

# Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

July 26, 2007

Present: Ed Bailey, Roz Clark, Frank Franco, Harry Gill, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Tom Gentile, Morgan Dolzaki, Luke Raughley, Vicki Bethel (for Michael Roth) Jan Sangster.

Absent: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Anthony Alaniz, Cary Catalano, Gordon Donoho, Paula Farris, Floyd Harris, Robert Harris, Lorena Martinez, Jesse McDonald, Enrique Reade, Deep Sethi, H. Spees, David Tittle, Darrell Tuckness.

Guests: Lt. Dennis Montejano, Sgt. Brian Rogers, Pat Barr

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 June 28, 2007 were approved with minor corrections.

Jim Poptanich made an observation that meeting attendance has been inconsistent. Chief Dyer advised that the attendance would be reviewed and presented at next meeting.

## Agenda Items:

### River Park

Chief Dyer; PD tried to stay out of this private matter, but is in the middle. 6/18 policy has been put in place by River Park management. Certain places are exempt, like Jamba Juice. We knew we were going to have to respond to enforce when juveniles were not cooperative, the city attorney advised that the policy was not constitutional and arrests may not be valid. Several years ago a similar issue arose at Fashion Fair with protesters. Citizen arrests were made and PD officers accepted the

suspects. The City of Fresno was sued and lost. The law says we must accept citizen arrests.

We plan on meeting with River Park to work out an agreement. The good news is awareness has been raised. Chief Dyer met with Ed Kashian to try to develop an educational program. River Park is delaying 30 days. Chief Dyer understands both sides of the issue.

Pat Barr - At Fashion Fair the security force is able to get the kids to cooperate. Positive influence by older people on the kids works, and they respond. Pat suggested some sort of patrol by parents or grand parents.

Chief Dyer- Cruise Control works the same way. Members of the community police the cruise.

Roz Clark – Neighborhood Watch is talking about curfew city wide, kids roaming streets after 10:00pm, until 2-3 am. Parents are letting other people watch them. Neighborhood Watch group would like to work on the issue to avoid graffiti etc.

Chief Dyer- Curfew centers could help but we have gotten away from them. City ordinance allows kids to be out after 10:00 to travel to and from an event, if kids are walking home it's ok, but standing around in parks is a violation.

Rebeca Rangel – 6:00 pm curfew is offensive, if they can take our money they should not exclude our kids. She has seen a few kids causing problems, but 90+ % are fine. Kids are part of the community, turn it into something positive, movies, aids education, etc.

Pat Barr – Older people need to be involved so that the kids will get to know them, most do not have grand mothers.

Jim Poptanich – Does not want PD wasting time on this. Police should not be taken off streets.

Morgan Dolzaki - Feels older people talking to them would be more effective. Approaching kindly would do good. Police should not waste time with this.

Chief Dyer - Officers should be on the streets for life threatening issues. PD will not do contract policing to enforce River Park policy. Could we have Parent Patrol wearing vests with training, on a trial basis?

Tom Gentile – Get Citizens On Patrol to patrol it.

Chief Dyer – We do use them in similar capacity.

Roz Clark – This needs to be a parent responsibility.

Tom Gentile – They won't get involved.

Chief Dyer – Talked to Ed Kashian, told him the awareness has been raised and parents will probably want to get involved.

Chief will take this input to the meeting and pose the ideas. The key things are parents involvement, no police involvement.

Jesse McDonald – Will city be responsible for liability?  
Chief Dyer – No, River Park will be.  
Chief – let River Park recruit and organize parents patrol.

### Board of Supervisors

Chief Dyer – County agreement for revenue sharing – The County Board Of Supervisors voted to break the current revenue sharing contract so the city would no longer receive a share of traffic citation fines. Chief Dyer did a presentation last Friday in hopes of helping them see the big picture. In a 1977 lawsuit, the county was allowed to keep all fines. This will expire in March of 2008. 41/2 years ago we negotiated an agreement with county so we could share revenues from fines for traffic safety. We recognized that the fines included money from traffic school revenue which the county keeps. We reached a new agreement, retroactive to 2003. The new agreement increased the county share to 2,166,000 + 40,000 for administrative costs. Over the 4 year period monies totaled 6.8 million. We spent 28 million on traffic enforcement, during same period the county was paid 8.8 million. They invested 0 in traffic safety. In absence of the agreement they would have gotten 5 million. 30% of ticket is categorized as a fine, the rest is a penalty and goes to the state. \$19 to EMS \$29 to county general fund, city gets none of the penalty portion. The County made about 26 million over 4 years. Chief Dyer explained that we saved lives. 53 fewer deaths last year, a 44% reduction. 11 fewer people died this year. The County voted 5-0 to keep current agreement.

Towed Vehicle Revenues (Rebecca Rangel inquired by email)  
Chief Dyer explained that part of the money we generate, like DUI's, the car is towed and impounded, fees are paid to release the vehicle. Money received from impounds offsets remaining traffic expenses, about 75%. Case law changed regarding unlicensed drivers. We no longer tow these vehicles. If a person is licensed in the car or responds they can take the car.

Rebecca Rangel – what about expired registration.

Chief Dyer – If the car is over 6 months expired it is towed.

Chief Dyer – Towed vehicles and revenues have gone down substantially. We have an appeals process if person has a problem.

### Arrest of General Vang Pao

Chief Dyer spoke to the Hmong community at the fair grounds last week, 7000 people showed up. The attendants were very respectful. This was an educational meeting. Many Hmong felt that we (FPD) were involved in the arrest. Chief Dyer explained that 3 forms of law enforcement were involved, local, state and federal.

Chief had promised members of the Hmong community he would set up a meeting with the US attorney, McGregor Scott and Steve Martin of ATF, Drew Parenti FBI. The meeting took place this week. 10 Hmong community members, Federal agencies, council member Blong Ziong and FPD met for 2 hours. Chief Dyer explained the process and factors involved in the investigation. Over the chief's career people have brought us info and we have an obligation to investigate. Information was brought to the federal government and they had an obligation to investigate. Crimes were occurring; people were trying to acquire fire arms illegally. ATF Steve Martin stated that the purchased AK47 assault weapons could be sold to criminal street gangs at a profit allowing the purchase of more guns.

Chief Dyer asked for comments from group.

Tom Gentile – There is a strong affection for the Hmong people among Vietnam era veterans. They rescued downed pilots and 36,000 died for us. There are still women being raped and murder in Laos.

Chief Dyer - A lot of healing took place at the meeting, McGregor Scott explained the process. 95-98% of cases result in a guilty plea. Tom Gentile – no weapons exchange took place on US soil. Money changed hands in Sacramento but no weapons.

Chief Dyer – We chose to stay uninvolved, only 3 officers assisted in case of emergency.

Paula Farris – all members of community have to follow the law.

Chief Dyer – younger generation of Hmong are trying to educate the older. Elderly Hmong do not understand.

### Running Horse

Chief Dyer – Heard today that one person in the community is holding out on the sale, from LA, and wants 6-7 times the fair market value for their land.

Jesse McDonald– There has been some talk about closing Kerney Blvd for the project. Do you agree to that as a city official?

Chief Dyer - I don't know enough about that. It will be a very sensitive issue with the west Fresno community.

Jesse McDonald - Trump has put this out in his negotiation, same thing happened years ago by closing streets for the Fulton Mall they killed down town.

Chief Dyer – Does not have info as he has not been involved in process.

Frank Franco – McEwen (Fresno Bee columnist) said it well, “we don't need to get star struck”, like the GAP airport project. We gave them whatever they needed. This is going to cost the tax payers a lot of money. The city gave the Gap 16 million dollars of land for \$2.

Most of the land Trump wants is outside the city sphere of influence, senior citizens will be hurt by being moved.  
Tom Gentile – Veterans are against movement, period. If they move they must be located within ¼ mile of current location, must be state and VA approved.

Promotions

The department is promoting staff officers. 1 captain (Randy Dobbins who will be assigned to SW) 4 lieutenants (Doyle, Vasquez, Rowe and Gomez)

We are also swearing in 24 new officers. A new part of the ceremony is “logging off”. This is a process for recently retired officers to leave the agency with some formality. Retiring officers will hand out badges to new officers. Recently a retired FPD officer killed himself. Police officers often suffer from a loss of identity and belonging after retirement.

Rebeca Rangel – Maybe we should pair up retired officers with new officers as mentors.

Chief Dyer - PAL and MGPI will be combined with Sgt. Brenda Trobaugh as the supervisor.

Frank Franco asked for assistance with moving the trolley car out of Trolley Creek Park. It has been badly vandalized and should be relocated.

Announcements:

None

Closing Remarks:

None.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.