

**Devonshire Area  
Community-Police Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker: Deputy Chief Ruby Flores, Operations Valley Bureau

- Background: First Generation Mexican-American from Norwalk  
Played softball and played at the College World Series and at the National Level at Cal State Long Beach where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees  
Chief Flores believes in Teamwork which is also reflected in her leadership style  
Sports has taught her having a good quality work ethic, dedication, self-accountability and accountability as a team
- Standards at Valley Bureau are extremely high and exceed those of many other departments across the nation  
The words defund, abolish or reform the police implies that the department is broken  
LAPD is not broken but is one of the leading agencies in the nation and in the world in many of the best practices and things they have done  
However, LAPD is not perfect, but the mistakes make them better, makes them look at themselves and understand where they can do better and do better
- Chief Flores was appointed in 2020 as the first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer which there are only a few in the Nation  
At this position, Chief Flores was looking at the internal health of the department, looking at best practices and seeing how they can better develop the employees so that the dept is more inclusive and equitable, but also reminding others that promotions are not just based on the color of one's skin or gender and a reminder that qualifications and merit should go along with promotions  
Also looking at how internally as a department, how officers are treated naturally transfers to how the officers treat the community -- If officers are not treated well and they are not happy and morale is low, that can transfer to poor relationship with the community
- Chief Flores' past assignments have included focusing on community engagement and community relationship building – enjoyed being a part of training and employee development which changes so quickly especially after the time the George Floyd protest  
When people were evaluating what training LAPD should be doing, most of the practices/training that were being suggested were already put in place by LAPD  
Was aide to Chief Bratton and Chief Beck and was able to see what the Chief of Police would expect in its organization  
Chief Flores is the president of the woman's organization and dedicated to preparing the employee for development and promotion so they are continually learning and doing the best that they can in their position and that they have job satisfaction
- Expectations at Valley Bureau:  
Health of the organization is a priority, Crime Reduction to protect our communities and Reducing the Fear of Crime which is the most challenging thing to tackle
- Value teamwork, accountability and acting with a sense of urgency  
Applies internally to the employees and externally for the community members
- Chief of Police Selection Process:  
The Board of Police Commissioners is searching for a new Chief of Police and they have committed to having a very transparent process

The Board plans to include the community, gather input from the community to express what their expectations are for the new Chief of Police

The Board is also seeking input from within the department – employees should have a voice to express their recommendations on expectations of the quality of the individual

An interim Chief of Police should be named soon – this individual will not be applying for the position of Chief of Police

The Chief of Police should be based on qualifications and not on gender as that would make that person's job extremely difficult

The Board of Police Commissioners are working on creating the criteria for the application process which may be a deciding factor for anyone who may be contemplating applying for the position

#### Q&A:

- Is there a minimum rank to apply for the position of Chief of Police?  
In the past, a certain number of years in a supervisory range could apply, i.e., Sergeant or above  
All depends on the criteria the Board of Police Commissioners come up with
- Timeline for appointing the Chief of Police?  
May be at least a month to post for applicants to apply and then depending on the number applicants, there will be interviews, etc., until the Board submit 3 final candidates to the Mayor  
It may take at least 6 months
- Is there a preference for a choice from external or internal?  
It is open to both external and internal
- Will Chief Flores be applying for the position of either interim or permanent?  
If selected as interim chief, Chief Flores will accept as it will be an honor  
Will have to make a decision soon  
An interim chief typically is not allowed to apply for the permanent position as it would be viewed as having an advantage over the other applicants  
Chief Flores is new to the Valley and navigating the Valley Bureau and considers it a hidden gem  
The level of volunteer involvement and support the Valley Bureau receives from the community is incredible
- What is the current trend and size of the Academy classes and what is the department doing about meeting attrition levels and grow the number of officers  
Recruitment and Retention will be the top priority and expectation for the next chief coming in  
Currently cannot meet the number of recruits/hirings vs number of officers retiring  
Classes are being funded for up to 60 recruits per month but actual numbers are at around 20 to 25  
With the Olympics coming up there are not enough officers  
This is why the internal health of the department is at stake  
Have to keep the officers happy, healthy and productive but also comes with reflection on what can the department do with the current numbers  
Currently operating the department as if there are 10,000 people with only about 8,800 or less and are hurting the people by working them to the ground  
That is why it is so refreshing to work in the Valley where the community is so involved and so supportive  
There are the same number of volunteers as the number of sworn officers in Valley Bureau – the volunteers are a huge asset and unique to the Valley

#### Captain Burns: State of Devonshire and other current issues/topics

- Statistics from 2023 show overall small decrease in Violent Crimes by 1.2%  
There was an increase in Rapes (acquaintance rapes) – getting back to numbers before 2020

Slight increase in ROBB by under 4% (7 more ROBB), decrease in AGG (due to enforcement by task force making arrests at encampments) by 1.2%  
Property Crime total increase was 1.9%

However, BURG alone was just under 23% increase

But there was a decrease in GTA and BTFMV

- Big issue last year was BURG and increase in Theft (shop lifting)  
BURG is the challenge this year  
BURG coordinator Detective John Eastburn mentioned another agency made an arrest of a burglary ring which may bring the numbers down for a while
- Councilmember John Lee is going to make an announcement soon regarding License Plate Readers in CD 12 which would help LAPD track vehicle movement
- Capt. Boateng who is now assigned to Commercial Crimes Division is trying to start a Burglary Task Force
- Change this year – focusing on traffic fatal and serious injury traffic collisions  
Enforcement/Education  
Fatalities in 2023 and 2022 were the same at 23

#### Questions:

- A suggestion for future meeting to ask someone from the Narcotics Unit  
Narcotics Unit prefers to keep a low profile to the public
- Is the curfew law still in effect and still being enforced?  
Challenge is that the patrol officers have so many other calls/details to respond/work  
If they do come across minors, most of the time they may be with a parent or with someone who is older
- Juvenile crimes?  
If not involved in a robbery or a shooting (a crime with a deadly weapon), most of the Juveniles are getting Diversion  
Not many Juveniles crimes in Devonshire
- Update on Cruising Laws and Street Take Overs?  
No cruising issues in Devonshire  
Street Racers move all over the City and the County and are hard to monitor  
As the weather warms up, it will bring more street racers out
- What is a Sticker Plate?  
Sticker plates are vinyl plates people are ordering online to place in the front bumper replacing real plates  
Can be used for people who do not want to drill holes in the front like in a Tesla, but still need a real plate at the back of the car
- Chief Flores updated us on what is happening in Van Nuys' Street Cruising  
Some of the cruising clubs do pop up cruising events  
The community was upset because along with cruising comes drinking in public, urinating on the lawns, double parking or parking in the red, etc.  
Regular parking and driving laws still apply  
Another cruising event planned on Feb. 14 in Van Nuys but they may have an impromptu event  
Dept will coordinate an educational video on legal cruising to the community and what is enforceable  
If there are any violations or quality of life of the community is impacted and compromised, LAPD will get involved

#### Senior Lead Officers Reports/Updates

- Sgt. Torres:  
Thank you to all the volunteers esp. during the special events in December

Toy Drive was extremely successful

As for 2024, Devonshire is getting busy with events

Please share all the upcoming events within the Community

A big Thank you to Councilmember John Lee and for CD 12 for being extremely supportive

His office is constantly updating the Senior Lead Office with information/issues they are receiving from the community

Considerable impact on supplying additional funding for details that gives the opportunity to make arrests

Please get the word out for State of Devonshire on January 30, 2024.

Trying to correct the Misinformation that is out there regarding the work of the department and what is going on in the community

- 17A23 – Interim Senior Lead, Officer Kristin Dimich

Basic Car Meeting is Monday, 1/29 at 6:30 PM

Guest Speaker is Detective John Eastburn

- 17A35 – Senior Lead Officer John Parker

Most of the BURG was in 17A35.

Down by 12% -- overall BURG was 60% over average but by the end of the year, numbers were down to 47.8%

Can be attributed to educating the public to secure firearms, using tile devices for tracking, bolting down the safe, upgrade camera quality, etc

January basic car was attended by appx. 125 ppl with guest speakers Detective John Eastburn and Councilmember John Lee with good information being shared

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 is the Burglary Awareness and Prevention Forum at the NVACC with Detective Eastburn to educate the community

- 17A49 – Interim Senior Lead, Officer Phillip Yu

Seeing BURG and BTFMV like 17A35

Next Basic Car meeting is with Officer Dimich's 17A23 on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

State of Devonshire is on January 30 @6PM at InChrist Community Church

Doing community outreach to Armenian and Asian communities as they are being targeted for crimes

- 17A67 – Senior Lead Officer Sandra Zamora

Active shooter training at CSUN went well

Basic car 17A67 meeting is on 1/24 6pm at Calahan Street Elementary School

Baker to Vegas Team Fundraiser is on Saturday, February 3, 2024

Coffee with a Cop will be at Peets coffee @1PM at the Vineyards

DA Forum is on February 13 at the Shepherd Church

Devonshire Open House is on April 30 and have started to work on it

Please send in known upcoming events in Devonshire so that the Senior Lead Officers are aware and can plan in advance

- 17A81 – Senior Lead Officer Sean Taylor

Seeing a recent trend an unusual increase in commercial BURG at Storage Units.

Each storage is counted as 1 BURG, even under the same address

Thieves are targeting multiple storage units at one time

Taking place overnight during PM2

There has been a BURG arrest— in possession of high value tractor from Sierra Canyon HS, a box truck, firearm, burglary tools along with a Wi-Fi jammer

Starting 2024, one can report hate incidences online (non-violent incidences as they could lead to criminal activity in the future)

- 17A95 – Senior Lead Officer Jerome Knopp

Numbers are looking good

In Property Crimes, there is a slight uptick in BURG  
Other numbers have remained low and steady  
Receive emails from the community about suspicious activity daily which have led to investigations and arrests

Comments:

- If you know people in other CD's or Divisions as well as ours, please reach out and explain the importance of Officers enforcing the law to protect the quality of life of the community and also help undo the misinformation that is out there
- 2024 homeless count is Jan. 23, 24 and 25.  
Count for the Valley is on January 23, 2024  
If you are interested, Shepherd Church is hosting a count group  
FYI, LA homeless count increased by 10% but looking at Chicago were up by 57%, Portland was up by 20%, San Diego 22%, Kern County 22%, Riverside 22%  
More facility, shelters, interim/temporary/supportive housing in CD 12 which helps keep the numbers low
- United Chambers of Commerce is hosting a District Attorney Candidate Forum on February 13, 2024, 6 PM at Shepherd Church. Please register – no walk-ins. DA Gascon will not be attending.

C-PAB Updates:

- Please continue to come out to the community engagement events such as Coffee with a Cop and help the community members meet their Senior Leads or direct a Senior Lead Officer to someone from their Basic Car, etc.
- Also please spread information from meetings to your communities/organizations
- Don't forget to report all of the weekly hours you put into community engagement to Mikkie

Next Meeting: February 21, 2024 @7:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM