

Latino Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes for:

May 5, 2017

Attendees: Chief Garner, Maria Secrest, Joe Perez, Capt. Savage, Art Terrazas, Inacio Ramos, Loretta Duran, Lt. Adam Turk, Mike Salazar, Adolph Diaz, Vania Kacir, Teri Gutierrez, Guest – Andres Guerrero

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chief Garner. Chairwoman Elder was unable to attend this meeting.

Chief Garner began by welcoming everyone and updated the group on some goings-on in the department/community. The department swore in a very good group of 11 new officers. The department was actually fully staffed for two days and now we're down four officers short. Hiring is always a top priority as staffing is very fluid.

There was a homicide (the week before the meeting was held) so that is being investigated.

Officers arrested a very bad guy who had firearms, money and meth on his person at the time of the arrest.

During the first three months of 2017, crime stats are down from the same time in 2016. Taking a car theft ring out of circulation has helped the stats.

Sgt. Dennis Lobato was honored by the Optimist Club. We are very proud of the work Sgt. Lobato does for the Greeley community.

The Hwy 85 coalition wants a multi-jurisdiction effort to crack down on traffic offenders using Highway 85.

The department is now issuing to each officer doses of Narcan, which is an antidote for opiate overdoses. This has proven to be a real life saver.

The new PD Downtown Outreach Station is open in the United Way building. United Way has offered the space to the Police Department for free.

Art – How prevalent is the meth problem in Greeley? Are there any cartels in Greeley?

Lt. Turk – Meth sales investigations are always ongoing – most of the sources are not from Greeley.

Chief Garner – The popularity of meth labs is down, it's cheaper to buy if from the cartels out of Mexico, than to make it.

Lt. Turk – The goal of the task force is to find the big fish in order to see a big impact on the problem.

Roundtable

Art – wished everyone a Happy Cinco de Mayo.

Maria – Kudos for Police Departments' support of the Special Olympics. Attended an event at Northridge, one of the students received an award of \$130k.

I'm concerned with an article in the Greeley Tribune about the City paying out too much to people for accidents.

Chief Garner – The state legislature revised the statutes to allow government to be sued for up to \$350,000. So people are doing more suing of government than they used to.

Loretta – Life Story (they used to be known as A Kids Place) had their Top Chef event, I worked that and I'm still working at CASA.

Vania – SAVA works with the Boys and Girls Club during the summer and she's working on her Master's Degree at UNC.

Joe – Wants the Cinco de Mayo festivities to be a way to educate young people about their history and to be proud of their Mexican heritage.

Capt. Savage – We are always working on recruiting. Sgt. Tanya Gutierrez and some other women went to the Western Slope to recruit more women. They met about 35 different women and have three potential candidates.

The department is down officers right now, so we're currently looking for certified applicants. If we don't get what we need we'll hire and train non-certified candidates.

Three new recruits are in FTO (on the job training out on the streets).

Lt. Turk – There was an event that turned out to be a homicide. Detectives have contacted many of witnesses and are working this case around the clock.

Andres – Is concerned about the Mexican people getting the good jobs here in Greeley.

Adolph – MCFC has good involvement at Northridge and their ROTC program. There were 70 awards given out for community service participation and two kids were accepted to the Sheriff's Explorer program.

Inacio – The Elks Lodge gave the Police Department's Victim Assistance Unit some grant money.

The Chief thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting 8:36 a.m.