

Latino Advisory Committee

Friday, February 5, 2021

Attendees: Chief Jones, Joe Perez, Deputy Chief Zeller, Chairperson Elder, Deputy Chief Turk, Barb Lessman, Mario Gonzalez, Mike Salazar

Chief Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. He talked about the new badges to commemorate a 150 yrs. of the Greeley Police Department.

Chief started with the crime stats. The overall Call load has been way down because of the COVID quarantine. I was worried the call load was down, but crime would be up and that is what has happened. We are down in some of the Part One Crimes but we're up in others, such as Homicide. Homicide is up and it just doesn't surprise me. I suspect this is going to be the case in most cities.

Second page is clearance rate for the Part One Crimes. We are still higher than the Federal Clearance rates.

Lastly are the Traffic Accident numbers, our numbers are way down. However, fatal accidents were up for some reason.

I'm sure you're asking, just like I am, why are our crime numbers up – I think mental health, COVID stress and the prison parole system, these are all pieces of why our numbers are up.

Joe Perez – Theft what's the value of a minor theft opposed to major

Chief – Our numbers include all theft, major and minor. Some stores don't pursue some thefts. If I had to guess an average, it would be \$100 but it could be much more or less. Now that I think about it that number is probably considerably higher, now that I think about it. Thieves are emboldened now with having to wear masks. They go steal a car and they go to a store and shoplift. Stores don't approach people they use video and with the face masks it's so difficult. We don't really track \$ loss.

DC Zeller – Walmart reports well over a \$1million a year in loss.

Chief Jones – The mom and pop stores are feeling the theft more now as well.

Recent shootings – We have had our fair share of shootings – again I would circle back to what I said before, part of it is mental health, gang shootings. There's just no perfect answer to why we've had so many.

We want to talk about our last OIS (Officer Involved Shooting) – I recently attended the presentation to the DA by the CIRT (Critical Incident Response Team) team. This team is made up of people from other agencies, so bias isn't an issue.

Currently there are cameras everywhere. Sometimes those cameras give you more than what the officer Body Worn Cameras give, as those can be blocked. This guy has a long history, did less than two years on a 10 yr. sentence and this is what happened after his release. He's done multiple carjacking's and then all this happened.

Chairperson Elder – When will the DA release this?

DC Turk – The DA now has three wks. to release their findings. We are still waiting for toxicology results.

Chief Jones – There were many rounds fired but there were also a lot of officers involved in the shooting. There were also two volleys of shooting.

DC Turk – Context of video – He got out of jail in November, he committed DV (domestic violence) act and criminal mischief theft against his girlfriend. While we were waiting to arrest him on that, he and his girlfriend committed a kidnapping. We had warrants out for his arrest and our officers had been looking for him for two weeks. On the day of the shooting during surveillance, he realized we were following him. He ended up crashing down in Mead, carjacked a guy and headed back to Greeley. We found him in a house, he and another guy left in a car. We tried a traffic stop but Dockery kicked the driver out and took off in that car.

Video was shown and DC Turk talked through the scenario.

Chief Jones – We are willing to show the video after the DA released the incident.

DC Turk – We have videos from multiple businesses that capture the entire shooting.

Chief Jones - This guy was not going back to jail, so he was going out one way or another. We could see this coming knowing who this guy was, 3 carjacking's and his history, this was never going to end good.

Barb Lessman – This was in Evans jurisdiction?

DC Turk – It ended in Evans but we have agreements with surrounding cities so we do have jurisdiction in neighboring cities.

Joe Perez – I saw that high-speed pursuit and we decided to get off the road. Your officers were coming lights and sirens.

Chief Jones - We have very strict pursuit policies, but this guy was so bad, we had to get him off the road.

Joe Perez – The number of rounds, it's obvious you had to stop him at all costs.

Chief Jones - The officers that were involved knew what they were getting into. This guy got up after the first barrage and picked his gun back up, so that's how the second barrage happened.

Joe Perez – How are the officers after this?

Chief Jones - Thanks for asking that, we have psychological services for the officers after an incident and before officers come back to work, we get a thumbs up or maybe someone needs more help. We've had officers with hearing issues after this incident. One officer couldn't hear anything for a while. We do our best in these situations to give our officers what they need.

Joe Perez – Wish them the best.

Mario Gonzalez – Along those same lines – I have some friends who live down the street from there and that's all they talk about. Do you have something for the community to heal after something like this?

DC Turk – We have our Victim Advocates and they offer a slew of resources to victims.

DC Zeller – North Range offers crisis services and they would help with something like that.

Chairperson Elder – They can also go to their GP. That is not something the PD can fund, not to dismiss people and their needs.

Chief Jones - There are services that must be provided by law to direct victims of an incident.

Joe Perez– You had mentioned earlier, the family members had mentioned concern for this guy. Is there an avenue for community members to report someone/something like this?

Chief Jones - To give you an idea of how this works, we had a guy who vandalized police cars yesterday, family members had been calling in about this guy and that's how we become aware, but we can't do anything until a crime has been committed.

DC Turk – There are cases that end in a positive manner and people get help.

Chief Jones – COVID shots for officers started in December. It's not mandatory, but they have been offered to everyone. Our numbers are way down.

DC Turk – We've had 29 cases. Most got it from a family member.

Chief Jones –The Perez case – This case involved an officer arresting someone and then unarresting that person. The officer that made the mistake is no longer employed here. The City did pay out.

DC Zeller – Included in your packets is a sector map – last year we came up with a plan to assign a Commander to each sector, that's how the officers are assigned as well. The point is if there is an issue in a certain sector, people can contact the commander directly. I just wanted you to have that info so you can share it.

DC Turk – Hiring – We have not lost many people. We ran a hiring process, and from that process we hired 3 new officers that started yesterday. We sent two of our Public Safety Technicians (non-sworn) to the academy now. We will be fully staffed and looking good. More information will be published in our Annual Report. All of this can be found on our website www.greeleypd.com

Chief Jones - It's a really good website with a lot of information.