

**North Las Vegas Police Department
Chief's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
March 12th, 2007**

ATTENDEES

Laura Marscheck	Mimi Devore-Rigg	Connie Holtmann-Spangler
Ted Johnson	Chief Paresi	Oscar Sandana-Perez
Florence Buchanan	Dan Morris	John O'Carroll
Al Greer		

ABSENT

Gregory Troutman	Susan Sayegh	Dana Phillips
Dwayne Miller		

GUESTS

Karen Dyer	Ken Jackson	Jim Gantt
Dale Stefanisko	J.D. Thornton	Mario Berlanga
Capt. Dunn	Capt. Larotonda	Sharon Goldsberry
Richard Cherchio	Crystal Patterson	Shawn Andrews
Off. Gawain Guidry-LVMPD		

GUEST SPEAKERS

Jerry Simons-Southern Nevada Gang Task Force	Capt. Schofield-LVMPD
Rev. Charles Smith-Victory Mission Baptist Church	Kathy Somers-Neighborhood Services

- 1) Chief Paresi opened the meeting and introduced the guest speakers. The subject of this meeting was Operation Lasting Peace. Chief asked that we listen to the speakers then ask questions.
- 2) Capt. Schofield spoke about acts of violence primarily with gangs. The City of Las Vegas spends a lot of money toward their parks which are not being utilized. Parents are afraid to let their children play in them because of vagrants, gangs, drug users, etc.

There was a 52% increase in murders in the Bolden Area Command. In 2006, there was a total of 857 gun crimes including 136 shooting incidents and 276 calls on guns. There have already been four drive by shootings and eight illegal shootings from March 1st through March 7th of this year.

Capt. Schofield explained that police departments cannot arrest their way out of this problem. The community needs to get involved. We need to get out there to walk with the residents and talk with them. The community is getting desensitized. Children are out riding their bikes while S.W.A.T. is serving warrants as if the noise and confusion was an everyday occurrence. Community Resources must be used to combat this problem. We need to coordinate with all of the resources who are currently silos unto themselves.

Metro is dedicating five officers at the Bolden Area Command to work and walk the area to find out who belongs there. The intent is to not reinvent the wheel. We need to coordinate our efforts, use existing resources, and let the experts do what they do best. A good plan today is better than the perfect plan tomorrow. The purpose of this coalition is to reduce violent crime and its impact on the West Las Vegas Community.

- 3) Jerry Simons then suggested that we take a diluted Southern Nevada operation and focus it in one specific area. Long term actions to sustain the neighborhood should include a community needs assessment, strategic planning, and a logistics model as a measuring device.
 - a) Ready response - respond to every shooting with at least 200 people with signs saying "we're not going to having it anymore. This should be done withing 48 to 72 hours of the shooting.
 - b) Outreach - work with individuals within the community to mentor those going the wrong way.
 - c) Trauma - we need people within the community at the crime scene to talk violence down. People, such as pastors, also need to be at UMC and at the family home.

As a police department we need to work on the attitude of our officers.

A media strategy might be to utilize kids to send the message regarding the Safe Village Initiative. They are constantly phoning, e-mailing, and text messaging their friends, we should capitalize on this.

- 4) Pastor Smith told us that his church puts aside March as Men's Month to honor men who have contributed to the community.

Parents must take control of their children and sit in the same area with them at his church. As with teaching and preaching from the pulpit, you should know what is going on in your own home. Our deacons, security, and ushers will help control the children while in church but the main responsibility fall to the parents.

We need to be able to talk with our children so that they can talk to us when they need us. In an actual incident, we will go out and serve the community whether or not they belong to our church. People will tell us things that they wouldn't tell the police. Part of the problem is that older people, such as our seniors and grandparents, are raising the children. The children have a different language that we don't understand. We need to learn that language. If we can teach the little ones to teach their parents and peers then we can change the world.

- 5) Kathy Somers explained that the area bordered by Lake Mead, Simmons, Cartier, and Martin Luther King is the area they are currently targeting for their outreach. We were informed nearly six months ago that the Nevada Bankers Collaborative, by federal regulation, has to put money back into the community. The various partners have been identified and they are looking at a more comprehensive approach, trying to identify community leaders in the area to be the base for our stakeholder group. Currently, the kickoff is scheduled for the month of April. \$750,000 has been dedicated for home funds in the form of down payment assistance. \$400,000 plus additional monies will be used to buy up vacant property, build housing, a neighborhood resource center, and low interest loans. Other areas that we are looking to tap into are strong code enforcement, LBBG

block grants, and a hardship assistance program with up to \$10,000 of forgivable funds. In serving the community, crime and unemployment, among others, are issues. We will have to provide leadership training, organize neighborhoods, instruct them in problem solving, and how to work with the City Council and the police department on their own.

- 6) Chief Paresi stated we need a five year plan to perform sustainability. It will take five years to make a dent or have an impact. This issue doesn't have a boundary. How do we support these folks in getting their community back, that is the big question. We cannot go in, later walk away, and hope that they will let us in again later. They won't trust us then.

Capt. Schofield said we have to have structure, funds, commitment, and a sustainable effort.

The Chief asked Jerry Simons for a skeletal business plan. He further stated that the attitude that we take into the community can make a difference. This process isn't for the light-hearted, we will get opposition and knocked down. The plan is most important.

Pastor Smith then stated that their church was using the park across from the church but found needles, condoms, etc. They also received harassment by the homeless. Due to these things, the church had to change parks.

Capt. Schofield responded that the police are trying to make the parks useable. Our narcotics units have hit several crack houses and we are shutting down the sales of crack pipes. We also have a homeless liaison to work within that community.

Chief Paresi interjected that we take the parks back one at a time. We force the bad element to move away from us.

Capt. Schofield continued that the Habitat for Humanity doesn't have the land or the money to purchase land even though they have everything else that they need.

Chief Paresi said that there are foundations that can help with this.

Capt. Schofield finished with the fact that Metro is focusing on the Vegas Heights area and this will roll right into the North Las Vegas area of interest.

- 7) J.D. Thornton, Jr. stated that he is familiar with the projects that have been done in the past, however, people are afraid that the government will take their land.
- 8) Pastor Smith then stated to Kathy Somers since we are in the process of building the program, please back off on code enforcement until we get the assistance in place.
- 9) Chief Paresi stated that he hoped to have a letter of support from his council to give Jerry Simons soon.
- 10) J.D. Thornton, Jr. made an observation that a community with a wall around it seems to have less crime.
- 11) Al Greer stated that there are a lot of organizations that can help with the long haul. If we involve the Boys and Girl Scouts, they can grow with the program.
- 12) Steve Lauber asked how do we keep our neighbors on the outside from sliding into the same problems that we had to deal with. We may want to include them also.

Chief Paresi responded with we will not divert police resources. This is a community problem. We are there to support them.

Jim Gant stated that what this council is doing is good but what we're doing also affects the youth, so why aren't they represented at this meeting? We need to sell this to them.

Dale Stefanisko said that there is a plan for clean up and will be utilizing 50 to 60 kids out of Canyon Springs. We can get the word out there.

Karmen Miller suggested that we call deans, principals, and other school resources.

- 13) Chief Paresi thanked everyone for coming.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD APRIL 9th, 2007 AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE SOUTH AREA COMMAND ON BRUCE AND E. LAKE MEAD.