



Police Services & Safety Advisory Committee Meeting February 9, 2012

In attendance:

Kate Bishop-Hazarian, Director of Family and Community Involvement
Doug Bolsover, Community Member
Chris Crowe, Community Member
Mike Grandinetti, Community Member
Jeanne Haddad, Vice Principal – Johnson/Noralto Elementary Schools
Darris Hinson, Vice Principal – Grant Union High School
Scott LaCosse, Acting Chief, TRPD
Patrick Lee, Community Member
Rita Loureiro, Community Member
Daniel Miranda, Community Member
Charlea Moore, Community Member
Rudy Puente, Director of Student Services

Guests:

Dan Birch, TRPD
E. Ralph Jennings, Community Member
Arlin Kocher, TRPD
Frank Porter, Superintendent
Mike Sales, TRPD
Russell Stiger, Senator Steinberg's Office

Absent:

LeFreca Charles, Community Member
Will Pope, Vice Principal – Foothill Ranch Middle School
Lanina Sanders, Community Member
Margo Santana, Community Member
Kathryn Santos-Reed, Community Member

Superintendent Frank Porter welcomed all attendees and shared his commitment and the commitment of the Board of Trustees to maintain our police department, address the areas that need to be improved and continue to refocus the department on services to our schools. Thirteen committee members were in attendance, along with several guests. All introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their involvement in the district or school community, why they are on the committee and what they hope to accomplish.

Kate Bishop-Hazarian asked for suggestions regarding meeting protocols. The protocols agreed upon were:

- * An agenda with times is necessary to stay on task
- * There needs to be a consensus building process

- * Consideration of time restraints – a timer will be assigned if committee members struggle to state their thought within 1-2 minutes
- * All members will be respectful of the different perspectives of committee members
- * No personal attacks are allowed
- * Discuss topics to help the community
- * Stay focused and to the point

Kate also advised the members that this is a public committee and that basic information membership is available to the public. Committee members understood that their names would be shared, but not their contact information.

Supt. Frank Porter spoke regarding why this committee is necessary and the efforts that have been taken to address concerns since our officer was shot on October 22. Information about some TRPD officers has been turned over to the appropriate government agencies and we have taken corrective measures to help to improve the department. The input of the Police Services and Safety Advisory Committee will be important as we move forward.

He stated that the department has been directed to refocus their work around the role of the School Resource Officer and being focused on becoming a model SRO specialized force. What is the best way to gain feedback from different areas of the district? How do these tie in with addressing the concerns of student safety and engagement? We will look to this committee for strategies to connect officers with the community. The department is in the process of rebuilding from the ground up. Operational foundation pieces are being looked at. Supt. Porter wants TRPD to be the pride of the district.

Acting Chief Scott LaCosse shared that scrutiny of the department began with the shooting incident. A memo was issued to redirect staff to focus efforts on school safety; some agencies and community groups were questioning the role of TRPD in activities other than school safety. Officers have been directed to be on the campus, as opposed to out in the community doing other law enforcement. The department researched and reviewed at the vehicle towing fees that were being charged and has already taken action to reduce the administrative fees from \$200 to \$90.

Chief LaCosse is forming a Professional Law Enforcement Panel with expertise from multiple law enforcement agencies to provide their input on how to reshape our police department mission, procedures and policies. Feedback from Police Services and Safety Advisory Committee will be given to that panel.

Mr. Miranda asked about statistics from previous years regarding the towing of vehicles as compared to now. He wants to be sure we don't repeat former mistakes in the focus of the PD. Chief LaCosse shared that the department is in the process of entering data regarding citations. The department is beginning to use a feature of their software system that tracks the demographic information for the citation, including the race of the person cited. Once data is gathered, it will be shared with the Advisory Committee and others. Preliminary data shows that in December 2010 through January 2011, there were 71 vehicles towed and 124 citations. In December 2011 through January 2012, there were 6 tows and 13 citations issued. As the role and focus of officers becomes further refined, some of these numbers may increase slightly. He reiterated that the officers were doing what they had been told to do in most circumstances and within the scope of their authority as POST certified law enforcement officers.

Law enforcement policies are being reviewed for consistency with the department's mission. This includes citizen's complaints. When someone comes in to complain, one of our staff will be asked to talk with the individual to address their concerns. The previous process was to have the person complete the complaint form and then it would go through the chain of command. It did not facilitate building relationships and coming to resolution. Also, a card lock and password system has been installed for the evidence room for department accountability of access. Chief is addressing training needs of officers.

LaCrosse and Superintendent Porter explained that we can no longer provide enforcement for park districts because of insurance costs and restrictions. The three (3) recreation and park districts have been notified that TRPD will be terminating their contracts for police services within the next 60 days and each of the recreation and park districts is developing alternative plans for security services.

Kate Bishop-Hazarian informed the committee that the Police Services and Safety Survey Results Summary are coming out tomorrow, and that all comments included in the survey are verbatim. It was felt that the community needed to be aware of what was actually submitted so the summary is 23 pages long. This summary and information from community meetings held regarding police services is available on the Twin Rivers website.

Charlea Moore relayed that the Rio Linda community had come to depend heavily on TRPD because other law enforcement doesn't respond in a timely manner, if at all. Many in Rio Linda are sad to see the pull back in services and that TRPD will not be patrolling parks.

Supt. Porter replied with clarification of what is the true role of TRPD in regards to law enforcement and the need to refocus on their SRO role and the school sites and that unfortunately due to insurance costs and restrictions that the current Parks and Recreation contracts with the department need to be phased out in the next 60 days and that will impact enforcement of those areas.

Chief LaCrosse said there is an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Sheriff's Dept. TRPD officers observing illegal behavior that should still assist if there is immediate danger or can be asked to help by another law enforcement agency. TRPD is able to provide service in the school district that would be very low priority to other enforcement agencies.

Mike Grandinetti commented that he believed there is a disconnect between schools and TRPD. As a concerned parent he does not see closure regarding incidents reported by parents, staff and community. He is concerned that schools do not make students wear bike helmets as is required by law.

Kate Bishop-Hazarian suggested that there be more interaction between school staff and TRPD regarding policy and procedure. Mike Grandinetti suggested that sensitivity and diversity training may be helpful.

Officer Dan Birch gave an update regarding surveillance—they have added cameras to 4 more sites, some sites are almost 100% covered by video monitoring. TRPD is often asked for surveillance video by other agencies because of the system and coverage.

Chief LaCrosse informed the committee that he is in the process of assembling a panel of law enforcement experts to assist with professional and departmental review.

Kate Bishop-Hazarian asked the committee to suggest possible agenda items for the next meeting. Suggested topics:

- Review of TRPD data as it is gathered
- Feedback from the Professional Law Enforcement Panel
- Vice Principals on committee will share what their experience with and needs are from TRPD
- Improving the communication loop between TRPD and schools
- Community needs to know what role of TRPD is - - TRPD might want to attend town hall meetings, Rio Linda bicentennial events throughout this year

Mr. Puente closed the meeting by asking each committee member for feedback on how they felt the meeting had gone. Charlea Moore was mostly pleased with the outcome of the meeting. Jeanne Haddad was pleased and comfortable with the role of the committee. Dan Miranda suggested an Explorer Program be implemented, and that the word "School" needs to be added to the Police Department's title. Mike Grandinetti feels good about the committee, but not so much about how long it might take to positively implement change at schools. Lt. Mike Sales advised the committee to communicate with the department when necessary so they are aware of specific issues at schools (bullying, parking violations, etc.) Dan Miranda would like a list of officers assigned to schools so it is known who specifically to contact to inform of problems. Darris Hinson suggested that Sac PD should be visible in this process as there will be fewer services to the community from TRPD. He suggested that TRPD, Sacramento City Police Department and the Sheriff's Dept. need to be more unified in serving the community so finger pointing is diminished.

In closing, Supt. Porter informed the committee that the current contracts with Center USD and Elverta School Districts will remain. Meeting ended at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 8th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.