

Davis Police Department
Community Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2009

Present: Judi Adelman, Shelly Bailes, Patti Fong, Janis Lott, Pam Mari, Carlos Matos, Diane McGee, John Pamperin, Carla Pion, Darren Pytel

Guests: Police Ombudsman Bob Aaronson, Administrative Aide Pat Snyder

Chief's Update

Captain Pytel reported that the Police Department administration has prepared 2%, 3% and 5% budget cut lists per direction from the City Manager's office. The work was presented to City Council on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. Effort was made to keep police services and programs in tact as much as possible. There will be some restructuring. The front counter is now closed on Saturdays. We have applied for grants to help keep our two frozen sworn officer positions. Law Enforcement should receive federal aid.

UC Davis Picnic Day will be on Saturday, April 18, 2009. We have three patrol operational phases planned throughout the weekend. DPD has taken a proactive approach since the Picnic Day riots of 2004. Neighboring agencies will supply eight additional officers through mutual aid.

Round Table

Beat 1 - Carla Pion found a bicycle on the greenbelt and called the Police. She wanted to know what the procedure should be regarding abandoned bikes. Captain Pytel said that she was right to call the police who would pick up the bike, hold it for 90 days to try to find the owner, and then it would go to auction. Sometimes people bring the abandoned bikes to the Police Department and leave them in the front racks. The bikes are then tagged for a period of time and then held in the property room for the 90 day period. People who have lost bikes come to look through the abandoned bikes. On a side note, Captain Pytel mentioned that the Community Services Officer who handles abandoned vehicles and bikes, is on the cut list.

Pion noted that people are still talking on cell phones while driving.

Beat 3 – Diane McGee asked what a citizen should do if they see someone casing out a house. Captain Pytel said to call 911 from your home phone or 758-3600 from a cell phone to contact a Davis PD dispatcher any time you see suspicious behavior. The vast majority of the time when a burglar is caught, it is through a tip from a citizen. If you want your beat officer to patrol an area, please notify the beat officer through this webpage: <http://cityofdavis.org/police/patrol/contact.cfm>. Here you can see who your beat officer is and be linked to his/her email address. Any email sent to the beat officer also goes to the supervisors so you know someone will get it even when the beat officer is off duty. This is a welcomed and great way to communicate with the officers out there doing the work in your neighborhood.

McGee requested suggestions of people to whom Project Linus can take homemade blankets. Patti Fong suggested contacting Volunteers of America and those working with the homeless in Sacramento.

Asian Community - Patti Fong asked that more information be put out regarding burglaries. People are leaving their doors unlocked day and night. Captain Pytel reported that burglaries in south Davis are down in number while north and west Davis are up.

Marriage Equality - Shelly Bailes said that the supreme court decision on whether or not to uphold Proposition 8 (which changed the state Constitution to restrict the definition of marriage to opposite-sex couples and eliminated same-sex couples' right to marry) will come down by June 3, 2009. There will be 24-hour notice before the decision is announced. Marriage Equality USA is planning rallies after the decision which will either be celebration or protest.

- Davis - 5:30 p.m. in Central Park on the Day of the Decision
- Sacramento - Gay and Lesbian Center will have one at 20th and K
- "Meet in the Middle" will probably be the biggest in Fresno on the Saturday after the day of the decision.

On April 15th at noon there will be an action at the Post Office because the federal government still does not recognize same-sex marriage.

Concilio & Mental Health - Carlos Matos reported that Yolo Mental Health is having a terrible time trying to keep people clean and sober after the closing of Beamer Street services. He is currently only seeing clients once a week on an outpatient basis. It is a challenge. Those without Medi-Cal or other services are not seen. Carlos is noticing people who were working class, are now homeless.

Davis Joint Unified School District - Pam Mari reported seeing more kids in bigger crises with home pressures due to economic factors. There are some whose parents can no longer afford to send them to the colleges they planned to attend. She noted that while referring families to the clothing closets, they found that there wasn't anything there. The schools are doing a "Kids Helping Kids" project to get donations of clothing from student closets to help stock the clothing closet for those in need.

Pam said that DJUSD is taking a hard look at the way they discipline students. They question why the policy is to send kids home for suspensions when there will be no supervision there. The emphasis is shifting from punishment to education and discipline.

Captain Pytel and Pam Mari have been working to define and communicate the law and policy regarding school/police collaboration. Some parents do not understand that police have a right to talk with students on campus regarding crimes. It is currently school practice to inform parents as soon as possible when their child was spoken with by an officer. Carla Pion suggested the law and policy be spelled out in the student packets. Ombudsman Aaronson said there is confusion statewide caused by some adversarial school and police relations. People no longer know what the laws say. He believes School Resource Officers are a great way to allow kids to see police in a positive context and not in an adversarial setting. Captain Pytel mentioned that our

SRO is holding open gym times throughout Spring break and that 25 kids showed up yesterday (April 7th).

Pam Mari will give a 10 minute presentation at our May CAB meeting on School/Police Collaboration: Laws and Policy.

Davis Downtown Business Association - Janis Lott reported that the stakeholder meeting, regarding the homeless downtown, was a good meeting. However much more communication is needed. On May 19, 2009, the City Council will hear the D Street recommendations and discussion about the zoning. Lott also said that business owners need to take more security measures such as installing motion detectors and alarms. She believes Davis PD bike officer presence downtown is of great benefit.

Captain Pytel reported that Bike Officer Faeth has mapped out the homeless camps around town and will give a presentation for the May CAB meeting. Faeth will begin working with the night shift so he can have more contact with and assist the homeless. When questioned, Captain Pytel said that it is always better to give donations to service agencies than to give money directly to panhandlers. We are finding cases and cases of empty liquor bottles at the camps. Carla Pion suggested businesses post such a statement on their windows and Carlos Matos suggested more education to the community.

Lott reported that DDBA will celebrate their 20 year anniversary on Friday, May 8, 2009. There will be a festive downtown celebration with art, music, and food.

Beat 4 - Judi Adelman asked about the law regarding how far you can park from a stop sign. Captain Pytel said that as long as you are behind the limit line, not in the intersection, and the curb is not red, you are okay.

Ombudsman regarding the economic crisis - Bob Aaronson said that when we learned about the Great Depression in school, they always said it can't happen again because the government fixed it. Our current economic situation feels like a profound betrayal equivalent to a slow motion earthquake. If it happened all at once, people can be more compassionate with the victims (as seen in the recent earthquake in Italy). However, the way this is playing out, people tend to think of it as a communicable disease and try to keep victims at a distance.

Human Relations Commission - John Pamperin announced the Harlem Ambassador/Davis All Stars basketball fundraiser will take place on Monday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a barbeque at 6:00 p.m. in the parking lot. Children under 5-years-old are free. Proceeds will benefit the International House.

There will be an economic conference on April 25, 2009, at the Davis Community Church. Pamperin talked about remembering the Great Depression as a young boy and conversations about the mental health of communities going through economic troubles. He believes that community exchange can help and is important.