

**North Las Vegas Police Department
Chief's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2004**

ATTENDEES

**Rob Aker
Florence Buchanan
Mimi Devore-Rigg
Connie Holtmann-Spangler**

**Nicholas Lehman
Laura Marscheck
Derrick Mensah
Chief Mark Paresi**

**Dana Phillips
Sandra Phillips
Susan Sayegh**

NEW ITEMS

- 1) Connie opened the meeting by introducing herself. She went over each section of the Chief's Advisory Council manual that was given out to the members.
- 2) Laura welcomed the members and thanked them for coming. After introducing herself, she asked that the members please be sure to sign in and add e-mail addresses so that she can send the meeting minutes electronically.
- 3) Chief Paresi gave some background about himself and that he hoped this committee will bring the community and the police department together. He asked that the members' phone numbers not be posted anywhere. If you need to get a hold of him, he could be paged at any time.

Chief Paresi explained that North Las Vegas is one of the fastest growing cities in Nevada, experiencing about a 14% growth each year with between 15,000 and 18,000 new residents each year. The population now is between 142,000 and 150,000 citizens and he expects that within the next 20 years it will grow to around 450,000. Chief Paresi has plans to expand the police department infrastructure to handle this growth. We are hiring 10 new officers in February and another 15 in September. This year he will concentrate on expanding civilian support personnel. He would like to increase diversity training as NLV is the largest city in Nevada with a minority population.

The committee was formed to invoke community policing and neighborhood changes by asking for public input to help shape the future of the Department. He expects to peak interest and for you to be involved.

Chief Paresi wished we could have formed earlier to have had the opportunity to review the new taser policy. The policy is expected to be approved at this Wednesday's City council meeting. He feels the use of tasers is much more humane than batons or guns. Tasers make it safe for both the public and the officers. It is a safer form of use of force.

Please ask questions. Chief Paresi doesn't want "yes" people. He wants to start interaction as soon as possible. The more you know the more your community will know. Go back to your groups and talk about what you learn and share ideas. Ask for input, find out what your community thinks about the police department. The Chief encourages you to always be inquiring. Please follow the ground rules during the meetings. He doesn't want anyone to be disrespectful which makes for a level playing field. All of the inputs have value and worth. We need to hold each other to the rules.

- 4) Connie then asked everyone to take turns introducing themselves and what they hope to get from these meetings.

Rob is a member of the PD with an associate law degree and a bachelor degree. He was asked to participate hoping to build a bond between the community and patrol. He is the Police Officer's Association representative.

Derrick is originally from Massachusetts. He started a community program called the "Seed of Life" and is involved in youth groups. Derrick feels that when more people become involved life will be safer. There is a lack of trust of police. Teamwork and participation is needed to make the community safer.

Dana is the Teamster 14 representative. She worked for the City of North Las Vegas for 17 years before becoming the representative. She is looking forward to assisting us to build the Department.

Nicholas is a paramedic who always wanted to be a police officer. He wants to get involved in his community. He was asked to bring up why off duty police officers are paid to act as security in his community instead of paying less expensive security guards. Chief Paresi advised there was a contract with the Home Owners Association to hire off duty officers because they feel it gives the community more valuable protection. Ultimately it was decided that the decision rests with the Home Owners Association.

Mimi is a resident and a member of Citizens Police Alumni Association North (CPAAN) and TIP. She wants to help handle complaints.

Sandra is resident who moved away and then moved back. She has been on a ride along and is also a member of CPAAN. She wants to change the way her husband views the police. She also is on two City boards. Sandra wants to make the biggest difference she can.

Susan is a resident and business owner with a bachelor degree in criminal justice. She feels she can be beneficial to the community. Communication is a necessary key. Susan wants the opportunity to interact and feels together we can do a lot.

Florence has 20 years with the police department and is representing the civilian management. She deals with budget planning and purchasing.

Chief interjected that Florence is a very important part of the team.

Other Comments:

Sandra - welcomed Chief Paresi and was glad to see that the City had a new Chief who is doing good things for the Department.

Nicholas - thought it would be interesting to see the different problems in each community and feels the most common ones would be the easiest to address and take care of. Work one problem at a time.

Connie - talked about the book Gung Ho.

Derrick - felt that if any place could turn around the sense of fear (this police department seems to do its job and has pride) it can be done here. It is a two-way street out there. Communication is necessary.

Chief - has two proposals to work on, the Use of Force and Deadly Force. He doesn't just want info sharing. He wants you to be active and do something. It is the obligation of the group. He can get anything you need as long as it is legal.

Susan - how long is the board going to be in effect?

Chief - forever he hopes on a cycle with the group being limited to about 14 people. Also, there are no dumb questions. The Citizen's Academy starts in March for 12 Wednesdays and he believes there are still have some openings and encouraged involvement in that direction, too.

What you said you wanted to get out of this committee:

- Bond between the Community and the Department
- Reach out to Community - involvement
- Build Department into "what it can be"
- Way to do something for my community such as traffic controls, child safety, officer vs. security guards
- Want to help make a difference
- Changing negative views of the police into positive ones
- Belief that communication is the key

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on February 9th from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. in the Training Auditorium.

Side note: as the room is scheduled for use the first Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. the Chief has moved the meetings to the second Monday of each month extending the meeting to 8:00 P.M.

The agenda for February's meeting will be mailed to you along with a Work Card Application. Please complete the application and bring it with you to that meeting as you will be getting new identification cards.