

# Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

January 25, 2007

Present: Anthony Alaniz, Ed Bailey, Roz Clark, Morgan Doizaki (for Kathy Omachi), Paula Farris, Tom Gentile, Harry Gill, Robert Harris, Jr., Rebeca Rangel, Luke Raughley, Michael Roth, H. Spees and Lt. Randy Dobbins.

Absent: Kamal Abu Shamsieh, Cary Catalano, Gordon Donoho, Frank Franco, Lawrence Garcia, Floyd Harris, Lorena Martinez, Jesse McDonald, Debbie Nard, Jim Newman, Enrique Reade, Jan Sangster, Deep Sethi, David Tittle, and Darrell Tuckness.

Guests: Deputy Chief Patrick Farmer, Sgt. Brian Rogers and Robert Sack.

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

## Minutes:

Minutes from November 9, 2006 were approved.

## Agenda Items:

The Chief was unable to attend the meeting due to being ill, Deputy Patrick Farmer led the meeting in his place. With recent departmental changes, Lt. Randy Dobbins will now be the Chiefs co-chair, replacing Lt. Dennis Montejano.

## *Police Department's 2007 Goals:*

- D.C. Farmer stated that the PD has multiple goals for 2007.
- The Chief wants to make the officers more professional and friendly. Officers need to not respond in a text book manner but be able to adapt to different situation and show a humanistic approach when necessary. Members of the board suggested the terms "courteous and respectful" or "friendly but firm" be used instead of "friendly."
- D.C. Farmer also stated that the department has lowered response time to "0" priority calls, but now lower priority calls (i.e. cold burglary, identity theft, etc.) must be addressed. Some people are waiting for hours until an officer is able to arrive on scene and address their problem. Call Diversion has been taking reports over the phone when possible, but the time still needs to be decreased. One

solution is to add more cadets into the field. They are able to take reports and address the lower priority calls.

- The police department is also trying to be more effective when giving out traffic citations. They will begin to focus on areas with high accident rates to target vehicles who are causing those accidents. There may be fewer tickets, but there will be fewer accidents.

*Round Table w/ Board Members:*

**Rebeca Rangel:**

- Was delighted to see that the Gang Task Force meeting was done in a caring manner but also very professional.
- Requested information on cars that are towed on Friday nights. The person must pay for the storage fee over the weekend instead of one night. How much does the PD get for the towed cars and where does that money go?
- Requested information on the policy for officers when asked for a business card. *"A business card shall be provided whenever any person requests a member's name and/or badge number in person."*
- Inquired about the process in which a complaint against an officer is investigated. DC Farmer informed the board that most complaints go through the Duty Office. The complaint is then sent to the divisions Deputy Chief who gives it to that officer's Captain or Lieutenant. Depending on the nature and type of complaint, it is either dealt with by the officer's supervisors or sent to Internal Affairs.
- Rebeca also reported of a case where someone was brought in for questioning and separate from the person they came with. She suggested that when this is done it is explained better to the people being separated.

**Paula Farris:** The graffiti abatement team is doing a great job.

**Robert Harris:** We need to move ahead with video policing and get the camera installed in high crime rate areas ASAP.

**Roz Clark:** Suggest that if it will take an extended period of time for an officer to arrive on scene to take a report people should be called back and informed of this. People may be more understanding if informed of the wait time.

**Ed Bailey:** What is the procedure for serving a search warrant? Are officers required to give the person a copy of the warrant? Lt. Dobbins stated that the new policy requires officer to "in place of the search warrant, they are required

to leave a 'Notice of Search Warrant.' This notice must include the case agent's name and case number."

**Anthony Alaniz:** Was in need of officers assistance and was glad to see there quick response.

**Tom Gentile:** Has been having problems at the Vet's Museum with homeless people trespassing and being confrontational with the staff. DC Farmer suggest that police be called instead of handling the situations themselves and that he will inform the Captain of the district so that he can increase patrol in the area.

**Morgan Doizaki:** Video policing is ideal for China Town. There is a lot of drugs, alcohol, and homeless problems the area. Video cameras would deter the problems in certain areas. He also suggested that officers have a customer based mindset. Being in the retail business, Morgan knows that people must be treated in a certain way. If officers had this mind set then it may be easier to present themselves as more caring.

**Anna Marie:** Stated that officers need to be more patient. She experienced a situation with her father-in-law where officers were not patient and seemed to ignore his statements do to a language barrier. She also requested more lights in the area of Belmont/Flower to Shields/Fowler; the area is very dark at night.

**Luke Raughley:** The more you explain things as they are being done the more comfortable a person is. If officers explained there actions to people then it would take down the barrier. Officers also need to realize that they are serving the public. If this is done with a smile, a "how are you," etc. type of mentality then people feel as if they care.

Announcements:

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm Fresno Area Neighborhood Watch will be hosting the annual Office of the Year award ceremony at Tornino's.

Closing Remarks:

None.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

