

Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

November 29th, 2007

- Present: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Jimmy Bosquez, Ed Bailey, Roz Clark, Gordon Donoho, Morgan Doizaki, Harry Gill, Frank Franco, Jesse McDonald Jr., Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Tom Gentile, Enrique Reade, Yolanda Herrera (for Michael Roth), Jan Sangster, Debra Odom, Luke Raughley
- Absent: Floyd Harris, Deep Sethi, H. Spees, David Tittle, Darrell Tuckness, Paula Farris,
- Guests: D.C. Robert Nevarez (for Chief Dyer), Lt. Dennis Montejano, Lt. David Newton, Sgt. Brian Rogers, Lissa Parker, Pat Barr
- Call to Order: The meeting was held in the City Hall Annex Training Room and called to order at 5:32 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from October 25, 2007 were approved with no corrections.

Agenda Items:

Notes from NACOL RE: Mediation

Lt. Newton: Currently, if a civilian has a complaint against a police officer, the complaint is filed, it goes to the officer's supervisor, and the Department makes a determination as to whether the complaint warrants a formal IA investigation. The citizen doesn't make this determination, which occasionally results in the citizen feeling unhappy—often perceiving that nobody is paying appropriate attention to a complaint he/she feels is surely valid. This perceived dismissal may lead to lawsuits, bad press and/or negative public sentiment toward the PD.

One remedy proven successful in other large departments is mediation, wherein a trained and neutral third party meets with the officer and the complainant separately first, then together, in an attempt to resolve the issue without having a full IA investigation (in cases that don't automatically require IA Investigation).

This mediation process is good for the officer in that he/she may be able to avoid an IA inquiry as well as being able to learn more about his/her behaviors and the impact they may have on others. It is also good for the citizen as his/her complaint is heard and acknowledged directly and he/she has a chance to talk to the officer in person. It is also good for the Department in terms of saving money that may be spent on IA investigations. The resolution is confidential.

Rebeca Rangel: Process is shown to have a positive ripple effect into the community.

Officer Involved in Fatal Traffic Accident

D.C. Nevarez: Officer Craig Howard was off duty and driving home from work. He approached an intersection at which he was obligated to stop prior to making his right-

hand turn. The officer rolled through the stop sign at approximately 5 mph. As he did, his truck struck and killed a pedestrian jogging across the intersection.

When a death results from an infraction, the case is submitted to the D.A. for review. Manslaughter charges are possible. The officer has been placed on administrative duty pending review. He may be facing criminal charges as well as Departmental sanction.

General Updates

D.C. Nevarez:

- 1) Officers arrested three men in possession of over two thousand feet of copper wire they had recently stolen from 16 streetlights in Northwest Fresno. Stealing copper wire from streetlights has become a relatively common crime as the wire is worth some money from recyclers, etc. The city is working on a different configuration for streetlights to make such thievery more difficult. They are also discussing options regarding an identification system for the wire, preventing re-sale.
- 2) The Department has recently put a stop to a robbery series after the 4th robbery. Historically, robbery sprees generally involved 15 or 16 robberies over a series of months. This speaks to the Departments ability to spot and interrupt crime trends quickly.
- 3) MGPI summit was very successful.

Round Table

Yolanda Herrera (for Michael Roth): Wished to commend two officers (Ron Bridges and Carlos Gamboa) for handling a crisis situation professionally and compassionately. They did a very good job keeping the subjects at ease and keeping a situation from escalating.

Roz Clark: K-9 unit's collaborative effort with Neighborhood Watch--2008 K-9 Calendars sell for \$10.00 each and will benefit K-9's as well as Neighborhood Watch programs.

Jim Poptanich requested access to information regarding upcoming events.

Anyone who would like to be added to the POI's e-mail list for press releases, please let Lissa Know.

Enrique Reade: Scared Stiff program success: Of the 1700 people who have been through the DUI program, only 5 have repeated offenses.

Announcements:

None

Closing Remarks:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

January 31st, 2008