



Agenda

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 4:00 PM
City Council Chambers
200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of April 17, 2007 minutes
4. Old business:
 NONE
5. New business:
 - A. Santa Fe Police Department recruiting update; Sergeant Gillian Folmar-Alessio, Officer Marvin Paulk
 - B. Crime Prevention Unit report, Sergeant David Webb
 - C. Update of recent roundtable matters; Terry Rodriguez, Community Services
 - D. Proposed ordinance amending section 24-2.6 SFCC 1987 to restrict truck, truck trailer and other large vehicle traffic on Camino Carlos Rael between West Alameda Street and the City Limits; Councilor Chris Calvert, Rick Devine, Signal Engineer
 - E. Proposed ordinance amending section 12-12-8 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code to allow private individuals to issue parking citations; Councilor Karen Heldmeyer, Bill Hon, Parking Division
 - F. Proposed resolution creating an Office of Fire Chaplain; Councilor Karen Heldmeyer, Fire Chief Chris Rivera
6. Matters from Police Chief Eric Johnson
7. Matters from Fire Chief Chris Rivera
8. Matters from Municipal Court
 - A. Report regarding Pedestrian Ordinance
9. Matters from Committee Members
10. Communications from the Floor
11. Adjournment

For information regarding the agenda, you can call Shannon Cantu at 955-5010. Interpreter for the hearing impaired is available through the City Clerk's Office upon five days notice. Please call 955-6521.

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MAY 15, 2007

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MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Santa Fe, New Mexico

May 15, 2007

A scheduled meeting of the City of Santa Fe Public Safety Committee was called to order by Councilor Karen Heldmeyer on this date at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll Call Indicated the Presence of a Quorum as Follows:

Councilor Dr. Karen Heldmeyer, Chair
Mr. Herb Harris, Vice-Chair
Dr. Mike Mier
Dr. Nancy Owen-Lewis
Mr. Frank Stuto
Mr. Pete Mizrahi

Member(s) Excused:

Mr. Michael Bowen
Mr. Henry Valdez

Staff Present:

Chief Eric Johnson, Santa Fe Police Department
Fire Chief Chris Rivera, Santa Fe Fire Department
Shannon Cantu, Santa Fe Police Department
Michelle Babcock, Santa Fe Police Department
Terri Rodriguez, Interim Director, Community Services Department
Bill Hon, Director, City of Santa Fe Parking Division
Capt. Gary Johnson, Santa Fe Police Department
Sgt. Gillian Folmar-Alessio, Santa Fe Police Department
Officer Marvin Paulk, Santa Fe Police Department
Rick Devine, Signal Engineer, City of Santa Fe
Jeanne Price, Senior Planner

Others Present:

Dale Sragi
Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer

Approval of Agenda:

Dr. Mier moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes:

Regarding the February 22, 2007, Chair Heldmeyer explained that she checked with Yolanda Vigil, who informed her that any member, even if they were absent at the meeting, could vote for the approval of the minutes.

February 22, 2007 minutes:

Mr. Mizrahi moved for approval of the February 22, 2007 minutes. Dr. Mier seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

April 17, 2007 minutes:

Vice-Chair Harris moved for approval of the April 17, 2007 minutes. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chief Johnson explained that Officer Paulk and Sgt. Allesio were running late to the meeting, and asked if it would be possible to move on to Item B under New Business.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

A. Crime Prevention Unit Report- Sergeant David Webb, Santa Fe Police Department

Sgt. Webb explained that he is currently in charge of the Crime Prevention Unit for the Police Department. He said that he has been with the Police Department for 19 years. In November 2006, Sgt. Webb was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Effective December 2006, he took over supervision of the Crime Prevention Unit. At that time, the focus for the unit was preventing crime during the holiday season. Also at that time, the Police Department was able to do a television ad on the Public Access Channel on crime prevention for the shopping centers.

The Unit gave meals to 75 families, as well as working with Santa Fe Chevrolet to donate a van to a needy family that needed a vehicle.

In January 2007, Sgt. Webb explained that he served as a liaison with various topics including bank security associations, Santa Fe Police Citizen's Academy, as well as activating the Spring Class for 2007. Approximately 175 citizens have graduated from the Academy.

The Crime Prevention Public Relations Unit runs the New Mexico Special Olympics. The Unit also participates in the New Mexico Torch Run, and throughout the year officers raise funds for the Special Olympics Olympians statewide, as well as locally.

In 2005, SFPD came in #1 with a \$5,000 amount in donations, of which \$4,155 was raised last year.

The Unit conducts Career Day programs giving safety awareness information through presentations, as well as coordinating different efforts through Parks and Recreation every year.

Law Enforcement Day incorporates 10 to 15 law enforcement agencies from around the state, where the agencies display various department vehicles and equipment. The Citizen's Academy Alumni assists the Unit with various community functions on a volunteer basis.

The Unit conducts Safety Awareness lectures for community groups and private businesses. The lectures are varied and catered to the specific audiences, and includes gang awareness and training.

The Unit conducts identity theft trainings for different agencies around the state.

The Unit gives information regarding Neighborhood Watch Safety Tips, including how to secure homes and make homes more "theft proof." The Unit also conducts Business Watch for local businesses throughout the city, as well as conducting Public Safety announcements on KSWV Radio and through the local newspapers.

The Unit conducts fingerprinting for citizens throughout the community who need background checks for childcare, liquor licenses, and other occupational necessities. Chair Heldmeyer asked if the city charges for fingerprinting. Sgt. Webb explained that there is a \$5 per card charge for fingerprinting, except for city employees.

Mail and Money Runs are a daily pass, where the Unit collects all the moneys for Animal Control, the DWI program, and Records. The money is then turned into the City's Cashier's Office.

Officer Montoya is now chairing the Santa Fe Police Explorer Program. The program is sponsored and insured through the Boy Scouts of America. The Police Department provides uniforms for the youth between 14 to 20 years old. Since 1997, ten officers have been recruited from the Explorer Program.

Officer Pratts conducts Neighborhood Watch Training for the Santa Fe North area. He also acts in the capacity of Lead Officer. Under this Capacity, Officer Pratts has been charged with the task of establishing programs to address community needs and progress with new technological advances in policing and crime prevention. He has also been working to enhance interpersonal police relations with the communities the officers serve.

The "Casey Says" Program addresses truancy throughout the Public Schools. Officer Pratts has conducted this program throughout the Santa Fe Public School District for a number of years. He also provides instruction to the Elementary School students regarding safety, drug and gang information, and stranger danger awareness.

Both Officer Pratts and Officer Montoya conduct burglary campaigns throughout the city. This consists of distributing burglary prevention literature. The officers also have initiated pedestrian safety campaigns, including distributing pedestrian safety fliers.

Officer Pratts handles the Annual Fest a Float every year with the Public Relations School, designing and developing a float each year for Fiestas. Officer Pratts is responsible for informing officers about the COPS program. Each May is Law Enforcement Month, and there will be a law enforcement memorial in several weeks, in which the Crime Prevention Unit and Public Relations participates in the memorial.

Officer Montoya is responsible for introducing educational programs and events into the local high schools and middle schools to include DWI awareness.

The Training Cart Program is also part of Crime Prevention.

The Crime Prevention Unit takes part in various administrative functions including patrol, traffic surveys, and Department assisted assignments. The Unit also assists with securing crime scenes, as well as all other appointments and scheduling.

Crime Prevention Unit trainings provide the community with information on specific topics. Officer Webb said that police officers have to attend a 40-hour a year in-service to maintain their certification.

There have been twelve new neighborhood watch programs initiated since late December 2006. Four new requests have arrived this week, and the scheduling is in process, and will take between two weeks to a month for a watch program to be activated.

Officer Webb anticipated within the next few months, 40 to 50 new neighborhood watch programs would be arriving in the Tierra Contenta area alone.

The Unit responds to school campus problems such as bomb scares, student threat reports, and assault cases at the schools.

Crime Prevention officers are currently working on 178-neighborhood watch programs to revitalize a current list of block captains with email addresses. Officer Pratts attended a Law Enforcement Day today in Albuquerque.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if the Neighborhood Watch program was done by the Crime Prevention Unit in the county as well as the city. Officer Webb explained that the responses from the Unit to calls in La Cienega were in response to the shooting incident that took place there.

Daily traffic reports are done almost every morning on KSWV 810 AM Radio.

The Unit will conduct ICS Emergency Management Training.

There will be an Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service held at the Law Enforcement Academy.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run will be held this Friday.

There will be a Family Fun Festival on the Plaza in July.

Sgt. Webb explained that he wants to activate the Unit's ATV program to conduct close patrols on walking trails in the city. Close patrols have already begun in the Tierra Contenta area and the Navajo-Brae Street area. He added that he receives daily reports on burglaries that are being investigated.

Chair Heldmeyer said that at a neighborhood watch meeting she attended yesterday, Officer Montoya said that 25 watch programs were currently active. Sgt. Webb explained that each of the 178 programs have been equally divided, and are being updated by the Department officers.

Dr. Mier asked if the Unit only charges for the fingerprinting service. Sgt. Webb explained that fingerprinting is the only service that is charged. The Citizen's Academy charges citizens \$25 for the courts, at which time each class is provided dinner. The \$25 provides the citizens with a T-shirt, coffee mug for graduation at the end of the class.

Dr. Mier asked if the Sheriff's Department and the State Police are involved with the Crime Prevention Unit. Sgt. Webb explained that both are involved with the Unit.

Dr. Mier asked if the Public Safety Committee could be provided with a list of those neighborhoods that are currently active with a neighborhood watch program, as well as those neighborhoods that have been inactive. Sgt. Webb agreed to that.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if the Unit has enough flexibility to adjust the focus when specific safety problems in specific areas arise. Sgt. Webb explained that he has to prioritize the events, specifically with the current demand for neighborhood watch programs.

Chair Heldmeyer asked Chief Johnson whether the Mail Money Run could be contracted out to a security company. Chief Johnson explained that this idea was discussed last year, but the cost to contract the work out would be more expensive than having the Department take care of it on its own. Chair Heldmeyer explained that one possibility would be to look at what non-sworn personnel could do, and use the money to free up the officers to what only they can do. Chief Johnson explained that the Public Safety Aides sometimes assist with the Mail Run, but there was a concern since the Public Safety Aides are unarmed while working with the money.

Chair Heldmeyer said that she would like to see Chief Johnson possibly present an estimate to the Finance Committee as to what it would cost to get a security company to work in this capacity, and relieve the burden on the sworn officers.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked if there was a way to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs. Sgt. Webb explained that FBI statistics show that neighborhood watch programs nationwide decrease crime in neighborhoods up to 95%, providing the programs are conducted the way they're supposed to be. He added that the Unit tries to stress getting people activated in the watch programs.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked if there were local statistics available. Sgt. Webb said that there has been a rise in calls for service, adding that this is the Unit's goal.

Chief Johnson explained that a majority of these programs have community interest.

Dr. Mier asked if the programs have been evaluated to see if there is a possibility that non-commissioned officers or citizens could be trained to perform some of the Unit services. Sgt. Webb explained that the problem is that the citizens in various communities like seeing officers conducting these trainings and being part of these events. He added that the Albuquerque Police Department has a Crime Prevention Unit that is manned by non-commissioned personnel, and their success rate with the programs "is bad." Feedback has shown that residents there want to see commissioned officers that have the proper training distribute the information to help prevent crime. Dr. Mier asked if hiring non-commissioned personnel could at some point be an option. Sgt. Webb explained that the Unit currently only has two other officers in it, so it wouldn't make that much of a difference at the present time.

Chair Heldmeyer felt that all police departments across the country are having problems with recruiting, and therefore numerous departments are beginning to re-evaluate this problem.

Chief Johnson explained that the vacancies at the Police Department are in various areas, and that the Department is looking to staff the patrol vacancies first.

B. Santa Fe Police Department Recruiting Update- Sgt. Gillian Folmar-Alessio and Officer Marvin Paulk

Officer Paulk explained that a group from the Police Department traveled to Oregon to possibly recruit some of the 100 officers there who were going to be laid off. The local governing body there delayed laying the officers off, so the Police Department did not receive a large net gain of officers there.

Officer Paulk that recruiting is a long-term issue. He added that one of his duties have been background investigations which he added take numerous candidates out of the recruitment process very quickly.

Officer Paulk introduced Sgt. Alessio.

Chair Heldmeyer asked Sgt. Alessio if she could discuss the philosophy the recruitment process, as well as some of the challenges that have come up with the process. Sgt. Alessio explained that this is the first time the Police Department has had a recruiting budget. She said that the challenge has been readjusting the recruitment process to fit with the changes in the department because of retirements.

Sgt. Alessio said that recruiting has to be a “strong dedicated goal in any police department.” She added that the same recruiting base for the military is the same recruiting base for law enforcement, so the national military recruiting rate is taking a toll on a local level. Ammunition is also an issue and is currently on a 6 to 12 month backlog.

Sgt. Alessio said that the Department is attempting to expand recruiting efforts outside the state. She added that six representatives from the Department traveled to Oregon in recruiting efforts. She added that they are planning on streamlining their recruiting process in going to other cities around the country that are laying off law enforcement officials.

Sgt. Alessio said that a few of the recruitment ideas that have been discussed are working with Intel to get contact with 1,000 employees who are being laid off, and who might be interested in careers in law enforcement. She added that the Department is also addressing in-state lateral programs. In addition, the Department is looking at possibilities for retention of officers, who might be ready for retirement on paper, but personally not ready to retire. Another possibility that the Department is actively researching would be tapping into the pool of interested immigrants as well.

Sgt. Alessio explained that they have put together an “At Hawk” Recruiting Committee, and they are working to make this Committee more representative of the community.

Officer Paulk explained that expenditures for advertisement are an important aspect of the recruitment initiatives. He added that the Department has received some free radio advertising, as well as some paid advertising.

To date, the recruitment effort has spent \$63,371.21, which was taken from the original budget of \$136,625. There is currently \$73,253.70 remaining of the recruitment budget. He added that the remaining funds would probably be used, and that they would probably requesting more funding in about six months.

Chair Heldmeyer asked Officer Paulk what kind of timeline is being looked at to see whether the advertising is successful. Officer Paulk said that the timeline would be between six months to a year, but added that it is hard to determine a specific time frame.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if officers that refer individuals that do qualify and joins the force are paid a bonus by the city. Officer Paulk explained that the Department has thought about offering these bonuses, but has not instituted these bonuses yet. Chair Heldmeyer

explained that it might be an option to pursue with money that is available for public safety. Chief Johnson explained that this is an option that the Department would evaluate.

Dr. Mier asked Officer Paulk if individuals who hear about the Department recruitment through various publications are asked which specific publication they heard about the recruitment programs through. Officer Paulk explained that they do ask individuals where they read about the recruitment programs.

Dr. Mier asked if there are incentives for officers who choose to stay on with the Department longer and delay their retirement. Officer Paulk explained that there are no incentives offered at this time.

Dr. Mier suggested involving several members of the Public Safety Committee in the Department's recruitment efforts. Officer Paulk explained that part of the Department's recruitment effort is to enlist the assistance of different individuals from different community civic and faith-based groups.

Dr. Mier explained that he doesn't favor with recruitment efforts is "fishing the same fishing hole." He acknowledged that he understood that there are incentives, but added that it is a disservice because it shifts the resources around within the community. He felt that the City Council would support an increase in the budget for this purpose if the Department could come up with a plan for recruitment.

Chief Johnson explained recruitment is a delicate situation, especially when other agencies are being discussed with similar issues.

Vice-Chair Harris asked Officer Paulk how many of the 78 individuals actually passed the testing phase to get into the Academy. Officer Paulk explained that during the 9-phase selection process, zero to four applicants are lost at any given phase. In the last six months, the Department has hired a total of nine officers from the 78 original applicants.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked how many vacancies there are in the Police Department currently. Officer Paulk explained that there are 20 vacancies currently, that the Department is trying to fill carefully and quickly.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that recruitment of police officers is difficult all over the country. She asked if recruitment letters have been sent to individuals who met the qualification requirements for the Santa Fe Fire Department, but were not among the top group that got hired. Officer Paulk explained that at this time, the Department has not taken any further steps towards considering this option, but added that haven't ruled out the possibility.

Chief Johnson explained that the Department is working closely with the Union as well.

C. Update on the Recent Roundtable- Terri Rodriguez, Interim Director, Community Services Department

Ms. Rodriguez explained that 30 people attended the Roundtable discussion. She explained that some of the issues that were discussed at the Roundtable were different than what the Crime Prevention Unit presented.

Ms. Rodriguez discussed the idea of working with the Crime Prevention Unit to incorporate various things into the recreation division and public address departments.

The group at the Roundtable discussed enhancing some of the issues that are currently going on now with various youth programs. One event that was organized that received some good press coverage was the Mother's Day March for Peace at Franklin Miles Park. There were 60 participants in the March.

The Community Services Department also organizes a Youth Summit. Ms. Rodriguez said that she is hoping to enhance the Summits with some possible life skills training and job preparation.

The Community Dialogues have addressed issues of violence between local youth and immigrant youth, as well as the gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual communities that have suffered a lot of discrimination and violence. She added that she was pleased with the success of that group. Ms. Rodriguez explained that the Dialogue Networks were a good thing for the Police Department as well.

One suggestion that was proposed was to resurrect the Police Athletic Leagues. They discussed the idea of coordinating the Police Athletic Leagues with some youth leagues to not have some new leagues come out of both groups.

The group discussed the possibility for internships and mentorships.

The Mayor's Youth Coffees will continue. One idea that came from one Coffee meeting was the idea for a Youth Bulletin Board for events listings for youth.

There are dances, movie and dinner nights, bowling nights, car shows that have been proposed with a new youth aspect to each idea. Ms. Rodriguez explained that she would like to propose enhancing some of these existing events.

Ms. Rodriguez explained one idea would be to pool people with interests in these proposed ideas to work with smaller groups on these ideas.

Chair Heldmeyer said that one of the issues at the last Mayor's Coffee was that there were more Youth Provider groups present than there were actually youth present at that meeting. She added that it would be nice to have more consolidation of services.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that there were a lot of comments at the Summit about the relationship between youth and the Police Department.

Ms. Rodriguez explained that there were two coffees scheduled, one for the youth providers and another one specifically for youth.

Ms. Banish explained that with regard to the work group, the schools have stated that they would be willing to help in whatever ways possible.

Ms. Rodriguez explained that one idea was to schedule a meeting with both youth and the Police Department.

D. Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 24-2.6 SFCC 1987 to Restrict Truck, Truck Trailer and Other Large Vehicle Traffic on Camino Carlos Rael Between West Alameda Street and the City Limits-Councilor Chris Calvert, Rick Devine, Signal Engineer

(Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 24-2.6 SFCC 1987 to Restrict Truck, Truck Trailer and Other Large Vehicle Traffic on Camino Carlos Rael Between West Alameda Street and the City Limits incorporated into these minutes as Exhibit "A")

Mr. Mizrahi asked if this was a continuation of the other ordinances that have been previously brought before the Committee. Mr. Devine explained that it was.

Vice-Chair Harris asked what happened to the idea of consolidating these streets under one single ordinance. Mr. Devine explained that he believed that this was how the streets were listed at this time.

Dr. Mier moved to recommend approval of the Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 24-2.6 SFCC 1987. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

E. Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 12-12-8 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code to Allow Private Individuals to Issue Parking Citations-Councilor Karen Heldmeyer, Bill Hon, Parking Division

(Ordinance Amending Section 12-12-8 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code to Allow Private Individuals to Issue Parking Citations incorporated into these minutes as Exhibit "B")

Chair Heldmeyer explained that the city already allows uniformed security guards at malls and shopping centers to be trained to give tickets for fire lane violations and ADA spaces. She added that in other cities, private individuals with proper training and identification have been allowed to issue citations on ADA violations. This ordinance is designed to do that. The proposed ordinance based on something that is done in other cities around the country.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked how effective this ordinance is in other cities. Chair Heldmeyer said that it is very effective because the people who sign up for the training are people

who take the issue of parking in ADA spaces very seriously. She added that these people are very aggressive about issuing tickets as well.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked what the procedure would be for individuals who are commissioned to issue these citations. Mr. Hon explained that he researched other city programs to come up with a standard operating procedure in order for these people to be commissioned to write tickets for these violations. One of his concerns was that the ADA parking violation carries with it a \$500 fine and a mandatory court appearance. The judge at that time of the individual's court appearance can reduce that fine to \$250.

The various requirements for these individuals issuing parking citations would be that they would have to be a U.S. citizen, be a high-school graduate or hold an equivalent GED certificate, and have a valid New Mexico driver's license. Individuals must also pass a criminal history and background investigation and complete an oral interview. Individuals must also meet the qualifications for a special parking enforcement commission.

Mr. Hon added that individuals must meet the minimum qualification of set hours. He added that one idea is to have individuals ride in pairs at specific times, and volunteer for 20 hours per month with two hours of monthly training per month.

Mr. Hon explained that a lot of the volunteers in larger communities are retired enforcement officers. He added that he is encouraging the program, but that it should be closely controlled.

Chief Johnson explained that his biggest concern is the safety aspects and how missed court appearances would be dealt with. Mr. Hon explained that safety is a big concern. He added that there would not be a liability issue as long as the city provides the individuals with specific Emergency Communication Equipment. He said that there are numerous issues that could be dealt with to make this ordinance work.

Judge Yalman explained that the Court has had to double the amount of time spent on parking since the new handicapped ordinance was put in place. She added that half the people who appear in court have valid handicapped placards. Mr. Hon explained that many times people don't post their placards properly in their car and therefore are ticketed.

Mr. Hon explained that the Parking Division is working to streamline the process so that members of the disabled community who have received an incorrect citation does not have to go through the hassle of appearing in court.

Vice-Chair Harris felt that charging violators \$500 for parking in handicapped spaces illegally did not make sense. Judge Yalman explained that the State Statute designates the fine. She added that she usually charges \$250 for a first offense.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked Judge Yalman if this ordinance will help address the problem of illegal parking in handicapped spaces, or will it create new problems. Judge Yalman was concerned that it might create new problems.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that what she is heard from the Mayor's Committee on Disabilities, is that ADA parking is not being enforced at the shopping center and mall parking lots, and they see the ordinance as a legal way of dealing with this issue.

Mr. Mizrahi asked if the Committee could have more input regarding the ordinance.

Mr. Stuto had reservations approving the ordinance at all at this point.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked if there are ways that this issue could be addressed instead of proposing an ordinance such as this, through education and fine awareness.

Mr. Hon explained that the fine is posted clearly on every sign in the Business Capitol district. He added that he was unsure what designated signs say outside the Business Capitol district. He added that city makes inspections of private properties hiring private security personnel, and if the property does not meet proper ADA regulations, the security personnel doesn't receive certification to issue ADA citations until ADA spaces are clearly marked and meets ADA requirements.

Ms. Price explained that she is working with Mr. McQuarie to update the city's ADA parking regulations in Chapter 14 Land Development Laws. She added that a bill addressing these updates will probably be introduced soon and be presented to the various city committees.

Mr. Mizrahi moved to postpone a vote on the proposed ordinance until the next Committee meeting for more information. Vice-Chair Harris seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

F. Proposed Resolution Creating an Office of Fire Chaplain-Councilor Karen Heldmeyer, Fire Chief Chris Rivera

Chief Rivera explained that the Department does have a Fire Chaplain, but they have been using the services of the Police Department Fire Chaplain, who has volunteered his time. The Department is attempting to become the first Department in the state Fire that recognizes the position of Fire Chaplain.

Vice-Chair Harris moved to recommend approval of the proposed resolution creating an Office of Fire Chaplain. Mr. Stuto seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Matters From Fire Chief Rivera:

The graduation for the 14 cadets will be this Friday. There were also two laterals that were hired. The cadets will start the Saturday following Friday's graduation.

Matters From Police Chief Johnson:

Chief Johnson explained that the Police Department does have vacancies, but that they continue to manage the resources. He added that there are some concerns by residents regarding the recent sexual assaults, and explained that these investigations take time.

Chief Johnson explained that there has been some community concern following the stabbing in April, the bomb scare incident, and the double shooting at Franklin Miles Park. He said that these are all issues that the Department is currently addressing. Arrests have also been made on these cases.

Arrests were also made in the shooting case at Rancho Siringo.

The Department is maintaining minimum staffing levels.

Chief Johnson added that these types of incidents wouldn't be tolerated.

There have also been some internal issues within the Department as well.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked how the members of the Public Safety Committee could help. Chief Johnson explained that there are different aspects that the community can help with, including public education. He added that the Department is currently addressing the problem of auto burglaries.

Chief Johnson explained that an arrest was made this afternoon of an individual who was taking inappropriate pictures of women in the downtown area. He added that the Police Department is continuing to respond to calls that come in.

Mr. Mizrahi felt that city residents should start thinking "outside the box" to give the Police Department the tools and resources needed to do their job. Chief Johnson met with Sheriff Solano about combining some resources to deal with specific problems, including traffic problems, pedestrian safety issues, and problems of violence. He added that the problems affect not just the city, but affect the county as well.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that there is a great concern regarding the number of recent sexual assaults. Chief Johnson explained that Carol Horowitz, as the new Domestic Violence Coordinator, is addressing many of the issues relating to the sexual assaults, and has put statistics together on some of the recent incidents as well.

Chair Heldmeyer asked who the lead officers are for that case. Chief Johnson explained that four officers are working with cases relating to these incidents.

Capt. Johnson explained that the arrest of Mr. Giba was significant. He added that the Department felt the need to continue to continue their investigations though. Capt. Johnson explained that there was another significant arrest made today of an individual with a history of sexual assault incidents. The arrest of Toby Griego is being investigated to see if there are connections with any of the recent assaults. The lead detectives on the

case are Detective John Borth, who is handling the Giba investigation, and Detective Tony Trujillo, as well as Detective Jose Valencia, who is the lead detective on the Irvine Street attack. He added that the investigation is developing, and the Department is working closely with the crime lab to resolve issues regarding the questions surrounding the DNA.

Matters From the Municipal Court:

Judge Yalman explained that drivers who enter an intersection when there are pedestrians present a fine of \$10 plus court costs of \$41, for a combined fine total of \$51. She added that the city ordinance is off a little. The standard penalty for that violation is 90 days in jail and a fine of up to \$300. She wanted to bring this error to the attention of the Public Safety Committee. Ordinance 12-6-14.2 in the city ordinance should be classified as a petty misdemeanor. She added that pedestrian safety is an important issue in this community.

The new case management is in place. The city prosecutor will have access to the Municipal Court records on his computer at his office, which should “streamline matters.”

Judge Yalman explained that the Court is still in the process of entering old cases into the system, which will probably take a year to complete.

Judge Yalman attended a course at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada on substance abuse. She added that the Municipal Court does have the Drug Court that has been established.

Matters from Committee Members:

Chair Heldmeyer attended a neighborhood watch meeting yesterday, which was helpful in dispelling myths as to what the statistics have stated.

Communications From The Floor:

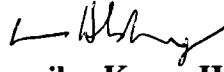
Dale Sragi, 1070 Calle Largo asked Chief Johnson how many commissioned officers are there at the Police Department. In addition, Mr. Sragi asked how many officers are on patrol during any one given shift. He added that there is approximately a shortage of 20 open positions, but asked whether some funding should be made available for the Department’s recruiting program.

Mr. Sragi explained that arrests for burglaries aren’t listed in the newspaper. He felt that some of those arrests should be published to ease the worries of local residents.

Adjournment:

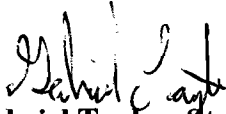
Its business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Approved by



Councilor Karen Heldmeyer, Chair

Submitted by



Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer