

Minutes:

Divisional Advisory Committee (DAC), Thursday, June 20, 2013

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

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm by Lieutenant Erik Kazmierczak

Attendance: 22+

Lieutenant Erik Kazmierczak, TPD  
Chris Crowell, CRT  
Barbara Bohall, SNAPP/CASC  
Phil Mann, CASC  
Yolanda Herrera, SNAPP/SNA  
Mark Cannon, Mayor's Office  
John Simmons, Circle K  
Steven Clayman, Curacao  
Cheryl Strickland, CANA  
Paul Strickland, CANA  
Margie Mortimer, SNAPP/Barrio Nopal  
Javier Herrera, Ward 5  
Beki Quintero, SNA  
Maureen Fisher, CANA  
Marco Rodriguez, SUSD-HS  
R. Barker, El Pueblo  
Pauline Nunez, El Pueblo  
Amy Santos, Ward 1  
Frank Morales, Security, Sunnyside USD  
Joe Miller, Midvale  
Joe Merrill, TPD  
Corrine, Enchanted Hills

Proceedings:

Lt. Erik Kazmierczak opened the meeting by announcing that ODS had a new captain – George Rodriguez. He comes from Task Force CAN (Counter Narcotics Alliance). He has 20 years experience with the department and has two years left to serve. He wants to be here; he has spent a lot of time on the South Side. He believes in community policing, and that officers should follow up on their own cases. If any of us have any issues, work with Sgt. Joe Merrill to resolve.

Chris Crowell, leader of the CRT (Community Response Team), advised the group that they had received the 88-Crime Award two years in a row, and that they had the highest call clearance rate. They have both a plain clothes and a uniform division, and want to partner with the community. They have an 8-person unit. Currently they are having issues with police dogs searching stash houses. There are various methods for citizens to notify the police: 88-Crime, through the City Wards, and online. If the problem is too big, they investigate and then refer to

the appropriate group. Their focus is on quality of life. If there is an on-going problem, contact him. It's ok to pass out his hand-out. Challenges they face are time and timing. These include SPICE compliance, homicide suspects, neighborhood concerns, and special events. The permanent Bicycle Units were pulled everywhere except downtown. They are deployed one day a week on various days. People pay attention to them. They provide daytime CRT and are better able to take care of smaller neighborhood issues. CRT is directed toward problem areas and focus on high-accident areas. They want good "cops"; not just report takers. This includes following up on incidents.

Lt. Kazmierczak gave an overview of Operational Division South (ODS, Team #1). It is the second largest unit but the smallest station. They have the fewest officers, the highest number of calls, and the greatest number of arrests. They have 8 officers working today; 6 are required for Team 1. Violent crimes are down. There has been a steady decline in the last 10 weeks. He displayed various data reports. The highest number of calls is in the Kino/Silverlake area. Officers were dispatched to 3301 S. 6<sup>th</sup> – Circle K and Walmart. Officer-initiated calls were at Kino and Silverlake. Average crime stats are below the median for like cities except for property crimes. They have 65-70 deployable patrols. Graffiti focus has been in the Liberty corridor between Drexel and Ajo. Reports of graffiti are as usual. The city's contractor can only do public property; they want property owners to take responsibility for their own property. For graffiti on private property, contact Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement can't clean up the graffiti, but can cite the property owner. Teams 1 and 5 have only one dedicated officer for graffiti.

Mark Cannon from the Mayor's Office encourages everyone to get to know their neighbors. Emails to neighbors don't necessarily work as emails are no longer considered a big deal. Knocking on doors works. Do community policing. Call him at 520-791-4201 for really bad situations.

Amy Santos from Ward 1, Vice Mayor Regina Romero's office (520-837-4268), reinforced the idea of person-to-person contact. She reported that Ms. Romero was currently attending the Harvard Summer Program for Elected Officials. Only one in 60 are picked to attend. Capt. Batista is there also. She passed out the Dia de San Juan Bautista flyer. Richard Parker advised of a meet-and-greet June 24-25<sup>th</sup> at the El Pueblo Center. There will be presenters from Pima Community College and the University of Arizona, and they will be able to help interested persons fill out paperwork.

Javier Herrera from Ward 5, Richard Fimbres' office, gave "hats off" to TPD officers and all the people in attendance. He also recommended getting to know your neighbors. They are getting graffiti reports from neighborhood associations' representatives.

Richard Barker – El Pueblo NA mentioned a book fair they were having.

Frank Morales – Security, Sunnyside USD coordinates with TPD. School starts August 5<sup>th</sup> this year. They had TPD officers at the high school graduation. They have a program to deal with active shooters; they conduct "walk-throughs." They have a great relationship with TPD.

Yolanda Herrera – SNAPP/Sunnyside NA brought Circle K snacks for the group. She said it's not just neighborhoods that build community. She invites more people to come.

Margie Mortimer – SNAPP/Barrio Nopal NA shared her neighborhood's concern with semi trucks/trailers parking on residential streets. She was advised that TPD is addressing the issue.

Barbara Bohall – SNAPP/Cherry Avenue Senior Club – and Phil Mann – Cherry Avenue Senior Club introduced themselves and commented on different activities the seniors do, such as game day, bunco, potlucks, and field trips.

Beki Quintero – Sunnyside NA touted a mural they had painted with the neighborhood children. They will be unveiling the mural July 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. There will be rocket launches and lunch will be served. They are holding a Kindness Week July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>, with backpack night and face painting. Children must write an essay regarding kindness in order to get a backpack. The Valencia Library will host Kindness Week.

Joe Miller – Midvale NA said they are taking pride in their neighborhood and making significant progress.

Sgt. Joe Merrill – TPD says he's "still here."

Cheryl Strickland – Cherry Avenue NA said they are enjoying their associations with Ward 5 and their contacts with TPD.

John Simmons – Circle K share that he oversees 11 stores extending to Green Valley and Nogales. His store is at 6<sup>th</sup> and Valencia. His managers have the phone numbers for all local officers, and they continue to work with the SUSD.

Steve Clayman – Curacao told the group he moved here from New York City; before that he lived in Boston. He said the cooperation with police here is unparalleled. He thanked everyone for feeling comfortable.

Corrine – Enchanted Hills NA reiterated how important it was to get to know your neighbors. She advised there is a website <https://nextdoor.com> where neighborhoods can post what they're doing. You need 32 people to get on the computer. She also suggested knocking on doors to get to know people.

Maureen Fisher – Cherry Avenue NA is concerned about the group passing out free guns to women in high crime areas, and especially upset that they are focusing on the South Side neighborhoods. TPD said there's not much they can do because of 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. They hope those getting guns are registering them.

TPD thanked everyone for making the effort to attend the meeting. Next DAC meeting will be September 19<sup>th</sup> at the EPIC building at 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.