

Latino Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes:

August 4, 2017

Attendees: Chief Garner, Sandi Elder, Maria Secrest, Maribel Talamantes, Joe Perez, Joana Gomez, Mike Salazar, Inacio Ramos, Art Terrazas, Trish Escobar, Cristina Diaz Estrada, Capt. Savage, Capt. Jones, Adolph Diaz, Teri Gutierrez, presenter: Lt. Steve Black

At 7:32 a.m., Councilwoman/Chairwoman Sandi Elder called the meeting to order.

The meeting began with introductions for the new members to the committee.

Chief Garner introduced the guest speaker, Lt. Steve Black Commander of the Weld County Drug Task Force.

Lt. Black – Has 10-11 years of Drug Task Force experience. The Drug Task Force (TF) was founded in 1990 and is comprised of agents from three jurisdictions in Weld County. These agents are also special federal officers deputized to work throughout the United States. This gives them the ability to follow leads all over the U.S. Women have been a part of the TF for about 15 years.

Their area of focus is mid to upper level drug trafficking organizations (defined by federal standards). The TF receives federal funds from HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas). High drug trafficking areas are eligible for this type of funding (Greeley and Weld County fall under the title of high drug trafficking areas).

The City of Greeley is the administrative agency, which means the TF operates under the City's policies, procedures, General Orders, and command of the Greeley Police Department.

QUESTIONS for Lt. Black:

Inacio Ramos – What is the difference when the Police Department makes an arrest and when the TF makes an arrest? Do you have more power?

Lt. Black – We have no more power to effect an arrest in WC and Greeley than the GPD. We do have more tools and more expertise in the drug world.

Sandi Elder – How many TF members are from GPD?

Lt. Black – GPD has six members. The Sheriff's Office and Evans PD also support the TF.

Sandi Elder – Do you have enough people on your team?

Lt. Black – We can always use more people.

Sandi Elder – Are your officers CIT (Critical Incident Team) trained?

Lt. Black – The TF officers receive the same training as all other GPD officers.

Sandi Elder – Can your officers distinguish the difference between someone with mental issues and someone under the influence of drugs?

Lt. Black – Yes, all officers train for that.

Adolph Diaz – What are your entry-level requirements?

Lt. Black – The person needs to have three to four years of police experience at the bare minimum, they must be in good standing with their agency, and they must be a hard worker.

Mike Salazar – What is the preferred method for illegal drug distribution?

Lt. Black – The cell phone is the first preferred method and then word of mouth.

Inacio Ramos – Is Mexico the main place that drugs come from?

Lt. Black – 95% of drugs cross the border from Mexico.

Chief Garner – Thanked Steve for his presentation.

Chief Garner handed out information on Immigration Law enforcement policy that the Greeley Police Department follows. Also handed out was the stats on major crime in Greeley.

Roundtable:

Maria Secrest – Attended an event for the Navy Seal foundation to raise money for deceased Seal members' families. The American Legion has a dinner every 2nd Friday, please stop by.

Joana Gomez – The SAVA annual soiree is coming in September.

Maribel Talamantes – The Community Outreach office is very busy trying and learning to reach everyone in our community. Working on Imagine Greeley and perception students have of the community.

Joe Perez – Apologized for not being as active in the community lately, his personal life has been very busy.

There has been word out that ICE is going after employers now. This is an economic concern in the community.

Capt. Savage – We are going through a new recruitment cycle. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a police officer, please have him or her contact the department.

Trish Escobar – She apologized for not being able to attend for a while. Big celebration on September 15th 12-2 p.m. in the courtyard of the cultural center. That same evening

(at 4:30 p.m.), is the unveiling of the Chicano Movement exhibit at the Michener Library, all are invited.

Capt. Jones – Just wanted everyone to know that officers are doing their best to get to calls as quickly as physically possible.

Cristina Diaz Estrada – Getting ready for back to school and working with a program geared towards young parents.

Art Terrazas – Working on 44th year in education. Aims is gearing up to start classes. Art has been reappointed to the Criminal Justice advisory committee.

Inacio Ramos – Still working with Jefferson H.S.

Mike Salazar – Wrapping up the busy season. Things have been going good.

Sandi Elder – Thank you to everyone for participating in the committee. Brett Payton has taken Councilmember Sleight's position. Elections are in November; please get to know your candidates. If you would like to get something out to this advisory committee, please do. Just send things to Teri and she'll get them out to everyone.

Chairwoman Elder adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

The next meeting is Friday, October 6, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.