

LATINO ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE POLICE CHIEF

Meeting minutes for:

March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:29 a.m. by Committee Chairwoman, May Martinez-Hendershot.

Those present were: Jerry Garner, Chief of Police; Inacio Ramos; Maria Secret, Regional Director for Senator Cory Gardner; Cpt. Mark Jones, GPD; Cpt. Mike Savage, GPD; May Hendershot-Martinez, Committee Chairwoman; Maribel Talamantes, COG; Adolph Diaz, Founder of MCFC; Mike Salazar, USFS; Robert Dominguez, Victory Outreach; Joe Perez, community representative, and Teri Gutierrez, Sr. Administrative Specialist GPD.

Chief Garner began with some information on the fatal officer involved shooting that happened in Evans. The suspect (who was killed) was a very bad guy. One of the Evans Officers was wearing a body-worn camera. There is footage of the entire event and the footage will be released at an appropriate time.

This lead the Chief to mention the body-worn camera pilot program that the City of Greeley will be starting sometime in the summer.

The Chief had to leave the meeting early to attend a meeting at Aims Community College. This meeting is going to cover de-escalation procedures and training to save lives, both officers and civilian, via modifications to academy training.

The departments Strategic Plan is posted on the City's website for everyone to view.

Personnel Resources – the department continually revamps how we recruit, select, and hire people. We have found that having some college education is very important for future officers. We are trying to reach out to the millennials through our use of social media sites. We currently have good young people coming in right now so our sights are on succession for the department. Both the Fire Department and the Police Department are working on leadership training for all ranks.

Our Mission remains the same, to keep Greeley a good, safe place to live.

Transparency and Accountability – transparency doesn't just include body-worn cameras. It also includes getting out into the public listening and telling people what is happening in their community. Everyone in the department is willing to speak to a group and answer questions and inform people of what the Police are doing and why.

Crime Suppression – career criminals tops the list. When you get some of the career criminals off the street the crime rate goes down. Greeley's crime rate is way

down. However, we are concerned about criminals that may be released from prison and return back to Greeley.

One focus for the department is the downtown area. We want people to be comfortable and feel safe going downtown. The City has been working diligently to revitalize Greeley's downtown. Crime is actually down in the downtown area.

The number of profoundly mentally ill people is increasing in Greeley. Officers are receiving extra, specialized training to deal with this type of person. Greeley is not the only place with this problem, Loveland, Fort Collins and Denver Metro area are all experiencing a rise in cases with mentally ill people.

Technology and Equipment - depends largely on budget. Revenue in the City will not stay up like it has been the last couple years. Oil and Gas prices are down right now which will affect the City's budget. The Police Department continually researches better, safer equipment and technology and when feasible and sensible we do what we can for upgrades.

Organization - how the department is put together. What can be changed? What is working now? Looking at the fact that the City is growing out West, what do we need to do to cover an expanding city? City Council has approved three new officer positions for the department. Now those positions will be hired and deployed appropriately.

Before the Chief left, he introduced Maria Secrest, former City Council member.

Roundtable:

Robert Dominguez – Jobs for Hope has acquired some new space to expand the program, possibly for Victory Outreach for young people.

Joe Perez – Still working with the body-worn camera committee. The committee has been hearing from mothers of officers, wishing their child had been wearing the cameras.

Inacio Ramos – He continues to work with Jefferson High School. Inacio thanked Sandi Elder (who was not in attendance, she had to be at a different meeting) for her help with the mock interviews with the High School students. Still working on raising money for prom night.

May mentioned contacting Nomi Ketterling regarding funds for an after prom get together.

Maria Secrest – Senator Gardner's office is looking into the budget cuts to police departments by the justice department. Maria works with vets in getting them benefits. If you know of anyone who might need help getting Veteran benefits, Maria's contact information is:

Office: 970-352-5546

Fax: 202-228-7172

Email: maria_secrest@gardner.senate.gov

Cpt. Jones – Hiring – the last three or four months the department has worked hard on recruiting through social media. The applicants have doubled this hiring period to 379 applicants.

Cpt. Savage – touched on the mentally ill issues (a lot of the time the people are also having alcohol and drug abuse issues on top of mental illness). Last year the department dealt with over 300 attempted suicide cases, which is up from the year before. Whenever possible the officer will try to use less lethal tactics (such as Tasers) and multiple officers will go on those type of calls. Calls of that sort can go bad very quickly. Training is of utmost importance and that's what the department continually works on.

The department is working closely with North Range crisis center for training officers and getting help for those who need the help.

The burglary cases that occurred downtown have been solved.

May Martinez-Hendershot handed out North Range Crisis Center information cards.

Maribel Talamantes – Getting the word out for community outreach and service meetings. The City website has a lot of good information.

Adolph Diaz – Spoke about being able to watch the kids in his program grow and succeed and contribute back to the community.

Mike Salazar – the move to Ault has been signed off on and should happen in May. There have been four or five fires already this year. Seasonal hiring is starting for the busy season.

There is so much to do on the grasslands; missile launching, drone flying, paragliding, hiking, hunting, birding, wild flowers, horseback riding, target shooting. Check out the U.S. Forrest Service website to see all the happenings.

May Martinez-Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

The next meeting will be Friday, April 1, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. in the Kent Donahue Room at the Police Headquarters.