

Latino Advisory Committee

February, 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. in the Kent Donahue Room at the Greeley Police Department Headquarters, 2875 W. 10th Street by Chairwoman May Martinez-Hendershot.

Those present: May Martinez-Hendershot, Committee Chairwoman, Jerry Garner, Chief of Police, Cpt. Mike Savage, GPD, Cpt. Mark Jones, GPD, Robert, Dominguez, Victory Outreach, Maribel Talamantes, COG, Trish Escobar, UNC, Adolph Diaz, Founder MCFC, Mike Salazar, U.S. Forest Service, Joe Perez, Teri Gutierrez, GPD.

Chief Garner welcomed everyone and thanked everyone who attended the Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon and the Police Department Awards Ceremony.

The body worn camera program is progressing. The pilot program should begin this summer. There are many things to work through before the pilot begins; policies to work through, picking the product, where to store the data and privacy for all involved.

Four new hires are currently attending the Red Rocks Academy. They will graduate in the spring. Council authorized three new officers for 2016.

Cpt. Jones stated that at this time the Police Department has four vacancies.

The Chief is working on revising the current Strategic Plan for the Police Department. This is a 3-5 year plan. This plan is made to plan for; people, equipment, policies and the organization itself. At this time the document is in the draft stage and should be complete very soon. ***NOTE* the finished product is attached.**

Every five years the Police Department goes through accreditation. The last accreditation was in 2011. Teri will be working on this with Lt. Roy Smith. After a self-assessment is completed, two assessors, from outside the department, will then come and evaluate the organization as a whole for final accreditation. Approximately only 40-50 law enforcement agencies in Colorado are accredited.

Chief Garner is working with UNC to improve relationships and communication between students and officers. The Chief is going about this with the help of University President, Kay Norton and the Department of Justice as a facilitator for discussions. The hope is let students know we hear them and also hope that the students will listen to the police side as well. The UNC police will be included in these discussions.

Mike Salazar, US Forest Service thought it might be a good idea to have students be a part of the LAC committee.

Trish Escobar does have some names of students that would be interested.

The Chief would like to see the Police Department try and begin a liaison program with officers and the University. The Police Department currently has that same type of program for the High Schools that has been very successful.

The Chief handed out Crime Stats for 2015 (see attached). The stats are down and that's a very positive sign. Crime Clearance rate exceeds the National Average.

Chief Garner wrote an article for the Tribune which ran on February 4th regarding transparency (the article is attached).

Chief Garner had a training to attend so he left the meeting at this point.

Round Table information sharing session followed:

Trish Escobar with UNC/Cesar Chavez Cultural Center; The Cultural Center is going through an accreditation similar to what the Police Department is going through.

Trish mentioned that Communities of Color is the new name for minorities and that's what should be used.

Trish has come across the fact that the students don't trust the police so she feels that the discussions/conversations with the Police will have a positive outcome in time.

Training is going on for undocumented students at UNC. These students have no financial support and they are hard to contact because of their undocumented status. The University would like to reach out to these people to help them be a part of the community. The training will help University employees identify (also to understand the different types of undocumented status) and start communication to assist in feeling safe in the community.

The Cultural Center is working on a Community Relations survey at this time. The survey is pointing out the distrust between communities of color and the police.

Trish has been with the university for 23 years, eight years as Director for the Cultural Center.

Maribel Talamantes asked for clarification on the training: is the training for staff only?

Trish – At this time yes, there are very different types of undocumented status. Some can work some cannot. The fear these students have is genuine due to their own life experiences.

Trish hopes that the discussions between students and the Police department brings open mindedness from people on both sides so relationships can begin to foster a happier safer community.

Maribel Talamantes – City of Greeley Community Engagement Office; The City of Greeley is getting ready to launch the latest Greeley Unexpected campaign which will begin June 3rd at the first Friday Fest.

Greeley Arts Commission event is this month on February 17th at the Union Colony Civic Center. It will be an evening of inspirational stories (see attached).

Robert Dominguez, Victory Outreach; Jobs of Hope has employed up to 50% of the men that have gone through and finished the program. The program includes principles of how to succeed.

The congregation has grown from 160 people to 225 people this winter.

Cpt. Mark Jones, GPD; The Justice Department states there are 246 Law Enforcement (LE) agencies in Colorado (this is in regards to the number of LE agencies that are accredited).

The Police Department is still in the hiring process, applications are being accepted through February 26th.

Cpt. Mike Savage, GPD; operationally the department is preparing for Super Bowl Sunday. UNC has been contacted to put the word out that the police will have a high presence in town on Sunday.

**** UPDATE on Super Bowl Sunday**** - everything went very well in the community, there was only one arrest.

Joe Perez; The LE appreciation lunch was impressive.

Joe stated that a discussion needs to happen in a broader spectrum for all people in the community. Everyone needs to have their side heard.

May Martinez-Hendershot, Committee Chairwoman; May is now on the Board of Partners Mentoring Youth. May 14th Fiesta 5k, the route will be from Lincoln Park to Island Grove.

There are so many kids waiting for mentors, mostly boys. Anyone interested, please contact May.

Prevention Partners currently doing the Strengthening Family program at Bella Romero and Salida del Sol. Currently they have 14 Spanish families and 2 English families at Bella Romero and 15 Spanish families and 2 English families at Salida del Sol.

The Town Hall meeting was very well attended, it was on suicide prevention.

Mike Salazar, US Forest Service; not much to report. The move to Ault is imminent. Ault the crossroads of the grasslands that's why that location was chosen.

Adolf Diaz, MCFC; getting ready for graduation in May. The committee recognizes High School students with 3.0 and better grade point average.

The Migrant Christmas committee is starting to plan for this year's Christmas celebrations.

Chairwoman May Martinez-Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 8:35 a.m.