

Minutes:

Divisional Advisory Committee (DAC), Thursday, March 21, 2013

EPIC (Evidence, Property & Identification Center), 945 E. Ohio St., Tucson

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Capt. Ramon Batista

Attendance: 19+

Capt. Ramon Batista, TPD  
Richard Fimbres, Ward 5  
Regina Romero, Ward 1  
Barbara Bohall, SNAPP/CASC  
Phil Mann, CASC  
Carlos Estrada, Circle K  
Bob Petitti, Circle K  
Michael Hartman, Costco Warehouse  
Marge Mortimer, Barrio Nopal NA  
Abraham Aripez, Ward 1  
Maureen Fisher, Cherry Avenue NA  
Neftali Reyes, Super  
Melinda Reyes, Super  
Mark Cannon, COT, Mayor's Office  
Beki Quintero, Sunnyside NA  
Buck Crouch, Sunnyside USD  
Francisco Morales, Sunnyside USD  
Yolanda Herrera, SNAPP/Sunnyside NA  
David DeConcini, Dynamite Car Wash

Proceedings:

Capt. Batista began the meeting by stating this was the first get-together after a hiatus. He wants to meet quarterly and share what affects each group's area.

Richard Fimbres, Ward 5, reported that Tucson was a place to get a good job. His office has been working on graffiti abatement, improving the quality of life, neighborhood clean-up, and working with the Sunnyside School District on health and wellness programs.

Mark Cannon from the Mayor's office since July said he handles constituent issues. He's the liaison between the Mayor and TPD, keeping TPD up to date. If someone has any issues, call the Mayor's office and ask for Mark. He handles neighborhood business issues and works with neighborhood associations. He reported that finally they have a security detail for the Mayor. Tucson had been the only city its size in the country without one.

Introductions:

Each attendee gave his/her name and whom he/she represented. (See sign-in sheet)

Reports:

Capt. Batista:

He manages five teams and 22 neighborhood associations. This group is in ODS (Operational Division South) – Team 1. He compared 2010 data to 2012 data showing his officers handling more calls with fewer officers.

Targeted Operational Planning (OPS – Operational Planning South) focuses on violent crime. They review statistics weekly and monthly, watching for deviations from the norm, e.g., larceny theft is up 130%.

The officers are responding to “loud party” calls with “red tags.” If the problem is not addressed in its early stages, it can turn into bigger problems such as violence.

Graffiti is the biggest problem in ODS, and is getting the greatest response in the city. The officers are being very proactive and arresting taggers. Officer Stephanie Brown is getting very good at reading tags and arresting offenders.

He wants the Bio-park to be successful.  
They are keeping up with what’s occurring.

Community Engagement:

Ward 1 – Regina Romero

Ward 2 – Richard Fimbres

When cleaning up tough neighborhoods, they need a security detail.

They have officers and neighborhood associations.

They ask everyone to report crimes/problems: online at the TPD Website; email; I-pad; call (phone); City Website.

Commitment to Business Owners

Make it safe for customers to patronize local businesses.

Councilman Fimbres is working hard to attract businesses.

Tucson has a problem with panhandlers.

There was a huge officer presence effort during Christmas to reduce crime. The biggest incident was purse snatching.

They have a budget for graffiti. They encourage people to continue reporting taggings.

A question was raised regarding people in shade armadas offering “free phones.” Capt. Batista said that there is a government program (grant) started by President Reagan to provide free phones to low-income people. TPD checks for licenses for small vendors and they catalog contacts.

Carlos Estrada, Security Supervisor for Circle K:

They promote business alliances with organizations like neighborhood associations.

They are losing billions of dollars in this state due to larceny.

Their focus is on repeat offenders (40%).

He tells people not to buy cigarettes or liquor from “sidewalk sellers” because they are probably trying to sell stolen merchandise, which is a felony.

Circle K people are helping with documentation for the police. He requested that people report to 88-Crime where you can report anonymously.

Circle K staff have their own paint and painters to help with graffiti removal.

Circle K and other businesses have problems with panhandlers. He requests that people not give to panhandlers; instead give to charities that help the homeless. He suggested perhaps giving these people gift cards or buying them food. Just don’t give cash.

There is a problem with metal thefts, and they are working with local recyclers to curtail this problem. This is becoming a big problem as people are taking siding off trailers, removing chain-link fences, and stealing tailgates. Maybe we could discuss this further next time.

Cigarette thefts are their biggest problem. Kids think it’s a joke and threaten security personnel. They are probably selling them somewhere. He advises people not to buy from people selling cigarettes either on the street or those going door-to-door. It’s what these people do for a living.

Frank Morales, Security, Sunnyside USD

He reported on student use of “Spice,” and of a student taken to the hospital. They have officers presenting at schools and to parents, and they are working with area smoke shops. This Division has the greatest number of smoke shops in the city. The District has revised their policies, and is working on this problem with TPD. School staff are “mandated reporters.” They are trying to educate parents (not my kid! – mis hijos!).

He meets with the County Attorney once a month, and also with Juvenile Court.

They are putting up security cameras and alarms in all the schools, thanks to the voter-approved override.

All students have laptop computers that have Lojack (GPS) devices installed.

Unfortunately the laptops are often located in Mexico so nothing can be done.

The District is holding town halls regarding the use of Spice.

Yolanda Herrera, SNAPP:

SNAPP began in 1977 with the Fiesta. She showed off the SNAPP banner. SNAPP was formed to create positive change in the Southside neighborhoods. Members work to create/change ordinances for the good of the area.

Capt. Batista thanked all for coming. He said this was a good beginning where we all shared who we are and what we do. Next meeting we will begin exploring problems in our specific areas.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara L. Bohall