

**Devonshire Area  
Community-Police Advisory Board Zoom Meeting via Zoom  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker: Gilbert Bright, LA County Assistant District Attorney

- DA Hochman sends his regrets for not being able to attend this evening.
- ADA Bright is currently one of the 4 Assistant DA's that serve right under the District Attorney with a total of 150 years of combined experience  
His previous assignments were -- low level Robbery Unit, Gang Unit, Police Misconduct Unit (Rafael Perez matter), Appellate Unit, Assistant Head Deputy at Airport, PRA Coordinator and Head Deputy of the Mental Health Unit
- ADA Bright characterizes DA Hochman as bright, energetic, very knowledgeable, very experienced, very intelligent and get his point across to non-lawyers in a way that can be understood by everyone
- The DA's office is:
  - now prosecuting with enhancements which were taken away during the previous administration such as gangs, juvenile and misdemeanor cases
  - working with its justice partners and has joined Task Forces (Human Sex Trafficking and Fentanyl) and created Advisory Boards (African-American, Latino, LGBTQ and Business and Professions)
  - Prosecuting cases by looking at each case and with intent to holding people accountable
- If you commit an offense, you will be held accountable if proven beyond a reasonable doubt

Main Issues raised by Capt. Burns and Detective Eastburn:

- The number of filing attorneys during the previous administration was cut in half and limited the ability of the filing attorneys who were all reassigned to the main DA's office. All cases were only allowed to be filed by these attorneys assigned to the DA's office  
Currently the cases being submitted for warrants where the suspects have not been arrested are taking over 14 months to 2 years  
What is being done to increase the number of filing attorneys and reduce the backlog?
- Devonshire Area has been made a huge target by burglary crews for years and several homes have been burglarized twice and is spreading City-wide  
It is harder to catch the burglars in the act, but can use DNA left by the suspect to make an identification
- The concern is the delay in action.  
Not only does it take 3 to 6 months for the results, but also before an arrest can be made, per the District Attorney's Office's filing policy, a confirmation DNA is required  
The process of finding that individual to get a confirmation DNA can take 6mos to a year and an additional 3 to 6 months to get the results go ahead and file the charges  
In the end it can take a year for the DA to file charges and during this time, suspect is out victimizing more members of the community
- Is there a way to change this policy?
- Can there be a change where LAPD can make an arrest when the first DNA hit comes back and hold them until the confirmation DNA match comes back by the time of their primary hearing

- Confirmation DNA is requested because there is no of chain of custody of the sample is delivered for analysis even if there is a hit from CODUS
- Because of this slow process in filing, the LAPD is looked upon as a failure by the community  
E.g., There is a suspect out on bail from a 2023 arrest, has been arraigned but no hearing as of yet because the defense keeps asking for a continuance  
While this suspect is out, he is continuing to victimize the community by being arrested over and over
- One defendant has committed 50 burglaries while he is out waiting for his trial
- This sends the wrong message to the community
- Prop 36 has definitely made a big difference in the filing – especially with shoplifting with priors  
The DA's Office is filing aggressively

#### Response:

- Currently the DA's office is down to 750 attorneys (compared to 1,500 in the past) and is trying to increase that number but can only be done with the help of the County Board of Supervisors.
- The previous administration wanted to centralize all the filing.  
Prior to the previous administration, when a crime was committed in a certain jurisdiction, the case was filed at the courthouse in that jurisdiction.
- The previous administration wanted to funnel all cases in a centralized manner and the ADA's in the local courthouses were supervised by the main office.
- DA Hochman has decentralized the filing process and now the cases are being filed in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred.
- The DA's office is trying to address the backlog issue
- Recent report indicates that the backlogged cases have been reduced from 14,000 to 9,000.
- The courts will err on the side of caution in denying the request for a continuance so that the case will not be overturned at trial for lack of preparation and the most judges will give the defense the right to a continuance if a valid argument is made
- Pressure from the public to speed up the process

#### Other Comments:

- The DA's Office has to make changes and come up with an answer and not just talk about it Even when LAPD is working hard but without any results the community will turn on them  
Now that you heard the problem would like to see how you can improve this situation  
Otherwise, the victims are continuing to be victimized while these individuals are out
- People are afraid to leave their homes with everything going on
- Can the statutes be changed such as limit the number of continuances depending on the case
- Suggesting a townhall with the DA to talk to the community
- Hope to see the dialogue continue between the DA's Office and Captain Burns and Detective Eastburn

#### State of Devonshire by Captain Burns:

- On a positive note, Year-To-Date violent crimes are down about 30%
- Down in property crimes with some decreases in Theft as well as Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles  
But still being hit hard in Burglaries -- not long just in north of 118 but wide-spread in Devonshire  
3 to 5 people with 1 or 2 drivers, entering from the back and targeting jewelry, cash and firearms  
Getting help from Metropolitan Division when they are available
- Making arrests but making bail and not going to jail

## SLO Reports

- 17A23 SLO Efren Corral  
Noticeable increase in graffiti...take pictures and email to the Senior Lead Officers  
Having a Business Watch meeting with Shapell Properties for the Vineyards and Porter Ranch Town Center
- 17A67 SLO Sandra Zamora  
Increase in graffiti, Grand Theft Auto and license plates  
Having an anti-license plate theft event on April 5 from 8am to 12pm  
Outreach event for April will be at the Chick-Fil-A on Tampa on 4/29  
4/26 Open House/Pancake/Car Show  
Given a Project from OVB to recruit more volunteers
- 17A81 Interim SLO's James Black and Daniel Douelfakar  
Seeing Grand Theft Autos at the Northridge Fashion Center – do not leave vehicles unattended  
Do not leave valuables in plain sight when parking at the mall  
Increase in the homeless population in A81 and with that seeing increase in property crime and some increase in violent crimes  
\*Officer Black was named Officer of the Year for 2024\*  
Next Basic Car Meeting is March 24 on zoom with SLO Corral's 17A23
- 17A95 Interim SLO Phillip Yu  
All numbers are good  
Encampment on Haskell/Rayen is gone  
Officers Black and Douelfakar made an arrest of a documented gang member at the Haskell/Parthenia encampment  
Inside Safe at Parthenia and 405 scheduled for 4/18  
SLO Andrachick made an arrest and impounded an RV – Recovered a firearm and large amount of fentanyl that could was estimated to kill over 141,000 people

## C-PAB Updates

- Looking to recruit in areas C-PAB is under-represented – please keep an eye out for people who are active and are interested in joining
- Please sign up for Open House Outreach Table

## Other Comments/Questions:

Is Tourist Burglary crews still an issue?  
Homeless Count in February – results will be out in late spring/early summer  
Why does it take months to get the results of the homeless count and why are they always adjusting numbers?  
Concerns regarding illegal fireworks – perhaps with John Lee as the Chair of the Public Safety Committee, can give this a legislative push  
What measures will be taken to fight the on-going grab and go?  
How can one prosecute copper wire thefts by third person videos?  
Why are the Police Commissioners more interested in protecting the rights of the criminals?  
How is the Automatic License Plate Reader program?

Next Meeting: April 16, 2025

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM