

Latino Advisory Committee to the Police Chief

Meeting minutes for:

May 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 a.m. by Committee Chairwoman, May Martinez-Hendershot.

Those present were: Sandi Elder, Councilwoman; Chief Jerry Garner, GPD; Mike Salazar, USFS; Inacio Ramos, community representative; Art Terrazas, Aims CC; Joe Melendez, Salida del Sol Academy; Sgt. Dennis Lobato, GPD; Joe Perez, community representative; Cpt. Mike Savage, GPD; Loretta Duran, A Kid's Place; May Martinez-Hendershot, Committee Chairwoman.

Roundtable:

Mike Salazar, USFS – Business as usual, just very busy getting things ready for the warm weather.

Inacio Ramos, Jefferson H.S. – Bright Futures is a great program for these kids if they take advantage of it.

Art Terrazas, Aims CC – Experienced the GPD SWAT operation in his neighborhood. The armored vehicle the flash bang. Was all very intimidating.

Cpt. Mike Savage – Explained a bit about what Art experienced. The Joint Task Force operation's intent is to get the suspects to come out, not for GPD to go in. The Armored vehicle is there for protection for the officers and for some intimidation. The flash bang is to get the suspects' attention and to get them to come out of the building.

Art Terrazas conti. – The Spring semester at Aims is over now. In the newspaper Art noticed that two North Ridge students received the Daniels scholarship. The committee needs to recognize young Hispanic people for their positive impact on the community.

Sandi Elder – those two girls were asked go to Japan to represent the City and they did a fantastic job.

Joe Melendez, Salida del Sol Academy – The school year is coming to an end. They are looking forward to enrollment for next year. The enrollment is at about 700 and they are hoping for 745 next school year.

Sgt. Dennis Lobato, GPD - Sergeant Lobato is the Sergeant for the Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) for the GPD. The NAT team is very busy in the community. The next big event is on June 4th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (See attached flier).

The City of Greeley is sponsoring and paying for high school interns. That student will work very closely with NAT. NAT also does tours of the Police Department for anyone interested.

Joe Perez – wants to bring to the committee's attention that there is some unrest in the community with the primary/general election for President going on right now. Some things being said are negative towards the Latino community. We need to talk up the electoral process and get the young people involved.

Loretta Duran, A Kid's Place – Starting another training in June and still need more volunteers.

Sandi Elder – June 2nd there is a going away for the current Fire Chief McDonald at the UCCC. Council is getting ready for budget preparation for the City. Cruising downtown will be starting up with the weather warming up, be aware.

Chief Garner – There are several legislative bills being passed or have already been passed. One that has already been passed, gives police department's better access to applicants' records. Another is interviews with suspects should be recorded with audio/video. Greeley Police department already does that and has for some time now. The other legislation, that is very concerning and is strongly opposed by the Chiefs of Police and the Sheriff's Associations, is regarding choke holds. Who decides when an officer is fighting for his/her life? There are already statutes out there to cover things like use of excessive force.

In early May the Chief attended an Optimist Club luncheon where Cpt. Savage was acknowledged for his time of service to the Greeley Police Department for 40+ years of service.

Joe Melendez is a new member to this committee. He is well tapped into the community and he will be a great resource.

Sgt. Tanya Gutierrez is starting a new program to get more women officers. She is very sharp and has some great ideas for recruiting.

The SWAT operation (mentioned by Art Terrazas) picked up some main drug dealers. Everything was done peacefully; no one got hurt.

City Council recently passed 2 new ordinances on distracted driving.

Art asked about the CIRT, critical incident response team. This team covers different situations. One recent incident was in Evans with an officer involved shooting. The team consists of people from different agencies in the area. It's the best of the best investigators.

Please recruit for the department. We need more women and we need Spanish speakers. It is very tough to get in the Greeley Police Department. We have very high standards the City will always win out over an applicant if we have doubt.

May Martinez-Hendershot – became a great grandmother during our meeting.

Congratulations May!!



Joe Perez – please update us on the Body Worn Camera program.

Chief – We are down to three companies. We will soon start a 30 day trial with the first camera with 10 officers who have volunteered. This is moving slower than expected but things are progressing.

Art – Within our mission statement it states that our intent is to listen to our community at the same time, this committee needs to get information out to the community. How can we go about getting information out to the community?

Chief - Each committee member should give information to their contacts. We can also put information out on the Department's Facebook page and on our website page.

Chief Garner was our speaker for the day – The Police Department's Strategic Plan – this is a living document that we update at least every three years. This document tells where the department is headed for the next few years and what our focus is.

Following the Ferguson incident the President came up with a Task Force on 21st Century Policing. One focus for this task force was transparency and accountability for police departments and how to go about this. We are pursuing this goal. Each year the City Manager has each department come up with initiatives. For our department our initiative is Transparency and Accountability.

Transparency - Informing the community on what the department does and why we do what we do. Reach out to the media and meet with them on a regular basis. One way we do this is with Sgt. Lobato's team reaching out to the community via social media. The Chief is speaking at many different organizations to keep the community informed. Getting policy and procedure out to the public via the Police Department website is coming soon. (See attached)

Accountability – the department is accountable for what it does. We are currently working on re-accreditation. (See attached for a list of how we stay accountable)

The Chief thanked the committee members for volunteering their time to this great cause.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 a.m. by Committee Chairwoman May Martinez-Hendershot.