

**North Las Vegas Police Department
Chief's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2005**

ATTENDEES

**Chief Paresi
Pamela Phillips
Michael Yarter
Mimi Devore-Rigg
John Doody
Maurice Hankins**

**Lauren Vaniski
Laura Marscheck
Connie Holtmann-Spangler
John Baker
Ted Johnson**

**Dan Morris
Susan Sayegh
Florence Buchanan
Rob Aker
Andres Ramirez**

ABSENT

**Dana Phillips
Kamal Asnani**

Mary Gorts

Santiago Rodriguez

- 1) Connie opened the meeting introducing the newest Council member, Maurice Hankins, and giving a quick overview on all of the existing members. She then spoke about the hiring board and asked Lauren and Dan, who both were on the board, their input. Lauren said the experience was fun and it was very interesting interviewing the candidates. Some of them had a lot of potential while others will probably not have a chance. Dan enjoyed being a part of the board. He was impressed with the board's composition which was made up of a sergeant, patrolman, civilian, and citizen. They all worked well together.

Connie explained that there will be hiring boards four times a year for police officers and probably two a year for detention officers. She also asked for ideas for recruitment. Some ideas brought up were: not charging for applications, not testing at the same time as Metro, and on line study material.

Chief Paresi stated that we are looking into starting our own web page separate from the City which will have a recruitment section and put us more into the technology age. Other agencies have gotten 50% or more of their applicants from their web sites and this will hopefully work for our agency. He is also joining with Henderson and Metro in traveling to some of the Southern schools to recruit people. We are sending one of our officers to Camp Pendleton to try to recruit marines and sailors. Connie is working on a new recruitment brochure that should be coming out soon. We are also planning on going to speak at CCSN and UNLV. There will be changes in the testing process, with the written test being given in the mornings and the physical agility test being done that same afternoon. Backgrounds will be done within 30 days. Once the new web site is up, we will see about adding the reading material necessary for the test. Preparing for the physical agility depends upon the person. There will be separate testing for police and detention.

Chief explained that there are a lot of applications being processed but few are showing up at test time. There is a high deficit of cops across the country. Chief Paresi agreed that the fee for applications should be dropped and he will check into that. He also felt that possibly providing training sessions may help in getting people interested. Dan suggested providing a CD or video showing the physical agility may help. Chief Paresi asked that if you have any ideas, please e-mail them to Connie.

- 2) Chief Paresi showed the samples for the new patches and badges. He is hoping to get them approved through the City Council.
- 3) Chief received 15 new police officers in the new budget which was cut from 30, and 12 new detention officers, and all of the equipment asked for. If the More Cops bill passes, we should be able to get between 60 to 70 new cops. The SNAC radio system is in which will give us a regional radio system. Major refurbishment at the detention center was approved, as well as a new crime scene vehicle, new SUV's for the supervisors, and new BMW motorcycles for Traffic. The total budget was approved at around \$80 million. The budget should be firmed up within the next week.
- 4) Susan gave a presentation of Workman Compensation Coverage for Volunteers. Chief Paresi will share it with the City as this is a citywide issue.
- 5) Chief Paresi went over the seven major themes in Visioning 2025 which including looking into the possible annexation of Nellis and the obtainment of Craig Ranch. Craig Ranch will be the hub for all parks and trails within North Las Vegas. Dan questioned how Craig Ranch will affect patrol. Chief Paresi stated that the City might have to hire security until he can get enough officers to patrol the trails.
- 6) Chief Paresi talked about the reading assignment on pages 13 & 14 in the blue Visioning 2025 book. At the next meeting, he wants the Council, as a group, to pick out a strategy that we can move forward on and accomplish. Chief would like something to present to the City Manager.
- 7) Chief Paresi discussed using SafeScape as a mode of development to deter crime, much like CPTED.
- 8) Connie advised that Animal Control has moved over to the Lied Animal Shelter. This should be more convenient for the citizens of North Las Vegas. She also stated that the new organizational charts were e-mailed to the Council.
- 9) Mimi brought up concerns from the Council. First, the limited number of police officers patrolling their respective areas is a grave concern. Chief Paresi said that they are operating at a minimum with an average of six or seven officers on a shift. Next was the lack of Spanish speaking officers. Chief advised that they are recruiting for Spanish officers. There is also an incentive program for those that speak Spanish and the Department also has Spanish classes.

- 10) John spoke of concerns he's heard regarding the red light cameras. He said that there have been studies done showing that the red light cameras made no change and in some cases even increased incidents. Possibly just changing the timing of the lights might help. Chief Paresi explained that the red light cameras act as a behavior modification tool and studies have also shown that the cameras do help.
- 11) Mimi brought up the issue of high school students being dropped off in the afternoons and starting fights, almost as if they are involved in turf wars. Chief asked that the residents report these fights to the police when they occur. Officer Aker said that patrol is working with the school district on this problem. When calling in reports, get the school bus numbers so that we can follow up with the schools.

NEXT MEETING May 16th at 5:00 p.m. at the Lake Mead & Bruce station.