

Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

June 28, 2007

- Present: Ed Bailey, Roz Clark, Frank Franco, Harry Gill, Jesse McDonald, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Tom Gentile, Morgan Dolzaki, Luke Raughley, Enrique Reade, Anna Marie Hinojosa (for Michael Roth) Jan Sangster.
- Absent: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Anthony Alaniz, Cary Catalano, Gordon Donoho, Paula Farris, Floyd Harris, Robert Harris, Lorena Marinez, Deep Sethi, H. Spees, David Tittle, Darrell Tuckness.
- Guests: D.C. Robert Navarez, D.C. Keith Foster, D.C. Pat Farmer Lt. Dennis Montejano, Sgt. Brian Rogers, and Lisa Parker.
- Call to Order: The meeting was held in the City Hall Annex Training Room and called to order at 5:40 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from May 31, 2007 were approved.

Agenda Items:

Bulldog Gang Operations

Chief Dyer provided an update on recent gang suppression efforts, which resulted in over 3200 arrests and extensive firearms seizures. 44% of the arrestees were found to be on parole; 22% were on felony probation. Thus most of those arrested will be going to jail or prison.

Suppression efforts are causing gang members to hide their tattoos and their colors, rather than openly displaying them or flaunting them to police officers, and denying gang affiliation. Also evident is a displacement of gang members to Northern and Midwestern states.

Additionally, efforts appear to have had an impact on gang-related violent crime, which is down 17%, and property crime, which is down 13.7%.

Chief Dyer provided information and answered questions regarding the Mayor's Gang Prevention Initiative, gang-member validation, referrals, assessments and service providers. The system is inundated with referrals. The City will be adding staff to manage the work load. 1300 referrals to date. 14 life skills instructors interview members during the intake process. One Quarter of the candidates are screened out for various reasons. 320 are receiving services. 45 are pursuing GED's. A contract has been signed with a vendor for tattoo removal.

Chief Dyer explained that the last three weeks there has been an upsurge in violent crime, mostly in the SW district, averaging about one shooting per day.

SW = 13

SE = 8

CE = 5

NW = 3

NE = 2

Very few of the shooting involved Bulldog gang members. African American gangs have been involved in a large number of the shootings. Operation Summer Heat has been instituted to impact the problem. A combination of District Crime Suppression Team, traffic, Patrol Apprehension Team, HEAT are addressing the gangs as a short term solution.

Rebecca Rangel inquired as to how we identify the number of gangs and gang members involved as either African American or Latino? Chief Dyer explained that there are about 25 African American gangs with about 700 validated members and 700 associates. The Latino gangs are made up of about 4000 validated members and 6000 associates. D.C. Foster explained that the law requires at least 3 validation points to make someone a member, like tattoos, gang clothing, associating etc.

Enrique Cruz asked what kind of prevention we have in place to address gangs. Chief Dyer explained that there are 90 service providers involved in the Mayors Gang Prevention Initiative. Examples being; job skills, education, One by One Leadership, mentors, House of Hope, Cesar Chavez, Hope Now For Youth, Boys and Girls Clubs. Each member is tracked in a database. Mr. Cruz suggested that the gang members in prison could help with a Scared Straight program. Chief Dyer stated that an ex-gang member from Chicago name Brian King was helping to recruit members out of gangs. Chief Dyer felt that the Scared Straight program was found to be less desirable as it sometimes reinforced the negative aspects of criminal behavior like violence.

Ed Bailey asked weather any sports programs were being used as a deterrent? D.C. Foster stated that our PAL program had been very successful with martial arts, basketball, softball, boxing etc. We have won several awards and trophies. Chief Dyer advised that the Table Mountain casino was donating \$25,000 to PAL.

Frank Franco told the group that he had a youth gang member that had left a youth camp and was a witness in a gang crime. He heard that a gang "hit" had been put out on him. Franco tried to find a "safe house" for him but it was difficult finding help. He was able to contact the MAGEC unit via Sgt. Rogers and resolve the problem. Franco asked the chief if there were any such services for gang members. D.C. Foster advised that there are 2 providers now online that can provide protection in similar situations.

Operation Summer Heat

Chief Dyer explained Operation Summer Heat, which is a collaborative effort among various divisions, such as DCST, Traffic and Auto Theft to concentrate on a specific area for the purpose of limiting activity in those areas. (as discussed more fully above in the discussion of SW gangs)

Academy Graduation

Chief Dyer reported that out of a graduating class of 50 cadets, 22 belonged to the Fresno Police Department—leaving no officer vacancies. Many of the FPD cadets received top honors in academic, physical training, shooting, driving and law enforcement skills categories.

Round Table

James Poptanich presented four issues:

1). What was the final approval on the budget issue of assigning additional investigators to the Financial Crimes Unit to assist with ID Theft? Chief Dyer answered in the affirmative and explained the incidence of Identification Theft in Fresno. The City is hiring two ID Theft Advocates to assist the investigators and the community and is also adding three investigators to the unit.

2) What is being done about the number of car break-ins that are happening in Fresno where the cars are NOT being stolen but items taken for the purpose of ID Theft as well as the mailbox thefts that are occurring? Chief Dyer pointed out that vehicle burglaries are often for the purpose of identification theft. He also pointed out that vehicle burglaries are down 19.8%.

3) “I saw one news broadcast about it and nothing else.” Isn’t this a public awareness issue? The Chief agreed that a public awareness campaign would be a good idea and would look into the feasibility.

4) Are pictures from “private surveillance” cameras admissible in court? Chief Dyer stated that community use of private cameras for surveillance of public areas is generally admissible in court, providing good evidence as well as strong deterrence.

Morgan Dolzaki inquired as to what will happen to ensure the continuation of community confidence in Chinatown. Chief Dyer explained that Capt. Belluomini had been moved from SW to the Personnel Bureau , however Lt. Martinez will assure that those measures taken by Belluomini will be carried out to assure continued improvements in China Town.

Chief Dyer also talked about the general plan for down town renewal. There will be improvements to include green space, possibly a river walk and an effort to tie the Tower District with Down Town.

Roz Clark asked if there are any Life Skills programs for elementary schools? Chief Dyer advised that the No Name Fellowship has an elementary school program to help. PD is not able to fund all levels at this time. Parks and Recreation is providing after school help.

Jesse McDonald said that West Fresno recently has had hysterical people reacting to the multiple shootings. He suggested that PD send officers into the

area, prior to an enforcement sweep, to notify parents and residents that officers will be working in the area. He felt that this would cause the gang members to leave the area. He explained that the gang members often don't even live in the area but are visiting relatives. Senior citizens are scarred to death. D.C. Nevarez said he would look into this and see what could be done to carry this out. Rebecca Rangel suggested that a "street fair" may help. D.C. Nevarez stated that block parties are scheduled and would help.

Rebecca Rangel advised the group that Code Enforcement has been taking pictures of trash cans left in front of houses. She felt this was a ridiculous practice. Chief Dyer advised that Code Enforcement is its own entity and not affiliated with the police department.

Chief Dyer We are currently at full staffing and have "0" vacancies. We are getting the "best of the best" some from the academy and some coming from the military. Rebecca Rangel expressed a concern that ex-military personnel have been shown in studies to be more violent. Chief Dyer responded saying that the military is doing an excellent job of providing mental health services to military personnel. PD requires a pre-employment psychological exam.

Frank Franco advised that 44 kids have been channeled into trade unions and earn approximately \$40.00 an hour.

Enrique Cruz advised that 1100 persons had completed DUI classes with only 4 repeats this year.

Announcements:

None

Closing Remarks:

None.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.