



C-PAB Meeting Minutes February 21, 2024

Called to order at 12:01 PM

Welcome Betty Ley

Pledge of Allegiance by Bonney Klabunde

Prior to starting the meeting Betty mentioned speakers need to stand by the microphone to give their reports. She also noted that an amended agenda was resent along with the January minutes, and the February Newsletter.

January Meeting Minutes Motion to Accept: Motioned by Jon Wenkalmen - 2nd by Bonney Klabunde. Minutes approved.

Betty introduced the Captain's Report/Mission Update

Captain III James Townsend Happy New Year Everyone! Overall Mission did well in crime reduction last year, but this year:

- Violent crimes – 2 homicides this year
 - 1st homicide was on February 8th, Blythe Street Gang neighborhood (Van Nuys/Nordhoff). Occurred after midnight, victim was walking in the rain and was approached by 2 male Hispanics and started shooting numerous times (20-30 casings). Victim was transported to the hospital, but succumbed to his injuries.
 - 2nd homicide was 3 days later ([REDACTED]/Roscoe) in front of an apartment complex. Two male juveniles were standing outside waiting for a ride. A dark sedan pulled up and two individuals got out. They started shooting at the 2 juvenile victims (16/17yrs old). One shot in the leg, the other in the chest. An individual in the area transported the victims to the hospital. The juvenile who was shot in the leg, recovered from his injuries. The other victim succumbed to his injuries.
- Violent Crimes – increased by 5% with 12% in shots fired and victims hit is up by 66% with 10 people being shot at from the beginning of the year until recently.
- 61% increase in Robberies due to retail theft in the area.
 - ***Be Aware of Your Surroundings*** - If you are in a situation at a store, be a good witness, don't get involved, and call the police.
- Vehicle Thefts - #1 vehicles being stolen are the Honda Accords' and Honda Civics'.
- Decrease in the Catalytic Converter thefts due to possibly the awareness Mission has put out. It is still happening in residential areas (Sylmar).
- Brought in the gang officers today, we are dealing with a gang problem at Mission that is picking up regarding Blythe Street Gang members – Areas include: Nordhoff/North, Roscoe/South, Woodman/East, Vesper/West. Predominately in this area there has been an uptake in shootings and stabbings.

SLO's Reports:

SLO Daniel Ruelas Basic Car 19A93

There has been an increasing in tagging along Blythe street. Though most of the violent crimes occurs north of Roscoe. Blythe street is one of the primary hangouts for Blythe Street Gang. They are seeing things come out of that area and spreading. Currently struggling with retail thefts/robberies, stolen vehicles (eastside of Woodman), burglaries in vehicles:

- Don't be a target,
- Don't leave any valuables in plain sight,
- Lock your car.

Working really hard with there partners in the Council districts in regards to the homelessness situation. Providing a significant amount of outreach. We are working on keeping tabs on where the encampments are. If you see any, please notified the police. The smaller they are, the easier they are to remove and cleanup.

SLO Brady Cuellar Basic Car 19A61

For North Hills, we are battling with burglaries. There have been some encampments developing along the Sepulveda corridor – from Lassen to Roscoe. In order to combat the homeless situation, we have a Homeless Coordinator – Officer Ryan Writer. Have been exploring the area with him to identify locations for cleanup and outreach. Providing this information to the council districts. Overall crime, GTAs are up in the area (border of Sepulveda and Gardenia) and there has seen some tagging near Columbus.

SLO Tony Martin Basic Car 19A85

We are enjoying a bit of a decline in overall crime, although we had had two homicides. There has been reports on tagging surrounding the gang problem (turf war/disputes). Continuing to see thefts in our shopping areas – Panorama Mall. Incident at the Walmart Shopping Center – suspects walked in and took a register. Be aware of your surroundings, very important. Another incident occurred at O'Reilly Auto Parts store – one of the managers went to the bank to make a drop-off, returned to the store (parked in the back), and didn't notice that he was being followed. As he was exiting his vehicle, he was stopped by a vehicle and the suspect approached him with a knife demanding the bag.

NOTE: When you are at the Bank, be aware of your surroundings, you don't know who might be watching you or following you.

Upcoming Events – A Ride to Remember, April 14th and the Carnival (April 26th – 28th).

SLO Sean Smith Basic Car 19A75

Awareness on the retail theft. Officer Ware and Officer Smith coordinated a Retail Management Meeting (January 31st) with the business owners along the Woodman corridor. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information from the people who work in the area (what they are seeing, what they are hearing), provide information on strategies and preventative measures to tighten up security efforts, updates on crimes, and process for reporting.

In regards to the robbery near the Vallarta Shopping Center, the suspects are in custody. Identified by the license plate of the car they used.

Focus this year – hold more Business Watch Meetings and outreach.

SLO Tracy Ware Basic Car 19A79

The Woodman corridor has become a problem in regards to GTAs and retail thefts. We have a large group of homeless along Woodman (between Van Nuys and Chase). The cleanups that are requested are getting done,

but the homeless simply relocate – they are not leaving the area permanently. The homeless are offered housing through the outreach efforts, but they are not always taking it. Attended the Retail Management Meeting (Business Watch) with Officer Smith - extensive discussion with the 24hr businesses in the area.

Guest Speaker:

Gang Unit LT – Mike Ornelas

The gang unit is closely working with the homicide unit. A briefing was held to discuss the investigations, coordination of efforts, assistance, and making arrests. Also working with Foothill Division as crime has no boundaries, and there is a lot of connections across such division boundaries. In addition, on February 8th, officers went to every high school and middle school that are in the Mission Area – met with administrators to open up lines of communication and collaboration. As a result of these meetings, Mission Div. was made aware of an increase in gang activity at the middle schools – officers are showing more presences after school ends to minimize the activity and provide a preventative measure.

Introduced the following officers to provide more information on the work of the gang unit:

Officer Peña & Officer Paredes

Several things covered via a PowerPoint presentation:

- Gang Unit Mission Statement
 - Being more approachable and engaging.
- Gang Unit Vision
 - Being able to live without the fear of being victimized by gang activity.
 - The unit is an extension of the community and serve to reduce gang activity.
- Discuss the gangs in the Mission Division area and provide awareness
 - **San Fer 13 MX** (SF Hat/SF Giants, located in Sylmar)
 - **Blythe Street 13 MX** (Beanies/Boston Red Sox Hat)
 - **Columbus Street 13 MX** (Chicago Cubs Hat/ Any hat with a “C” logo)
 - **Vincent Town 13 MX** (NY Yankees Hat, representative of their origin)
 - **Langdon Street 13 MX** (St. Louis Cardinals Hat)
- Crime Trends and what has been done to combat them
 - Common Graffiti vs. Tagging (there is a difference)
 - Most crime (mapping) – Blythe neighborhood
 - Conducted compliance checks on the top 3 Blythe Street members who were out on parole or probation – during one of the checks there was a crime in progress which resulted in the arrest of 3 Blythe Street members for ADW “*Assault with a deadly Weapon*” (all 3 had injured the victim/woman), recovered 2 firearms and narcotics.
 - On February 13th there was an ADW involving a 15yr old juvenile in the area of [REDACTED]/Columbus, serious injuries. Conducted foot patrol and were able to identify the location of where the incident took place and gathered surveillance footage. With that, they were able to identify 3 of the 4 suspects (3 adults/1 juvenile). Hopefully with the victim and parents being cooperative, the 4th suspect can be identified.
- How to work together with the community
 - Businesses – Posting of signs and surveillance cameras
 - App – MyLA311
 - Crime Stoppers (www.lacrimestoppers.org)

Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Update – Dave Brown

They are making progress in mitigating the use of illegal fireworks. The 911 system is potentially in line for a major overhaul, so they are working to ensure that illegal fireworks are part of the overhaul (report/logging). Working on an idea regarding the reporting and follow up of local issues like unhoused and RV Dwellers discarding or collecting property (getting areas cleaned up).

Next QOL Meeting is March 6 via zoom.

Government Reps Updates:

Franki Becerra, Field Deputy for Council District 6, Councilwoman Imelda Padilla provided an update:

- She is back!

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

- Street resurfacing – Gardenia Place, from Sepulveda to Parthenia Street (Completed), as well as Columbus Ave. (Parthenia to [REDACTED]).
- Lots of Progress with the [REDACTED] Project. DOT is currently finalizing the stripping for the project as well as signage. Landscaping portion to be completed in May.
- North Hills Community Park – funding has been awarded to do repairs (to be completed by the end of the year). Construction will start within the next 2 months.
- Speed Bumps – application is opening on March 21st.

Marcela Quintanilla, Field Deputy for Council District 6, Councilwoman Imelda Padilla provided an update:

- Have seen an increase of homelessness in the Woodman Corridor. Working to provide outreach.
- Welcome Sign will be up by summer of 2024. Waiting on an updated cost estimate in order to submit to the Planning Dept.
- Starbucks (Nordhoff/Woodman) – applicant does not need anything else from the City Planning Dept.
- Old KFC/Vacant lot – being hit with graffiti and homeless encampments
- National Health Foundation to open April 20, nonprofit running a recuperative care facility for unhoused seniors.

Lorraine Diaz from CD2 provided an update:

- Food Distribution at 4pm today. Will be done again in 2 weeks. (Flyers available)
- Working with the Mayor's Office regarding the Citywide RV Strategy – impounding and cleaning. The plan is being developed and funding has been assigned to Urban Management.
- Presented a “Certificate of Commendation” to Sgt. Mejia.

Additional Comments:

Next meeting March 20, 2024, in-person masks are not required.

Next QOL Meeting March 6, 2024, 6pm via zoom.

Announcements:

None.

Adjourned 1:05 PM.