

**North Las Vegas Police Department
Chief's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
March 8, 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
Andrew Wilkerson**

GUESTS

Mgr. Noyola

ABSENT

Harold Johnson

Susan Sayegh

Gordon Jones

NEW ITEMS

- 1) Connie welcomed everyone and reminded us to please follow the ground rules.
- 2) Chief Paresi spoke about the council creating a positive impact when making citizen contacts as whatever you do reflects on the council. We are less of a grass roots group than a vehicle to exchange ideas. Bring concerns and questions from your community. He will then speak with the City Manager about thoughts brought to the meetings. As a group, we are still unfolding and it will take about a year to get the process refined.

Derrick asked how the forum went with Victory Baptist Church. Chief Paresi said that there was about 200 people expected. There was seating for 1500 and about 750 people attended. Several different law enforcement agencies were there and they engaged in a very strong exchange of positions. Chief Paresi had the opportunity to talk about services the NLVPD has versus Metro's services. It was discussed that a disproportionate amount of services goes to minorities. On a good note, he received three job applicants and met with several other leaders of the community. There is talk about having another similar forum at St. Christopher's in the future.

Chief Paresi told of a burglary that occurred this morning around 10:30 in the Northwest area around Simmons and Hammer. A neighbor was walking through the area and saw something wrong. One adult and three juveniles made a forced entry into a house. He decided to hang around to see what was going on. He called 911 and gave a good description to the dispatcher. Other neighbors helped set up a perimeter and pointed out where the suspects went. The suspects were caught and found to have guns, stolen property from the house and a stolen vehicle.

The budget was presented to the City Manager and it was an overwhelmingly successful experience. Now it must go in front of the City Council. Al Noyola's people did the number crunching and also did a great job on the narrative. NLV had an increase in the police budget. Most places are cutting budgets.

- 3) Al Noyola showed us the proposed budget presentation which explained how the numbers are figured.
- 4) Connie brought up the business cards that Ted Johnson made up. It would be a group decision whether to use them or not. The Chief was not too keen on the idea at this time due to possible abuse, no control and false representation. He felt that we should get established first before we expand into too many things. Several other members had similar concerns so the item was tabled for now, to be revisited when we are established.

Connie asked if anyone came up with ideas for the group to focus on. We are trying to build better communication with the neighborhoods, respect on both sides, and support. What would the people like to see from us.

Andrew suggested to have public forums or something similar at different locations to talk. Chief Paresi advised that once the PD splits, then we will be able to start that. Andrew also suggested having the public come to our meetings to bounce ideas around or maybe get a piece about us in the paper so that the community knows about us. Chief Paresi said that once he makes sure everyone is comfortable first, he wants to get the total process going, then tell the press what we are about so we know how to properly answer their questions. Andrew then asked about a go-between for the community. Chief Paresi said that there will be things coming down the road that he will want the council to talk about.

Nick discussed a problem with the roadway between N.5th, west of Losee. Chief Paresi advised that the RTC is aware of the problem and that it is in a proposed design corridor. That road is slated to become a super arterial.

Mimi talked about the community having town hall meetings. A problem brought to her by her community is calls made to the PD being transferred then going to voice mail. The caller wants/needs to speak to a person so this causes them a lot of frustration on the phone. Chief Paresi said that they are looking into a one stop phone process in use in Baltimore. They will be going in the fall to check it out.

Derrick thought it might be helpful to have meetings in the park. We might get a better response from the community if they can come and go in an open area. It might be more conducive to people intermingling to break down barriers.

Kathy brought up about neighborhood watch programs. Block captains need to have

improved ways of communication with more education and training. They need to be aware of their surroundings. She also asked about funds for supplies. Dana said that maybe we can look into grant funding outside of the Chief's budget for this.

- 5) Chief Paresi asked that we think more global about the City as a whole. The biggest thing he feels is that there is a lack of communication. NLV has no real identity. There are communities that never had a voice and ones that don't know they have a voice.

A discussion ensued about the officers getting out and talking to the people.

Andrew felt that we are overlooking why there is a lack of communication. Chief Paresi responded by saying that part of the reason the council is here is to get back in touch with people and get them involved.

Sandra said that since she has been going on ride-alongs she can see positive changes slowly coming about.

Chief Paresi want to pass onto the community that the officer's greatest fear is coming out of a hot call alive. He hopes to get a lid on the gang situation. Until families draw the line this can't happen. We need the community to step up and engage with us, too. We can make recommendations to the City Council. Chief Paresi also explained about the way the Department is going today regarding services with district changes coming about.

Derrick saw that people are having a feeling of being abandoned - there is no consistency with any group (i.e. police, church) once an issue is resolved. People need to be stirred up to make a positive change. Chief Paresi wanted to know how we can get a collective voice to solve these issues. We need to create a voice for the citizens of NLV. Kathy suggested having the council come to the next neighborhood watch meeting. Chief Paresi discussed the need to think big - we have an old city that we are trying to save and a new one that we can't let take all of our time. Kathy asked if there were any talks about trying to connect the two such as little league sports just for NLV. Chief Paresi said not at this time.

Chief Paresi felt that if our council grows right, the City government will pay attention to us. Think about what you want to see for the future of this City. We are also going to go through a new hire process so if you know anyone interested in becoming a police officer, please spread the word. There are great promotional opportunities. The Cadet Program is for youths 16-21 years old who are interested in law enforcement. If you know anyone interested, contact Laura. Andrew asked about getting back the Reserves. It would be a good way to augment the Department. Chief Paresi said not at this time. He advised the best way to get a hold of him is by e-mail as he is constantly in and out of the office.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on April 12th.