**MEETING MINUTES**

**VALLEY AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, May 26, 2016**

**LOS DURANES COMMUNITY CENTER**

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Jim Souter**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM.

**II. COUNCILOR ROLL CALL: Chair Jim Souter**

**Present:**

James Souter - Chair

Edwina Kiro – Vice Chair

Richard Deichsel - Secretary

Joan Wierzba

Paul Watson

Regina Sanchez - APD

**Absent**

Kathleen O’Malley

Maxine Cowton

**Also Present:**

Consultants:

Sgt. David Rogers

Resource Director:

Celina Espinoza, APD, Communications and Community Outreach Director

Nicole Chavez-Lucero

Steve Rickman, Monitor’s office

Ed Harness, CPOA Director

Facilitator:  
David Gold

Community members present: See attached sign in sheet

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Richard Deichsel, seconded by Joan Wierzba, and approved by voice vote.

**IV. APPROVAL OF May 23, 2016 MINUTES**

Motion to approve the May, 2016 minutes was made by Joan Wierzba, seconded by Vice-Chair Edwina Kira, and approved by voice vote.

**VI. OFFICIAL BUSINESS (Section B-E occurred after the Sgt. Rich Evans’ talk)**

1. **Recommendation: Bicycle Patrols**
   1. The goal is to encourage community policing.
   2. The recommendation includes the rationale.
   3. Before the settlement there were 1100 officers. Now there are 900, so community policing has almost been eliminated.
   4. Police consultants and others were concerned that with the short staffing, bicycle patrols could reduce the numbers of car patrols. Even if they are on cars, they would be unlikely to be used, due to call volume. They favored bicycle patrols, but felt staffing should be increased to handle it. Sometimes 75 calls are stacked, and there are 90 minute waiting times.
   5. Bicycle patrols could get to criminal activities that would be hidden from a patrol car.
   6. Bicycles are “reassuring” to one attendee.
   7. Alternate language was proposed:   
      ***“strategically reestablish substantive bicycle patrols for all areas commands of the city as soon as possible”***.
   8. A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Joan Wierzba to pass the amended resolution. The motion passed by voice vote.
   9. (see attached resolution)
2. **Recommendation: How to interact with police.**
   1. Joan Wierzba chaired a committee to create a list of how to interact with police, in various situations.
   2. The goal is to improve community relations by avoiding misunderstandings.
   3. The initial intention is for this recommendation to go to APD, and for them to send it to the NM Motor Vehicle Department to include this information in their driver’s training manual. And, to include questions on this material in their written driver’s test.
   4. The Committee consisted of citizens and members. The results were reviewed by the ACLU.
   5. Attendees discussed other venues for distribution.
   6. The document includes the rights of citizens as well.
   7. ***A suggestion was made to add a section about how to praise a good officer.*** This amendment was accepted.
   8. A motion was made by Richard Deichsel and seconded by Paul Watson to pass the amended resolution. The motion passed by voice vote.
   9. (see attached resolution)
3. **CPOA Update – Ed Harness**
   1. National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement meeting is September 25. Free workshop is at 1PM.
   2. Mr. Harness clarified the role of the monitor. Apparently there were some misconceptions at the City Council meeting. The monitor:
      * + - a. Is eyes and ear of court.
          - b. Reviews changes, reports to court.
          - c. Is not APD consultant or guide to department.
          - d. Is not our consultant, or tells us what to do.
          - e. We make changes to the Oversight Agency which reports to monitor.
   3. There is a disconnect between necessary, trained, and effective use of force.
      1. It is unclear whether knee strikes are an appropriate use of force.
      2. We have requested writing that shows knee strikes while cuffing are allowed. We see it in the CIRT unit. The writing has not been produced.
      3. It takes a long time to turn a ship around.
   4. Chief disagrees with about 30% of the board’s recommendations. He must explain why in writing.
   5. There was discussion about the length of time it takes for the DA’s office to turn cases around.
      1. Cases are dropped and criminals go free because paperwork is delivered too slowly.
      2. It takes two years to process police shootings.
      3. Bernalillo County has special limits because they abused the limits.
   6. There was discussion of judges being too lenient.
      1. It was noted that police arrest people and they are on the street in 24 hours.
      2. Judges release repeat offenders, again and again. In some cases it’s because the must follow the laws.
      3. NM State Bar does surveys, but they are not available to the public. There was discussion of giving results to voters, possibly using the FOI act.
4. **Steve Rickman – Monitor Team**
   1. Thanked attendees and board members for their participation.
5. **CIRT**
   1. The discussion started as a result of a question about whether officers discuss shootings. The police answer was that they don’t since an officer involved can’t discuss it. Other officers would need to base their information on the news media, which they feel is incomplete and unreliable so there is no discussion.
   2. Concern was expressed that APD would not learn from problems.
   3. Ms. Espinoza explained that part of the work of CIRT is to examine situations and learn from them.
      1. This includes other cities in the US.
      2. They can’t look at issues until investigations are complete.
      3. CIRT looks at whether policy failed or wasn’t followed and recommends new policy.
6. **DISCUSSION**
7. **Sgt. Rich Evans – Head of Crimes Against Child Unit (CACU)**
   1. Born and raised in Albuquerque. Served in CACU as a detective in 2009. Came back as sergeant in 2013 to run unit.
   2. After Omari incident CACU members came up with two recommendations.
      1. To counter inconsistent response, create a multidisciplinary CARE team. They put together a 40 hour program to create consistent initial responses, and write good reports.
      2. Co-house CYFD and CACU. Initially they were co-housed and could share information and concerns. Then they were separated. Now there are 8 CYFD members co-housed with CACU, which is an improvement, but could be better.
   3. Concern was expressed that people now blame officials, rather than perpetrators who are “monsters”.
   4. CACU reviews 1000-1300 CYFD recommendations/month. CYFD gave CACU two civilians to help.
   5. The Family Education Program is recommended to help some parents do a better job. When school is in session more cases are reported, as teachers notice problems.
   6. CACU investigates all deaths. Not all are criminal. Children die because they are not placed on their backs, co-sleeping, pennies on a table or items in a crib.
   7. People need to report potential child abuse. Often there is apathy or people are afraid to turn in neighbors.
   8. Law enforcement and judges can take a child from parents for up to 48 hours. CYFD needs a court order. After 48 hours they must be moved to foster care or their homes. CYFD sometimes has family centered meetings. CACU doesn’t always agree with the decisions of CYFD, especially when returning children to dangerous families.
   9. The CARE team has 50 slots, 38 filled.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00 PM, seconded, and approved by voice vote

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Richard Deichsel - Secretary