

Latino Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes for:

June 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Chairwoman May Martinez-Hendershot.

Those present were: Chief Jerry Garner, GPD; Mike Salazar, USFS; Inacio Ramos, community representative; 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; Sgt. Tanya Gutierrez, GPD; Sgt. Kell Hulseley, GPD; Adolph Diaz, MCFC; Vania Kacir, SAVA; Cpt. Mark Jones, GPD; Teri Gutierrez, GPD

Chief Garner welcomed everyone and asked that the speakers begin.

Sgt. Dennis Lobato, NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Sergeant – NAT has three areas that they cover; Community Outreach, Community Events and Special Enforcement Issues (chronic to nuisance issues). The NAT team is made up of four sworn officers and one PST (non-sworn officer). Sgt. Lobato talked about cop cards and that they are a good interactive tool for officers. NAT has been involved in the National Drug Take-Back program. This last April NAT took back 555 lbs. of drugs. NAT also works with District 6 dream team and participates in the career/job fair. The Citizens Police Academy is another important program run by NAT. This program runs twice a year.

Chief Garner presented May Martinez-Hendershot with a certificate for her dedication to the Police Department and a wooden nickel challenge coin for all the hard work. Many thanks for all that you do for us and our community, May.

Sgt. Lobato continued by talking about the paid internship program for High School students that the PD and the City of Greeley participates in. Students are selected by an interview process.

NAT provides a "Work Place Violence" presentation that has very useful information and has been very popular.

NOTE*Graffiti Removal Hotline # 970-350-9336

NAT works very closely with the homeless, transient population in Greeley.

Chief Garner – NAT can put together a program on just about anything, just ask.

Sgt. Kell Hulseley, SRO (School Resource Officers) Sergeant – This program covers all of the schools in Greeley, not just the larger schools. All five officers respond to all schools. This last year was a very busy, successful year. Their work includes neighborhood hotspots at schools. There is a lot of interaction with students to include officers having lunch at the schools with the students. The officers have a very good

rapport with students as well as the staff at the schools. Counseling is part this program, as talking and working with the students is very important. There have not been many major problems in the schools. The SROs monitor social media to stay on top of any possible problems that could be brewing. The Greeley PD SRO program has been one of the banner programs to keep kids out of the system. SROs work with students on truancy issues, drug addiction problems. Instead of putting students in the juvenile system SROs work with them in the community to express what they did and how their actions can affect the community.

Now that school is out the officers are assigned to bicycles in the community. This gives the police department better interaction with the community downtown, parks and Poudre Trail areas. These officers get specialized training for this assignment.

All the work that the SRO's do comes from the flexibility of the City budget. Instead of working for School District 6, this program is paid for with City monies. This gives the program the ability to focus on what the PD sees as most important. The rapport that officers establish with the students is truly incredible. These officers are mentors and role models for the Greeley students.

All students/schools are trained for active shooter situations. Elementary and Middle schools are locked down all the time. The children are taught to hide or to barricade a door. There was an incident at Monfort Elementary that turned out to be nothing. However, the officer's response time was 13 seconds to get on scene.

If there is a possible threat - anything from a Social Media comment to a note written on a notebook - a SRO will check into it and do what is necessary to get help for that student if/when needed.

Sgt. Tanya Gutierrez, Swing Shift Sergeant – Sgt. Gutierrez is working on hiring, retention and recruitment of female officers. At this time there are 11 female officers at the GPD, which makes up about 13% of the department. Sgt. Gutierrez is brainstorming with other female officers to see what makes a good female officer. Female officers rely more on verbal skills, they tend to have better de-escalation skills and people tend to be more comfortable talking with female officers. The department is looking for positive attitudes from recruits have to want to be there. A competitive nature is important, and some sort of an athletic background is handy. The GPD will be recruiting at college/university athletic departments, women with prior military experience and 4H club participants.

Chief Garner thanked Sgt. Gutierrez for mentoring the female officers in the GPD.

Roundtable

Mike Salazar– It's the busy season for the FS.

Inacio Ramos – Would like to talk with Officer Corliss and the school district regarding a drug awareness program for Jefferson H.S.

Joe Melendez – Schools are in their summer break. However, the summer session has begun. There are two sessions this summer so it's still very busy. Joe thanked Sgt. Hulse and Sgt. Lobato for their services with the schools. Training with teachers will be held in August on school violence.

Joe Perez – He has been hearing that ICE has been active in the community. He also has heard the sentiment that Latinos are killed and Anglos are wounded by officers. The Chief responded that officers react to perceived threat, not skin color. He acknowledged that this is an erroneous perception that law enforcement must be conscious of and respond to.

Vania Kacir – Very busy with school and working out in the community for SAVA.

Loretta Duran – A Kids' Place (AKP) just had training for five people. AKP is always recruiting new people.

Adolph Diaz - \$7k was allocated for scholarships for graduates. The kids that have been going through this program are growing up and becoming an important part of the community now.

May Martinez-Hendershot – Debbie Piltch is the volunteer engagement chair for Weld County Project Connect. They need volunteers to help. Just finished with Strengthening Families program and they are starting a booster program for those who have already completed this program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

The next meeting will be August 5, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. in the Donahue Room.