

Fresno Police Department Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

July 27, 2006

Present: Ed Bailey, Pat Barr (for Jan Sangster), Sylvia Chavez (in for Anthony Alaniz), Roz Clark, Gordon Donoho, Lawrence Garcia, Tom Gentile, Harry Gill, Robert Harris, Jesse McDonald, Jr., Debbie Nard, Reza Nekumanesh (for Kamal Abu Shamsieh), Jim Newman, Kathy Omachi, Rebeca Rangel, Enrique Reade (also for Gail Gaston), Michael Roth, Darrell Tuckness, David Tittle, Freddy Treminio (for Luke Raughley) and Chief Dyer.

Absent: Cary Catalano, Paula Farris, Frank Franco (excused), Floyd Harris, Deep Sethi, H. Spees and Lt. Dennis Montejano.

Guests: Sgt. Tim Hahn and Robert Sack.

The meeting was held in the City Hall Annex Training Room and called to order at 5:42 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from June 29, 2006 were approved.

Opening Remarks:

Chief Dyer noted that Lt. Dennis Montejano was unable to attend and that Frank Franco had undergone surgery, thus his absence is excused.

Agenda Items:

Heat Related Issues: Approximately 30 deaths have occurred in the Central Valley over the last two weeks due to excessive heat. The Chief feels that many of these deaths could have been prevented. In response to the heat, the City of Fresno has set up free cooling centers, FAX buses at specific locations with air conditioning, swimming pools, and Parks and Recreation is handing out bottled water to the homeless. Prior to July 27, only 800 people had visited a cooling center. The Chief stated this is sad because a few of the victims that had died were only a few blocks from a cooling center.

Update on the Joint Services: The City and County are in the process of discussing integration of the dispatch center, prisoner processing, property and evidence, and the governance of the joint centers. Some services can be

joined but not all are applicable for every department. The Fresno P.D. has different needs than the Sheriff's Department when it comes to law enforcement, such as search and rescue, boats, etc.. Currently the two departments work together with MAGEC, the meth task force, the new armored vehicle and other teams. If a service is more effective when merged, then it is worth joining together. A joint dispatch center would house fire, sheriff, and the PD. It would decrease response times and simplify communication between agencies. To join the helicopter units together would cost more money than currently housing them in separate hangars. A property and evidence joint storage makes sense because they are the exact same for both agencies. Currently the Fresno P.D. is duplicating prisoner processing. A prisoner comes into head quarters and is processed. They are then taken to the jail where they are processed again. A joint processing center would be logical and save time for the PD. A joint power authority would be made to oversee the new joint facilities.

Interagency Communication: No system is currently in place where all agencies (CHP, Clovis PD, Sheriff's, and Fresno PD) can communicate via radio. Recently \$7 million was used to purchase a radio for every police car in the county. The radio's have the ability to communicate with all other police radio's in the county so officers can best utilize each other's assistance. The Chief stated that out of all the things done between agencies, this is the most important.

Officer Recruitment/Retention: Over the last few years the Fresno P.D. has been having problems with officer retention and lateral recruitment. Fourteen officers have left over the last 16 months to other agencies for an increase in pay and benefits. Currently there are 33 vacancies for officers in Fresno and a normal attrition rate of approximately 35 officers a year. A new contract has been drafted that looks to not only retain officers but to also bring in laterals from other agencies. The contract is set over a three year period and emphasizes the 5 and 10 year marks in an officer's career. There is also added pay for anyone off of probation who is willing to work swing and midnight shifts. The Chief feels that the new contract will attract officers from other agencies as well as keep the current officers that were thinking about going to a different police department. Recruitment for the Fresno P.D. has been a problem in the past due to the high desirability to be an officer in the City of Fresno. The Chief also added that due to the new shortage, recruitment teams are being put together to go to different events and locations to try and recruit officers.

Officer and drugs house: A Fresno P.D. officer was found to be living in a house where drugs and large amounts of cash were being stored. The officer is a co-owner of the residence with his mother. The officer's step-brother

was living in the residence and had drugs and cash in his room, located inside of a locked box. The room was locked and no other drugs or money was found at the location. Surveillance was done of the residence and the officer was not seen in any illegal activity. Internal Affairs is dealing with the incident and will “iron out” what needs to take place in regards to the officer.

Update on Video Policing: Right now a policy is being developed for video policing. Of all the other cities that use video policing, the Chief stated that he was unable to find a policy in place for any of them. He feels that, due to the lack of policy in other agencies, Fresno’s video policing policy may be adopted nation wide. The policy should be done by the next CAB meeting and will be approximately 12 pages long.

Announcements:

Tuesday August 1 is National Night Out and is being sponsored by Target. The districts are having parties at Target locations; food and drink will be provided along with entertainment.

Rebeca Rangel warned the board of pan handlers that she came into contact with in front a grocery store. They had the YMCA emblem on their clip boards and stated they were raising money for basketball. The YMCA told her they do not function that way and to be aware of imposters.

On August 7 there will be a Purple Heart dedication ceremony at Tulare and F.

On September 9 Health Net is sponsoring a 2.5 mile health and fitness run/walk at Roding Park. It is a free event with food, drinks, and entertainment.

Closing Remarks:

None

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

