

Latino Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes for:

December 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 a.m. by Councilwoman Sandi Elder.

Those present were: Cpt. Mark Jones, GPD; Joe Melendez, SASA; Joe Perez, Community Rep.; Sandi Elder, City Council; Chief Jerry Garner, GPD; Trish Escobar, UNC; Sgt. Dennis Lobato; Vania Kacir, SAVA; Loretta Duran, Retired ; Art Terrazas, Aims CC; Teri Gutierrez, GPD.

Sandi welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned things over to Chief Garner.

Chief Garner welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming.

The GPD Honor Guard represented Greeley in Denver at a State Trooper's funeral. The State Trooper was killed in a roadside accident by someone not paying attention to their surroundings. That is the third officer killed on the roads in Colorado. More officers die on the street than they do in shootings.

De-escalation training is still very important in the department. The Tribune is doing an article regarding how the officers utilize this type of training. All GPD officers are trained in de-escalation procedures.

Santa cops is in full force. Greeley Officers are hand delivering presents to families in the community.

Chief handed out an article he wrote for the Tribune regarding the political feeling in our community (see attached). He also shared another article "American respect for police reaches highest level in 50 years" (see attached).

The department has completed the Body-Worn Camera pilot program and presented the findings to the City Council. 10 officers volunteered to wear three different cameras for a month each. The cost of these cameras, for this department, would be approx. \$500,000 per year.

Round Table –

Cpt. Jones – Hiring is going well. On paper we are fully staffed other than the three new positions approved for 2017. The department has 10 new recruits in training at this time.

It's difficult finding good people, so we will be accepting applications year round, which means if someone is POST certified the department can go ahead and move them on in the hiring process. No standards are being lowered for hiring.

Chief – police departments are in a hiring frenzy, so it's difficult due to all of the competition.

Cpt. Jones – The Greeley PD is ahead of the rest of the departments with regards to de-escalation. The GPD has been focusing on this training for many years now, when other departments are just now beginning this type of training.

Sgt. Lobato – Coffee with a Cop went very well and the plan is to do this again next year.

Pedro Lopez, who is with the Boys and Girls Club, is active in youth engagement with officers. Officer Ries, part of the Neighborhood Action Team, will be working with this program to get things going in the Greeley Community.

Chief complimented Sgt. Lobato and his team on handling many different programs in our community. They take some tough, recurring cases and they work closely with Code Enforcement. They are doing an incredibly good job and are to be commended.

Sandi Elder – Wants people to know that officers do a lot of off-duty projects in the community.

Council – approving the Downtown Development Authority budget. The County and City helped update the Greeley Weld Airport terminal and it's now a great place to use as a venue.

Colorado Gas/Oil commission will be giving some training to council members.

December 27th at 5:30 p.m. is the Menorah lighting in Lincoln Park, all are invited.

Council is continuing to dialogue with UNC on various issues.

Jobs of Hope have gotten the police involved and created a good working relationship. The program provides good resources to people.

The Refugee Center received a good donation to help keep the center open. That center provides a lot of resources for people coming into our community from abroad.

Police and Fire gave a presentation to council on the Dispatch call load and call screening. Some calls should not be handled by an officer, such as “there’s a spider in the bus stop”. The PD will be working with Dispatch to correct this problem.

Art Terrazas – Does the City have a current Demographics Study? Sandi answered that there is a study going on by the Global Refugee Center. They are tapping into the medical community for numbers, however, it's very difficult to track people.

Art – Chief, have you identified crime hot-spots in the City?

Chief – Many times, where most of your accidents happen, tends to be where your crime is at as well. So we put more officers in those areas. The department has a Crime Analyst that works on this for the department.

Art – the fall semester is complete at Aims. Students are off until mid-January.

Joe Melendez – The school hosted a community meeting regarding the recent presidential election and the uncertainty of things. It was a good meeting with lots of information.

Chief – the Police department is not involved in immigration, we will not be rounding people up. The Federal Government does not tell local police what to do.

Joe – Enrollment is at 740

Joe Perez – The Human Relations commission together with UNC is working on the MLK ceremony. They are looking to bring communities together. There will be a parade to the UCCC where a program will be held. The parade will be longer in 2017 starting at UNC.

Cinco de Mayo was not well attended last year so that is being worked on to highlight diversity in the community.

Sandi – Friday, May 5th will kick off the Friday Fest in downtown.

Vania Kacir – The Hispanic Women of Weld County breakfast was very successful. Sgt. Tanya Gutierrez gave a very good speech and was recognized.

SAVA is looking for an executive director.

SAVA is working with immigrant crime victims to receive assistance when they cooperate with police.

Chief – the Police do not do anything with U Visas. All U Visa requests go to the DA's office.

Art Terrazas– as a community liaison we could use a resource list to give out to people. Is there such a thing?

Sandi – we can work on that – good idea.

Loretta Duran – I have retired from A Kids Place.

Cpt. Savage helped get handicapped parking at A Kids Place. It's very much appreciated.

Trish Escobar – Talked about the Trump visit to UNC and the political climate on the campus.

There is an informative website regarding immigration reform fwd.org.

Chief – offered to come speak with students at UNC.

Art – Aims has two full-time deputies and a private security company.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 a.m. by Councilwoman Sandi Elder.