening Remarks

None

## Supreme Court Decision

**Chief Dyer** – Discussed the Supreme Court Decision regarding prison over-crowding, early release, re-alignment, local housing of State inmates in county jails, and the Department's involvement at the local level.

**Ryan** – Has the State looked into sending inmates to other states for housing?

**Chief Dyer** – Currently 10,000 inmates housed in other states. Other states reluctant to house CA inmates due to the disruption they bring. CA Correctional Officers Association also raised objections. Further discussed AB 109 and the reduction of prison populations.

**Rangel** – Spoke on 3<sup>rd</sup> strike incidents where suspects committed to lengthy prison sentences for low-level non-violent felonies and its relation to this topic.

**Poptanich** – If funding not provided by the State, will it mean early releases?

**Chief Dyer** – Yes, pretty confident his will occur. Prison officials will utilize a risk-assessment matrix to prioritize who gets released based on their risk to society.

**Kallsen** – What are the numbers of potential releases to Fresno?

**Chief Dyer** – Approximately 4% of inmates are from Fresno. This could mean potentially 1300 inmates transferred locally with another 1600 potential releases on parole.

## Prostitution Response

**Chief Dyer** – Prostitution problem has become extremely visible, contributing to other types of crimes. This issue arose after working a recent homicide on Parkway. In approx. two weeks, efforts will kick off to shadow prostitutes using Reserve Officers, enforce of Stay Out of the Area of Prostitution (SOAP) probation violations, conduct 'John/Jane' operations utilizing Vice officers, target pimps involved in human trafficking, and coordinate with the DA's office for meaningful prosecution. Working on exposing 2<sup>nd</sup> time offenders and those refusing to participate in the Prostitute Abatement & Rehabilitation (PAR) program. This will go along with assisting prostitutes in getting help to get out of this lifestyle by connecting them with community resources and faith based organizations.

**Rangel** – What about the pimp, where does he fit into the problem?

**Deputy Chief Foster** – The Department has indicted at least five different pimps lately for charges related to human trafficking.

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**Chief Dyer** – Also related to this issue are the massage parlors in the City. Currently there are about 140 massage parlors in Fresno which have business licenses.

**Kallsen** – What about the underage prostitutes, what's being done to help them?

**Deputy Chief Foster** – There is a local coalition that is partnered with the EOC to obtain temporary housing, clothing, food, and counseling while efforts are made to reunite the minors with family members and get them out of prostitution. On the prosecution side, charges involving human trafficking of minors for prostitution have a greater likelihood of securing Federal indictments against suspects.

## Domestic Violence Response

**Chief Dyer** – Discussed the disparity between the number of reported domestic violence incidents and the actual number of incidents that occur annually. The number of reported incidents are on par with last year's numbers (approx. 7000), however severity of injury to victims is on the rise. Department is in the process of identifying the 10% of suspects/victims that most frequently are involved in domestic violence incidents to develop a database so resources can be concentrated on these folks to try and prevent homicides and serious injury to victims.

**Kallsen** – A case review team is being assembled to try and dissect closed cases to identify the factors that contribute to these incidents becoming lethal.

**Chief Dyer** – When the '10 per centers' are identified, efforts will be concentrated to remove the violent offenders before they succeed in killing their spouses. Also will work to getting the scarce resources to the victims who need them most.

**Ryan** – Will look into a possible funding source.

**Chief Dyer** – As with the Cease Fire call-ins of gang members, a comprehensive approach will be taken but this must be supported by good data.

**Ayela** – Discussed limited counseling resources available for Spanish speaking victims from Centro La Familia Support Center as well as Rape Counseling Services.

## Round Table

**Poptanich** – Has noticed an increase in median panhandling (Palm/Herndon & Blackstone/Herndon).

**Clark** – Has also noticed a significant increase of these incidents.

**Rangel** – Has noticed similar activity, gave kudos to Traffic Officers for cell phone ticket writing.

**Chief Dyer** – Approximately 800 cell phone tickets written a month.

**Rangel** – Asked about towing policy and recent letter to Spanish speaking citizens regarding calling for a person to pick-up their car before it is towed.

**Chief Dyer** – Discussed at length the tow policy and how it is implemented during traffic stops.

**McDonald** – Asked opinion about City administrations involvement in the homeless issue. Discussed how the Poverello House and the Mission contribute to the problem.

**Chief Dyer** – Discussed the presentation by Greg Barfield and the Cities efforts to assist the homeless population.

A lengthy general discussion of the homeless issue ensued between several members including related factors of drug addiction, the family dynamic, the economy, mental health issues, and the 10-year plan goals.

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## Closing Remarks

None

## Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

## Next Meeting

September 22, 2011

## Future Meetings (tentatively scheduled)

September 22, 2011

November 17, 2011