

## Latino Advisory Committee

June 5, 2020 @ 0730  
Via Zoom

Attendees: Chief Jones, Joe Perez, Mario Gonzalez, Justin Martinez, Sandi Elder, Joana Andujar, Kelli Johnson, Barb Lessman, Adolph Diaz and Mike Salazar

Chief Jones Introduced Kelli Johnson Communication and Engagement Office, Manager

Sandi Elder introduced the group and what they are about.

Sandi Elder – Former City of Greeley Council Member, I represent the faith community.

Joe Perez – Greeley community member interested in promoting Greeley Latino community. Building bridges in the community.

Justin Martinez – State Farm agent in Greeley, I serve on a couple boards, Board of Trustees on Mosaic Church in Evans and Board of Directors of the United Way. Grew up in Ault and have since made my home Greeley for the last 20 or so years.

Joana Andujar – I'm with SAVA, I want to be a medium between the Latino community and the police department.

Mario Gonzalez - I was representing Aims CC now with Weld County Dept of Human Services , I'm new to the council.

Barb Lessman – Office Manager at United Way and I've known Kelly for many years.

Adolf Diaz – Migrant Christmas Fiesta founder

Chief Jones – Thank you for taking the time to do this. It's unfortunate we haven't been able to meet for some time now. With what's going on in the Country/City I wanted to get with you and give you some updates.

COVID has affected everyone, however the GPD has not really changed that much. We have kept the front desk open. In the beginning we were not as proactive and didn't take as many calls and made more phone contact. We have been lucky at only having one officer with COVID. It's been a miracle and I feel fortunate.

We started a report that we do every other day, in the first 6 wks. our call load was down a lot. The call load is back up now over the last 3 weeks.

I'm sure that you saw the double homicide a few weeks ago. It turned out to be a drug deal gone bad. We've had a number of drive by shootings in the last few weeks. No one has been hit, so we're lucky there. We don't think there is a tie to any of those. We are watching those things closely.

Did everyone see my article that I wrote. The reason I bring that up, I mentioned a knife incident the officers handled themselves very well by deescalating. In the end the officer talked the guy into putting the knife down and no one was hurt.

I also watched a body worn camera incident that was like nothing I'd ever heard/seen before. The guy was so ugly/vile, and the officer remained so calm, cool and professional during the entire 6 and a half minutes of being verbally abused.

Protests – There are some protests planned, one at Monfort park from 6-8 tonight. I met with the organizers to find out what the motive is and how we can help. Those organizers dropped out and some others took over, I was able to meet with them. We are there to support them and keep everyone safe.

Justin Martinez – What will your presence look like at that rally and what type of gear?

The one that was supposed to be across the from PD has moved to Monfort park Saturday 10-1. The other problem we've had with all of this is, we have people on social media that Antifa has been in town scouting things out. Currently we have no intel that Antifa is in town at all. If you hear someone say that Antifa is in town there is no information to back that up. We are prepared, but we don't think that's the case. What we're hearing is people don't want things to go bad in Greeley.

Our plan for Friday and Saturday – We are going to spread out across the City especially in Center Place, Home Depot and downtown. Some officers will be visible, and some will be undercover. They will be prepared and ready. We will have SWAT on standby, but our intention is to do nothing at all so they can have a peaceful protest. We don't want to be involved at all unless they force our hand. We will protect life and property.

Sandi Elder – Have you seen a spike in vandalism in the parks during this shut down.

Chief Jones - We have been trying to stop rumors with our social media. We have heard that we told businesses in Center Place to board up and that is not true. We met with business owners and gave them information on what info we have.

I was inundated with people telling me we needed more de-escalation training. We have been doing de-escalation training for some time now. Anti Bias training – we've been doing those trainings for some time now. We review every use of force incident for officer behavior and training possibilities. We have high standards. In the article I said I can't promise there will never be a case of excessive force, but it will be dealt with, if it does happen.

Adolf Diaz – Can you give us an idea of what Antifa is.

Chief Jones – They are a group of people who want to cause hate and discontent. They are somewhat of a terrorist organization. From what I understand they want to cripple the economy and are an Anti-Government group. Are there any questions?

Mario Gonzales – Are we disseminating this information to the public, such as where the protests are being held?

Chief Jones – Both of these groups have messages out on social media so those are circulated all over. We have been putting out basic information about what’s going in in the City. We have just been trying to dispel rumors.

Mike Salazar – Antifa –Is anti-establishment.

Joe Perez – What are these groups, church groups, community groups or what?

Chief Jones – For the most part these aren’t specific groups. It’s individuals who were able to gain followers and put an event together that way. We’ve heard about a group of people that call themselves the 3%ers that want to protect stores. Chief Reams is the one that brought that to me. People have been calling him, telling him they are available to help. They mean well, but that could cause more problems.

Sandi Elder – Has there been any discussion with UNC Chief?

Chief Jones - We have reached out to the Sheriff’s Office, Evans PD, and UNC. They have all agreed to help and take calls if needed.

Justin Martinez – Are stores closing early just in case, near where the protests are being held and where will they be staging the protests?

Chief Jones – They are, the Court House is closed today. Weld Schools Credit Union is closing early. Businesses must make their own decisions. There may be businesses that decide to close early, yes. We just wanted to get word out to people, but we are not telling people to close their businesses. Since two groups have combined for today, the staging will probably be along the sidewalk on 47th at Monfort park. We hope they stay in the park and do not go out into the roadway. My concern is that they decide to march. We don’t want anyone to get hit by a car.

Mike Salazar – In all the different tv coverage I’ve seen, one common thing is there will be a lot of cameras that might be valuable down the road.

Chief Jones - We will have people with cameras, officers will have their BWC and we will have a drone out. If we see things starting to escalate, we will be able to act quickly.

Joe Perez – We want this to be peaceful. Are any of the faith leaders from the community involved to help keep things peaceful?

Chief Jones – I’m not aware of any church or faith leaders involved at all.

Sandi Elder – I haven’t heard anything in my area.

Chief Jones – If it’s needed, we will put together another zoom meeting after the fact and let you know how this all turned out. Our intention is to keep this as peaceful as possible. If things turn bad, we will meet after this.

Joe Perez – In retrospect – we’ve had MLK marches for years and there have been feelings that it might go bad. However, it has always turned out peaceful.

Chief Jones – Our department has done all that it can to be proactive with training and community relations, Citizens police academy, Coffee with a Cop to dialog with citizens.

Joana Anjudar – Are any of your officers planning to march or protest with these groups.

Chief Jones – We are not planning, and I have been asked to speak at one of the protests. One part of me wants to and one doesn't. I have conflicting feelings. My concern is that I don't think anything the Police say right now will help. They don't want to hear from me, and I think it could turn ugly. I just think emotions are too high right now. If things were settled down, I would talk. Emotions are high so there is more risk of things turning bad.

Sandi Elder – I heard there were bricks downtown, that was for construction not for bad intentions. Since then, the bricks have been moved. Please tell people to go to the PD social media and get the correct information.

Mike Salazar - stay as safe as possible and we'll hope for a good outcome.

Chief Jones – Thank you for that.

Adolph Diaz – Thank you for the article in the paper.

Meeting adjourned.