

LATINO ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE POLICE CHIEF

Meeting Minutes for

January 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 a.m. in the Kent Donahue Room at the Greeley Police Department Headquarters, 2875 W. 10th Street by Council member Sandi Elder.

Those present were, Jerry Garner, Chief of Police; Mike Salazar, United States Forest Service; Joe Perez; Adolf Diaz, Founder Migrant Christmas Fiesta Committee/Scholarship Fund; Inacio Ramos; Cpt. Mark Jones, GPD; Cpt. Mike Savage, GPD; Teri Gutierrez, Sr. Administrative Specialist GPD.

Sandi Elder wanted everyone to know that May Hendershot-Martinez was not able to attend, because she and her husband were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Congratulations May!

Chief Garner welcomed everyone and began by mentioning the department's Strategic Plan, which is now three years old (a handout was provided of the Strategic plan – please see attached). Some items have been accomplished (such as the 800 MHz radios have been replaced), some will continue to be worked on and new items may be added.

A subject that the Chief wished more people had attended the meeting for; a District 6 official contacted the Chief and asked if ICE had been conducting raids. Some staff and kids from Madison and Billy Martinez had heard that ICE was conducting raids on homes to deport people. The Chief had heard nothing about this. In turn Chief Garner contacted ICE and they confirmed that no raids have been conducted and no raids are being planned. Chief Garner requested committee members let people know this is just a rumor.

Another item that the Police Department is doing along with the Fire Department is a Public Safety Leadership Institute. Chief Garner and Chief MacDonald, the City's Fire Chief, have been discussing the fact that some of their leadership is getting towards the end of their careers (an example is the Fire Chief and the Fire Department's number two person, are both retiring in 2016). It would be ideal if promotions came from within. That's always the best situation for the departments. Classes are held monthly, there are outside speakers, homework assignments and presentations included for the participants. Both departments are including all Supervisory positions. This is, simply put, succession planning.

The Police Department is putting together a body worn camera pilot program for the second half of the year. There has been a committee working on this since March of last year. The pilot program will consist of 6-8 volunteer officers wearing the cameras. There are many items to think of when putting this together; we have to think of policies, procedure, storage options and privacy issues. The reason Greeley didn't jump on the bandwagon sooner is so other Cities could run into the road bumps and work out some of the glitches before we started our program.

Chief Garner stated that officer buy-in is a very important part to the entire program; Officers need to see the good in this program, for it to work and run smoothly.

Mr. Perez stated body cameras should be a show of trust and transparency for the community.

The Chief said, one work program for the Police Department (this is something done over and above the everyday work that we do) is transparency and accountability.

Sandi Elder would like to put together a proactive letter to the Tribune on what the Latino Advisory Committee is all about. She would like everyone to think about the impact this committee has had on our community. Please send your thoughts and ideas into Teri Gutierrez, Chief Garner's Sr.

Administrative person. You can email her at teri.gutierrez@greeleypd.com. Once the letter is put together we will have all members sign the letter before it is sent to the Tribune.

Chief Garner is reconnecting with KFKA radio station, as one more avenue to get information out to the community.

Captain Mike Savage provided a briefing on a homicide that occurred in west Greeley last December. This homicide grew out of a party that got out of hand. The deceased's name is Greg Medina born in '81. He and his girlfriend were at party, drinking was involved; Mr. Medina and some other people, who subsequently were former gang members, got into an argument as to which gang was tougher. Mr. Medina ended up being stabbed several times. The suspect, Dmitri Manzanares, fled the scene. People tried first aid, however they were not successful. The call (to 911) came in originally as a "Medical Call". When First responders arrived on scene they called for police back up. While all of that was happening, family members of Mr. Manzanares tried to cover up the crime. Because of that two other people were arrested, Amanda Mata, sister to the suspect and Kayla Caceres, the suspect's girlfriend. The suspect was arrested for 2nd degree murder.

Chief Garner explained that the Greeley Police Department and the DA will seek to put a person in jail if they have anything to do with a murder. The two women arrested in that homicide case were accessories to murder. The message is, don't get involved in a major crime in any way, or you will pay the consequences.

Captain Mark Jones talked about recruitment. The department has hired four people; they are all now attending the academy.

The timeline for the next hiring phase is already established. The department tries to align the application/hiring process with the academy graduation to keep things moving.

Cpt. Jones talked about the department's new Facebook recruiting page and the new greeting on the City website. The department is also now accepting applications throughout the year and kept on file.

Cpt. Jones gave a report on Crime Statistics for 2015. Numbers are not complete; however he feels they are relatively accurate. Part One Crimes (major crimes – such as rape and murder) Greeley is down about 21% (National statics won't be out until around June). The department is also down by about 20% for lesser crimes. Clearance percentage is above the national standards. 2015 was a good year, but there will be years that crime spikes back up.

Chief Garner mentioned that he was contacted by a parole official regarding the fact that some pretty bad people are getting out of prison in the near future. These are career criminals and something like this can affect crime rates.

Roundtable Sharing Session:

Joe Perez

Mr. Perez mentioned that he had attended the Citizens Police Academy; he found the program to be very beneficial and informative.

The body worn camera committee is finalizing their work. The committees' next meeting is January 20, 2016. They are putting together a briefing for the legislature in March.

Mike Salazar, United States Forest Service

Mr. Salazar is busy doing end of year and beginning of year work. Mr. Salazar's office is moving to Ault, May 1st.

Mr. Salazar was interested in who would be writing the Tribune letter? Sandi Elder replied she would like Chief Garner to write it, after everyone has sent in their input. Sandi would like to get the letter out sometime in March.

The Forestry Service holds Safety meetings the first Wednesday of every month. Mr. Salazar is wondering if someone from the Police Department could come and speak about potential terrorist threats. Captain Savage will contact Mr. Salazar about a speaker.

Adolph Diaz, Founder of the Migrant Christmas Fiesta

Mr. Diaz commended the police response on the Northridge event that occurred last November.

The Migrant Christmas Fiesta went very well; the members did a fantastic job.

Inacio (Nacho) Ramos

Mr. Ramos is working on a drug awareness program at Jefferson High School. The Elks club used to pay for speakers to come and talk with the students. Captain Savage said that he would set something up with one of the Greeley Police Officers to speak with the students.

The Elks club is working on raising money for the Vets Memorial.

Sandi Elder, City Council Member

Council is working on this year's priorities and the fact that they are displaced right now. The building where Council meetings are held, Fire Station One is housed and where Municipal Court and the Library are, will be torn down to build a hotel conference center. Things are moving along quickly however there are many moving parts in this endeavor. In the interim Council meetings will be held at District 6. They will share the room with the District for an indefinite period of time. The Library may move to the City Hall building; however that building isn't structurally sound enough for the weight of the books. There is a legal battle going on regarding the library and this move. Sandi did state that the library will stay on the North side of town.

The meeting was adjourned by Sandi Elder at 8:45 a.m.