

**North Las Vegas Police Department
Chief's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2004**

ATTENDEES

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

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

**Dana Phillips
Sandra Phillips
Susan Sayegh
Andrew Wilkerson**

GUESTS

A/Chief Forti

Mgr. Noyola

Lt. Gil Pittsd

ABSENT

Gordon Jones

NEW ITEMS

- 1) Connie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She took the council members to Work Cards to get ID badges. Since there were two new members, Connie asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Nicholas is a paramedic who always wanted to be a police officer. He wants to get involved with and help his community. He was able to get traffic signs and such for his neighborhood. The response from his neighborhood was great. Nick also supplied the council with a list of telephone numbers for all agencies in North Las Vegas and Clark County.

Dana is the Teamster Union Local 14 representative. She worked for the City of North Las Vegas for 17 years before becoming the union business manager. She is looking forward to helping the Department and the community.

Rob is an officer 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 was a Police Officer's Association representative until recently but was asked to continue to represent the officers.

Ted served 16 years as military police and is a member of the Air Force Police Officers Association. He wants to get involved in the community and with the police. He will help in whatever he can do.

Andrew was an engineer in the Air Force and is a resident of NLV. He has attended Metro's Citizen's Academy and is involved in all types of boards.

Mgr. Noyola is over most of the civilian employees. He is here today to do a presentation on the budget.

Lt. Pitts is the Lt. of the Investigative Affairs Division and the Chairperson on the Use of Force Review Board and an advisor on the Use of Deadly Force Review Board. He has been with the NLVPD for 31 years.

Asst. Chief Forti has been with the Department for 24 years and is the Chairperson on the Use of Deadly Force Review Board.

Chief Paresi advised that Asst. Chief Forti runs the Operational aspects of the Department. The Chief's goal is to energize the community apathy. There is no voice or accountability in the community. The Chief wants this message taken back to the community.

Connie stated that she is the Standards & Planning Manager. She will be facilitating these meetings and asked the council to check out the web site.

Laura has been with the Department for 14 years with the last two working as the Professional Standards Coordinator.

Florence has been with the Department for 20 years and is the Department Administrative Manager. She is representing the civilian management.

Kathy is a 25 year resident of Nevada with six years in North Las Vegas. She has a medical background as well as working 10 years with the fire department. Kathy is very interested in kids and education. She hope to help make changes.

Susan is a resident and business owner with a bachelor degree in criminal justice. She wants to make a difference. Susan feels the biggest problem is in communication.

Sandra has lived in North Las Vegas since 1995. She is a member of the Citizens Police Alumni Association North (CPAAN). She wants to help the officers get the respect they deserve and help the public understand why the police do things the way they do.

Mimi is a six year resident. She wants to find out what is going on. People want a voice but don't know how to get it out. Mimi also wants to get people answers.

Derrick started a community program called the "Seed of Life" which is geared toward at risk youths and community wellness programs. He wants to do all he can to help the community. Derrick wants to let people know the police take no sides and that they are just trying to get their jobs done.

- 2) Connie reiterated about the ground rules. We need to honor each other's opinions. All opinions are very important and are to be valued. We may have to put time limits so that everyone will have a chance to speak.
- 3) Assistant Chief Forti and Lt. Pitts did a power point presentation on the Use of Force and Use of Deadly Force boards. They gave handouts to the council on the presentation.

After the presentation, Chief Paresi explained why the PD decided to make a use of force board. People felt the police wanted to keep things secret. He explained that some things need to be kept secret. The use of force, until recently, was kept very secret with citizens not being a part of the board. Chief Paresi feels that an open board is a great idea and has interviewed citizens to serve on our review board. We need to get the perspective of the citizens. Five heads are better than one. Input is extremely important.

Andrew questioned about any impact tool being used as deadly force. A/C Forti said it depended on the intent. There was a discussion of how the force review board looks at incidents to see why the force was used. Andrew then asked why there are two boards. Lt. Pitts responded by saying the Administration looks at the deadly use of force immediately as they have the ability to change policy at that time, if found deficient. The purpose of the two boards is to expose the Administration immediately to that incident and have a higher level of accountability. Andrew asked if there shouldn't be non-police persons on the board. A/C Forti advised that we now have non-police members on the use of deadly force review board. Chief Paresi added that the NLVPD board reviews the facts as they happen whereas Metro's board reviews the after event after it is settled.

A small discussion ensued on what the center mass of a target is. A/C Forti will try to arrange to have Training come to explain about impact tools and targets. Rob stated that the center mass is the center of a given target ie.- if all you have is the suspect's face center mass would be the center of the face. Nicholas asked about excessive use of force. A/C Forti replied that it depends on the incident.

Andrew asked if escaped prisoners and fleeing suspects are classified in degree of apprehension warranted. A/C Forti said no since we generally do not transport prisoners. The jail does that. We only transport from the place of arrest to the jail. He used the case of Tennessee vs. Garner as an example of civil rights violations. A/C Forti explained that the officers go through extensive training. The board members will be trained regarding the use of force issues so that they understand why we do what we do.

Sandra questioned the use of tasers after hearing that a metro officer who was tasered came down with a flesh eating bacteria. Do we require our officers to be tasered? Chief Paresi answered yes but that the officer did not get the bacteria by being tasered. All manufacturers and agencies recommend the officer getting tasered so that they understand the power of the taser. Officers and citizens will be safer with officers using tasers. We will be very careful because our intention is not to hurt anyone.

Derrick asked if you could shoot a fleeing suspect. A/C Forti replied there are circumstances that warrant shooting a fleeing suspect. The circumstances dictate what force will be used. You have to look at the totality of the situation. Chief Paresi added the officers are trained to position themselves at the safest advantage point. The suspect creates the situation. We all go through shoot and don't shoot scenarios. Derrick then asked if a person is fleeing can you shoot them in the back? Chief Paresi advised that laws vary from state to state. Derrick then said the public should be made aware of those laws. Then there might not be as much outrage. A/C Forti responded by saying that is why we have these use of force boards. The coroner's inquest will always be held but it is run by the DA's office. They will also render a decision.

Susan asked if on page 11 of the presentation handout it talks about shooting an animal - is the intent to put it out of its misery? A/C Forti said yes.

Ted stated regarding notifying the public that it seems generally that John Q. Public doesn't want to hear about things unless they are somehow directly involved. A/C Forti advised that it is better to have more information given and to put it out to the public. Andrew commented on public perception. Lt. Pitts stated that no policy and procedure and regulations can be all inclusive. That is the purpose of these boards. We put guidelines so we know where to start looking.

Kathy wanted to verify that the use of deadly force board is called as needed and the use of force board meets on a regular basis. A/C Forti stated that the use of force board will meet on a monthly basis.

- 4) Connie then stated that the presentation scheduled to be given by Mgr. Noyola will be postponed as time is running out. We will go round-robin and ask the council members who attended the first meeting what they have done so far.

Sandra asked about an on-going arbitration - will either of them be coming back to the PD? Chief Paresi said the last arbitration is at the C/A's office and no they will not be coming back.

Mimi stated that most of the people feel better about the PD in the last couple of years. She said the neighbors wanted to know what to do when they have to wait hours for police to show up. She needs to get them to understand that there are priorities. Connie said that when the new area command opens, there will be a quicker response time. Chief Paresi felt that this is a valid issue. We are working on getting a feature to call back the citizen and advise them of the priorities.

Derrick has been talking to some of the NLV churches. He asked the pastors to talk with their people and e-mail him with their issues. Chief Paresi commented that it is easier to build trust while things are calm and not during a storm. What are your expectations verses those of the police.

Nicholas has been very busy. His first priority was to get the neighborhood together. He is working on NRS codes with NLV Code Enforcement. He is trying to prevent problems before they happen. Nicholas printed out a list for the council of all main phone numbers for all county and city agencies.

Dana talked with the employees and they are watching to see what happens.

Rob is already starting to implement and address some things Mimi brought up.

Kathy is a neighborhood block captain. Her neighborhood has a problem with vandalism. Several of her neighbors are also afraid to come out of their houses.

Susan lives in the Cheyenne H.S. area and feels that there is no patrol presence unless something happens. There is a big concern with the amount of kids going through the neighborhood that do not live there. She requests more police presence at least once a day and possibly block some of the shortcuts the kids are taking to deter them. Chief Paresi advised her to start a petition. Rob patrols that area and is trying to work with the school officials and school police to resolve the problem.

Derrick went down and talked with the kids that were hanging around his house and street. They don't hang out there anymore. Chief Paresi suggested having neighborhood foot patrols where the neighbors get together and do it themselves. Nicholas asked if there was a program similar to crime watch where the neighborhood captains had radios. Chief Paresi said that we never had that luxury. We will talk about organizing a neighborhood foot patrol.

- 5) Chief Paresi asked what issues would we like to discuss at the next meeting. The budget will be presented at the next meeting by Mgr. Noyola. The Chief wants to know what is pressing out there. No one is calling the PD with anything negative.

Dana asked about neighborhood watch programs and Kathy asked if there was any more money for Neighborhood Watch funding. Chief Paresi said there will be but not now. If you identify it as a community priority. We will take it to the City Council.

- 6) Rob suggested finding out who the beat officers are for your area. We will make sure they go to your Neighborhood Watch meetings. More people will want to show at the meetings if there are officers present.
- 7) Chief Paresi advised that officers will be responsible for a particular area. They intend to engage the neighbors more. Chief Paresi advised that on Feb. 12th at 1930, Pastor Fowler of the Victory Baptist Church will have a meeting between law enforcement and the community. My hope is to generate those voices. There is not much voice in the Hispanic and Afro-American communities.

- 8) Connie advised that the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) is asking for volunteers. There is a class starting the first of March.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 8th.