

Davis Police Department
Community Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2009

Present: Landy Black, Hamza El-Nakhal, Janis Lott, Pam Mari, Carlos Matos, Diane McGee, Steve Pierce, Carla Pion, Scott Wieking, Kevin Wolf

Guests: Administrative Aide Pat Snyder

Round Table Discussion	When asked, Chief Black expressed that it is greatly beneficial to have a group such as the Community Advisory Board. He does not want to “hijack” the meetings with presentations, but to listen to existing and potential issues in the community. He wishes to stay in touch with people representing the various constituents and invited members to express opinions about what the PD needs to do better and/or differently.
Middle East	Hamza El-Nakhal reported that the International House “Peace in the Middle East” panel discussion had a full house with a cordial discussion. The candlelight vigil in Central Park, vigil on the UCD campus and the “Celebration of Abraham” at St. James also went smoothly. Chief Black expressed the Davis Police strive to be alert to potential problems, but not have an overbearing presence, interfering with valuable discussion.
Homeless	<p>Chief Black asked Janis Lott what the downtown business community perception is about how the Police are working with homeless. Janis reported that she has attended meetings with the business community, City, two City Council members and Enterprise reporter to discuss homeless issues. They are glad to see the City involvement and realize this is a long term issue with no quick fixes. Janis indicated that the business community is excited about having a full time Bike Officer who will also actively work with the homeless population.</p> <p>Chief Black pointed out that police are only one of many tools the City has to help with homeless issues. It also involves churches, community members, city staff and the social fabric. He also noted that police have reported seeing more homeless faces in Davis—most of whom are transient and not from Davis. Besides Central Park, homeless are also settling at the train depot and in the Olive Drive area.</p> <p>Carlos Matos added that he works with homeless in the area who are trying to help themselves, not wanting to be homeless, and trying to find a way out. He also said there are some who are homeless by lifestyle. Some truly homeless are being brutalized and usually won’t report it. Carlos was glad to see the lockers put in so their stuff would not be stolen. Chief Black noted that part of the reason for the bike officer is to get to know the homeless population and build a level of trust so they will talk with Police when they are harmed.</p> <p>Chief Black asked if Carlos is hearing complaints about police conduct. Carlos said that things have improved and that the last true complaint he heard was about a year ago. That complainant could not identify the officer involved.</p>

Immigration	Hamza El-Nakhal asked about an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) pick up in Davis which resulted in deportation to Guatemala. Chief Black said ICE did not communicate with Davis Police about this operation and we do not get involved with immigration work. Davis Police do not ask for papers, only identification, when making contact with people.
Solicitors	Diane McGee brought up a concern door-to-door solicitors who are becoming aggressive. Chief Black noted that each individual solicitor must have their own permits/business license on them. If they do not produce it, they can be cited. He recommended letting the person know someone is home (in case it is an attempt to break in) and let them know you are not interested. If they do not go away, tell them you are calling the police. Use the 24-hr non emergency line, 747-5400.
Crime Alerts	Carla Pion said she is still pushing for door hangers to be hung when a crime happens in a neighborhood. She said that a crime occurred in her neighborhood recently and the information did not show up on Crime Mapper for two days. She also said people don't access Crime Mapper on a regular basis.
Training Ministerial Staff	Scott Wieking mentioned that Lt. Waltz talked with a group of ministers about a year ago regarding what to do in the case of an active shooter. He said the ministers have requested further precaution education and guidelines on how to secure their congregations.
School Resource Officer	<p>Pam Mari said the school district is struggling with the budget, but the good news is the police hiring of full time School Resource Officer Dan La Fond. The journalism class plans to interview SRO La Fond. She said the police have had great communication with various campus groups and received their input. Davis High has not had an SRO in so long that current students have not had association with Police on campus unless there was something bad happening. We need to shift that negative perception.</p> <p>Discussions at DJUSD have included how to use the SRO effectively, how to work together with the current DJUSD School Liaison Marc Hicks, the discipline code and what procedures the district should take with kids that are misbehaving. They are working on a three part plan: 1) talking about attendance and truancy, 2) talking about discipline tailored to the offense, and 3) grading. The school needs to decide when to call the police and when suspension is triggered.</p>
International House Fundraiser	Hamza El-Nakhal reported that sponsors are still needed for the May 11 th International House fundraiser where local basketball players will challenge the Harlem Ambassadors at Davis High School. The sponsors will be able to post banners around the gymnasium.
Project Linus	Diane McGee gave a report on Project Linus. She has collected over 300 blankets.
Chief's Update:	Chief Black reported that in late 2007, the Police started to receive a number of complaints that at least one business providing massages in Davis was actually a front for prostitution.

**Massage
Parlor Sting**

An investigation was started to determine if this information was accurate.

The Police Department conducted surveillance on the establishment as time and resources allowed. Surveillance on the business supported the information reported to the Police Department. As the investigation progressed, Investigators spoke with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Frequently these types of massage businesses employ illegal aliens who are victims of human trafficking. Human trafficking investigations are the responsibility of the FBI. To give them time to conduct their human trafficking inquiry, the FBI asked the Police Department to suspend further investigation of the suspected prostitution activity associated with the identified location.

Once it was determined human trafficking was not an issue, the PD refreshed its investigation to ensure the current activity violated California law; it did. With help from the Sacramento Sheriff's Vice Unit and the FBI, the Davis Police Department conducted a sting operation at a downtown Davis location. A single arrest was made. The person arrested was cited and released on one count of prostitution.

The media's presence at the time of this particular arrest was intended to accomplish three primary objectives: alert the community to a potential problem—prostitution, a gateway crime; induce illicit business and/or their patrons to desist; and communicate to those who had complained that their complaints had been addressed.

The Davis Police Department is not asking the City Council to take any immediate action as it is likely premature to enact a local ordinance. We must see if other, more immediate measures are successful first. In addition, there is new State legislation regulating massage businesses that will be in effect on September 1, 2009. Following that, we can assess what, if any, local regulations might be required. In the mean time, we continue to monitor the situation and enforce the existing laws.

The Davis Police Department's objective is to enhance public safety and health. Our long term goal is to bolster the reputation of the legitimate massage industry and its practitioners, assist legitimate businesses to prosper, and distinguish them favorably from illicit operations. By identifying and removing the illegal massage operations from the City, those objectives can be achieved. We are already reaching out to the Davis massage trade association to start collaborating with them.