

**North Las Vegas Police Department
Chief's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2004**

ATTENDEES

**Mimi Devore-Rigg
Nicholas Lehman
Derrick Mensah**

**Connie Holtmann-Spangler
Laura Marscheck
Dana Phillips**

**Harold Johnson
Kathy McManus
Susan Sayegh**

GUESTS

Rob Hanks

Mike Henley

Clarence Tolliver

ABSENT

**Rob Aker
Gordon Jones**

**Florence Buchanan
Andrew Wilkerson**

Sandra Phillips

NEW ITEMS

- 1) Connie opened the meeting welcoming all and introducing the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mike Henley.
- 2) Director Henley gave a presentation on the services that Parks and Recreation offer.
- 3) Officer Clarence Tolliver was then introduced and gave a presentation on neighborhood clean-up projects.
- 4) Sgt. Rob Hanks then discussed the next clean-up project.
- 5) Chief Paresi advised that the new building will be opening around September or October. Another station is being planned so that there will be three immediate stations in the next three to five years. Once the Washburn building opens, the officers will be working on two separate radio channels - South and Northwest. Each officer will be responsible for a particular geographic area. The areas will be split by work load. The officers will be assigned areas by work load and travel time. They will all stay in the areas where they work unless there is an emergency. Currently, the officers are assigned at will.

The assignments will be based upon the Staffing Plan; it's a 20 year master plan. It includes calls for service, response times, etc. I want you to take a look at this plan. It will allow 35% free time for the officers to work with the community to identify problems. We took the hiring plan to the city based on this book (Staffing Plan). We asked for 30 sworn personnel on even years and 1:3 ratio of civilian to sworn on odd years. This year we will be hiring 13 new civilians to fill CSA, ARC/GIS, Property/Evidence, Records (who are only one day

behind in date entry), laptop specialist and communication specialist positions. Next year we are asking for 30 sworn. 960 people signed up, 500 took the test, with 140 qualified so far. If we can get 15 to 20, that will be good. Normally, you get 3 to 4 out of 100.

I'm giving you the Survey that the newspaper is talking about. This survey is about issues we face as a Police Department. It reveals a lot about our city. Please read it and look between the lines. It shows that this City has no true community identity. How do we involve the community in making these decisions? We'll discuss this at the next meeting after you have read it. Take time to read this and bring back questions.

- 6) Connie brought up that Kathy had a question about the meeting at Victory Baptist. Chief Paresi said that he was called by Pastor Fowler about meeting with the community about knowing the law. We talked about the judicial process. We expected about 250 people and about 750 showed up. Sheriff Young talked about everyone having equal protection and services. A woman asked him then, "how come we are always getting stopped"? Chief Paresi remarked that some areas have more police cars deployed there due to the number of calls for service. The chance of being stopped in those areas are far greater. The Chief said it was a good meeting and there will be another one in the Fall. Kathy asked to be told about these meetings so that she can attend.

Connie advised that there is a Neighborhood Watch meeting tomorrow night at 7 p.m. at 3425 W. Craig. She handed out applicant requirements and said that you can also get it on the website.

- 7) Chief Paresi stated that the Department now is made up of 61% white males and 39% female/minority. The next hiring group will be 50% white males and 50% female/minority. Females are the hardest to get. We are targeting all over the place just to get people. A discussion regarding recruitment arose.
- 8) Connie handed out a copy of the resolution which goes with the Staffing Plan.

She asked that you make an executive synopsis of your plan. Just have bulletin points of what the plan is. It is not to go longer than two minutes.
- 9) Chief Paresi said to think of the issues that face the Department as a base and help us resolve them.
- 10) Andres brought up a concern about the fact that Spanish speaking citizens need to bring someone that speaks English in order to file a report. Chief Paresi advised that we are looking into getting a translator.
- 11) Derrick asked about educating the people on what to do when stopped by the police. He was given a brochure explaining what to do.
- 12) Andres discussed about the Hispanic people afraid to talk to the police for fear they may be asked for INS papers to see if they are illegal aliens. Chief Paresi stated that the officers are not

allowed to ask for their papers and it was not our job.

- 13) Susan wanted to have an idea of what the Chief is looking for. As a business owner, she could talk to the other business owners about their concerns. Chief Paresi said that he would be willing to talk to them.
- 14) Derrick first wanted to let the Chief know that Officer Scott Vaughn is very good. Derrick's concern was about vehicle stops by police and all occupants being asked for their licenses. Why do they need all of the passengers I.D.'s? Chief Paresi explained that the officer has to have a reason to ask. The Fourth Amendment protects you from this. Officers must articulate the reason for asking. They have the responsibility to tell you why they stop you.

Derrick also brought up about having the Mayor come. Most people don't know who he is because they never see him show a visible concern about what is happening in this City. Chief Paresi said that we don't control the media. His impression is that we are not important enough in the eyes of the media.

- 15) Nicholas asked about having a separate phone line for the public to call in and talk about complaints and offer suggestions. The Chief said that it is coming. When we split, each Precinct will have a Council that advises them and talks over issues. This will start in December or January. We are getting there. Nicholas had a real concern for us to hear the other Precinct's issues as we meet only once a month. Can we get a person from the Council to join our meeting? Chief Paresi said that he would not limit the access but that there will be a meeting once a month at each so that everyone will have a chance to talk.
- 16) Ted asked about having our own website at the Police Department so that people can e-mail us with their concerns. Chief Paresi advised that he didn't want to create two different places for people to go. We have to be careful about how we make changes. We need to ask the City Manager these questions. You need to hear his ideas and projections.
- 17) Derrick had a concern brought to him by a grandmother afraid to turn in her grandson's gun as she really didn't want to get involved with the Courts. Chief Paresi said to have the woman call him and he will meet her in the lobby and ask no questions. Andres said that people feel intimidated to come to the Police Department. Could they bring the guns to a Church? Chief Paresi said he didn't care as long as it gets the guns off the streets. Nick asked about a buy-back program for the guns. The Chief advised that we have to get approval and funding such as a grant. We'll look for a grant.
- 18) Connie asked if there were any other pressing matters. There was nothing so she disbanded the meeting. The next meeting will be by May 17.
- 19) Kathy asked about attitudes toward the Police Department. Chief Paresi said to read the Survey as it discusses this problem. The rapid growth makes us have no connection.

Kathy then asked about PAL. Chief Paresi explained that we need outside money to do it.

Meeting adjourned.