



C-PAB Meeting Minutes May 21, 2025
Called to order at 12:01 PM

Welcome Betty Ley

Pledge of Allegiance by Bonney Klabunde

Betty shared that she had emailed the minutes for review.

April Meeting Minutes - Approved

Motion to Accept by Loyce Lacson

2nd by Bonney Klabunde

Betty introduced the Captain's Report/Mission Update:

Captain III Aaron Ponce

Thanked all in attendance and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- Chief McDonnell has been looking at boosting recruitment by using various forms of advertising and media to bring interest to the work of law enforcement officers.
 - Concerned with civilian layoffs within the department.
- Shared a video with the attendees on recruitment efforts.
- The Department has sponsored a Wellness Day throughout the Divisions – a week ago, Mission had their Wellness Day at Lake Castaic:
 - Received a presentation on the *Power of Sleep*
 - Received a presentation from the Los Angeles Police Protective League.
 - Received a presentation on *Gun Violence Retraining Orders* from the City Attorney.
 - Received presentations from other speakers.
 - There was a BBQ lunch provided.
 - Other activities were also part of Wellness Day – cornhole, canoes, hiking, paddle boarding, etc.
- Thanked the volunteers who helped make the day memorable.
- Working on keeping crime down at Mission.
- Working with the community to reduce fireworks use by coming up with ideas for the Fireworks program.

SLO's Reports:

Sean Smith Basic Car 19A85

- Working on setting up Business Watch Meetings.
 - New shopping center opened at Woodman and Roscoe – Papa Juan's Grand Opening.
 - Business owners and SLO's are working together to brainstorm ideas for deterring crime in the area.

SLO Tracy Ware Basic Car 19A70

- Woodman Corridor shopping centers will be holding a business watch meeting in June.
- Working with Parks & Recreation to deal with the complaints regarding fireworks, tagging, gang activity at night at Branford Park.
- **SLO Brady Cuellar Basic Car 19A61**
- Was on vacation for the past week.

- Crime increased a bit south of Sepulveda with vehicle break-ins.
- Attended a Neighborhood Watch meeting with business managers that oversee Panorama City & North Hills businesses – street lighting and tree trimming were some of the topics of the meeting.
- Attended Career Day to promote the PAL Program.
- Followed by Q&A.

SLO Joseph Carter Basic Car 19A1

- Overall crime in Sylmar is down by 20%.
- About a week ago, an aggravated assault took place when an individual boarded a bus with a machete sticking out of his backpack. Video of the incident was recovered and an arrest was made.
- There have been issues at public storage with individuals breaking into storage units. Video was also recovered at this location and an arrest was made.
- In the past few weeks, abandoned RVs have been impounded.

SLO Daniel Ruelas Basic Car 19A93

- Working on the thefts at retail stores Panorama City with various operations. With one of the operations, they managed to capture a felony-warrant suspect.
- Next week there will be an operation with Home Depot.
- Issues with homeless re-populating [REDACTED] property. Working with CD6 to come up ways to remedy the re-occurrences. Looking into non-profits coming together to beautify the area.
- Followed by Q&A.

Gang Unit LT – Mike Ornelas

- Working on a multi-faceted approach:
 - Gang enforcement officers are going out to provide high visibility patrol and conduct enforcement action.
 - Prevention Efforts – Attending school functions to promote gang awareness.
 - Uniformed officers conduct enforcement actions.
 - Gang Detectives conduct all the follow ups where gang activity is occurring.
- There is an uptake in shootings, but low % of victims are being hit. One of the possible reasons is that these shootings are done by young gang members that are not familiar with the weapons they are using.
- Biggest challenge is preventing young kids from being recruited into gangs.
- Followed by Q&A.

SLO Phil Ruiz Basic Car 19A43

- Issues at Mission Hills – shopping center (shoplifts)
 - 24H Fitness – Locker break ins
- Chatsworth Drive Home (property) - transient activity day and night. The home is now for sale.
- Followed by Q&A.

Guest Speaker – Human Trafficking Taskforce (along with LT Issa)

- Captain Ponce introduced the Human Trafficking Taskforce.
- This is the Operations Valley Bureau Human Trafficking Taskforce:
 - Office is located at Mission Station.
 - They take over any human trafficking cases from the commands in Valley Bureau.
 - Also enforce prostitution activity along Sepulveda Blvd.
 - Work closely with CDs as they provide funding.
 - They have undercover officers working various assignments.
 - Traffickers tend to recruit online.

- It's a lucrative business, but it's a huge human toll.
- Followed by Q&A.

20th Anniversary OAD Theme

- Looking for a special theme for the 20th anniversary
- Looking for volunteers to help
- Looking for donations
- October 2025 (2nd Wednesday) - 6am-8pm
- What would the officers like to see?

OOL – Dave Brown

- Met last month and developed a potential list of agenda items.
- Prioritized the items based on importance - Fireworks
- Fireworks started the Palisades fire.
- Illegal shipment containers from China – Fireworks
- Followed by Q&A

Government Reps Updates:

Odalys Gomez, Field Deputy for Council District 6, Councilwoman Imelda Padilla provided an update:

- Continue to do the encampment operations.
- Held a *Community Cleanup* last weekend.
- Held a *Tenant Clinic* to inform them of their rights as tenants.
- Followed by Q&A.

Jose Hernandez, Field Deputy for Council District 7, Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez provided an update:

- Continue to do cleanup operations.
- Working on a project near Foothill.
- *Memorial Day Parade* – Sunday, May 25th

Marisol _____, & _____ from Council District _____,
Councilperson _____ provided an update:

- DMV will be opening an hour earlier in selected locations to address the Real ID influx of people until June 27th.
- Provided a handout of what the newly elected councilmember is doing.
- Work closely with Caltrans and the SLOs to combat the homelessness issue.
- Followed by Q&A.

Cecilia Beccera, from Congresswoman Luz Rivas provided an update:

- This week there was a budget phone call – possible cuts to Medicaid and SNAP.
- Sent a mass message to over 40,00 constituents to hear about any concerns.
- Office is in Arleta.
- Followed by Q&A.

Additional Comments:

CRO/SLO will provide pizza

Next Meeting June 18, 2025 at 12pm.

Announcements:

None.

Adjourned 1:17 PM.