

**North Las Vegas Police Department
Chief's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2005**

ATTENDEES

Chief Paresi	Connie Holtmann-Spangler	Lauren Vaniski
Pamela Phillips	Laura Marscheck	Susan Sayegh
Santiago Rodriguez	Dana Phillips	Florence Buchanan
Mimi Devore-Rigg	Michael Yarter	Ted Johnson
John Doody	Rob Aker	Mary Gorts
Dan Morris	Kamal Asnani	John Baker

ABSENT

Andres Ramirez

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mgr. Dale Smock	Assistant Chief Joseph Forti	Manager Paul Gillenwater
------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------

NEW ITEMS

- 1) Chief Paresi opened the meeting by advising everyone that the Northwestern Command Staff College has begun and he sent several of his staff to attend. It is a ten week course and very intense but it will help his staff immensely.
- 2) Connie introduced Animal Control Manager Dale Smock.
- 3) Dale spoke about the new Regional Animal Shelter at the Leid Animal Shelter on Mojave Rd. which will make it convenient for the citizens of North Las Vegas as well as the Animal Control Officers. Currently, the animals are taken to the Dewey Shelter which takes an average of 40 minute travel time. The North Las Vegas Animal Control will be the only agency to be housed at Leid. Dale welcomed the Council members to the grand opening which will be announced in the future.

There are currently six Animal Control Officers for North Las Vegas. They work on the squad system, with two officers working each squad from 0600 to 1600 and one officer on each squad from 1400 until 2400. Officers are also on standby from 0001 until 0600 to assist Patrol. Dale spoke of how the calls get dispatched to the officers. Animal Control Officers get eight weeks of field and class training. They also get continuous training regarding animal diseases and equipment. Dale was proud to announce that ours is the first agency in the county to have a brochure about Animal Control.

Dan asked how many pets are licensed. Just under 3,000 which comes out to about 3 pets

per resident. Dan also asked when is the animal scanned for a microchip. Dale advised that the scanners are supplied by Avid Chip Company. Each officer has a reader. It is the owner's responsibility to have the chip implanted. The officer will try to contact the owner to return the animal personally. If the owner can't be contacted, the animal is then taken to the shelter.

Connie asked what type of programs Animal Control has. Dale explained about an interactive book for children - "Fido - Friend or Foe" that is given out. The officers also go out to local schools and give presentations to teach the kids how to react around animals. Connie stated that North Las Vegas is the first department to have something on the website for kids to access. Dale advised that North Las Vegas is the only city in Nevada to have the number of dog bites decrease. Besides lost and found animals, and complaints of barking dogs, they also handle a lot of cruelty to animal cases. They find that a lot of the stray calls are from the mature area of the City compared to more nuisance type calls in the newer part of the City.

Susan asked if there were plans for more officers. Dale said they were looking to get administrative staff and possibly another supervisor. Susan then asked if the officers were having to be reactive rather than proactive. Dale responded stating the officers do have time to be proactive to patrol. They also try to educate the public about the laws so that there is less problems regarding their pets. Susan asked if cruelty to animal cases ever get tried. Yes, the judge has put offenders in jail or fined them. Susan wanted to know if they take lost and found reports. Dale advised to call the number in the brochure which goes to the Animal Control office. They do take lost and found reports. They try to get as much information on the pet as possible and even asks the owners to bring in a picture of the pet, if they have one. Susan stated that she picks up a lot of strays and is told to bring them to Dewey. Dale said that there are over 700 dogs in the shelter over one year old. The shelter holds the animal for six days. He advises owners to check with the shelters every other day for about ten days as some people hold onto the stray they found for a couple of days before they turn it into the shelter.

John D. wanted to confirm the reasons why a person would call Animal Control. Dale said for lost and found animals, strange animals, cruelty to animals. The officers primary job is to investigate animal bites. They are also rabies experts. John asked if there were guidelines for the officers to get back to the person reporting a call. Dale advised that the response time depends on the type of call. An animal bite call would take precedence over a call for an injured or dead animal.

Pamela asked about cats being licensed. Dale said that at this time they don't need to be but they are working to get all animals licensed. Dale also advised that they have traps available for the public to catch cats.

Rob wanted to thank the Animal Control staff for doing a great job. He asked if homeowners can eradicate pigeons themselves. Dale said that it is illegal to poison any animal. He advises homeowners to call an exterminator or they can obtain traps from Animal Control.

Dale invited the Council to contact him at 633-2143 if they would be interested in going on a ride-along with Animal Control.

- 4) Chief Paresi introduced Assistant Chief Forti and Manager Paul Gillenwater from the Detention Center.

A/Chief Forti spoke about the Detention Center. The primary function is to house criminals and to provide a safe environment for the staff and the inmates due to the different cultures and the gangs. The maximum capacity is 904 inmates compared to 70-80 when the jail was upstairs on the 3rd floor of 1301 E. Lake Mead. There generally are about 780-850 local and Federal inmates housed at a time. Federal inmates include the U.S. Marshal prisoners and Immigration violators. There are four separate dorms - MCC, A, C, and F.

John D. asked what the difference was between a jail and a prison. A/Chief Forti said that a prison is a long term facility and it is also known as a Correctional Facility. A jail or Detention Facility houses inmates short term.

A/Chief Forti said that there are two sides of the Detention Facility - Services, which is headed by Mgr. Paul Gillenwater and Operations, which is headed by Capt. Fillipo Liani. Operations consists of Corrections Officers who guard the inmates and take them to and from court, Court Officers, Warrant Services. Services consists of Booking, Security Control, Kitchen, Medical, Classification, Laundry, Commissary, and Inmate Programs. A/Chief Forti explained that there are only 80 officers to handle about 780 inmates at a given time.

- 5) Manager Paul Gillenwater explained some of the duties of Booking which includes intake, bail, and probable cause hearings. Classification researches the person's background so that the inmate is housed in a safe environment due to cultural differences, gang affiliation, etc. The Kitchen prepares the food for all of the inmates and also does catering jobs. Paul says that he loves the job as there is never a dull day.
- 6) A/Chief Forti spoke about the new Justice Complex which has been in the works for about five years. It is located at Civic Center Drive and Las Vegas Blvd. North. One side will house the Municipal Court and the other will house the Detention Facility. The Detention Facility will have a new booking area, holding areas, and modern cells to better house inmates with medical problems. It will be easier and safer to transport inmates to Muni Court. The Department Training Division will also be at the new facility. The opening of the building is planned for the beginning of March and the Council is invited to attend. A/Chief Forti asked that we wait until then to tour the Detention Facility.

Dana asked if Medical will be moved to the new facility. A/Chief Forti replied that Medical along with the Kitchen will remain in the old facility. Pamela asked if we had a house arrest program. A/Chief Forti responded that currently there are only five people on house arrest as it takes a lot of manpower to run. We are trying to get the program up and running. The good thing is that the inmates have to pay for it themselves.

John D. asked how much it costs the City to have someone spend 24 hours in the facility. A/Chief responded that it costs between \$60 to \$80 per day. We are trying to get a grant for a program for misdemeanor local inmates to train them to change their behavior so they don't come back.

Susan asked if the Detention Facility housed juveniles. A/Chief Forti said no that per NRS statute they cannot house juveniles unless they are certified as an adult.

Dan wanted to know if the Feds and Immigration contribute. A/Chief Forts stated that they pay \$72 a day for housing of their prisoners and we are looking to increase that amount.

- 7) Connie introduced new Council member Kamal Asnani. Everyone introduced themselves and stated where they are from.
- 8) Chief Paresi spoke about the draft budget. It will be brought to the City Council in February. It will cost about \$71 million just to continue the same level of service to the community. Supplemental requests will cost \$9.1 million to include 30 police officers, upgrades, support personnel, and 15 line officers for corrections. The Detention Facility needs major training. There are about 11 inmates to 1 officer. We are looking to lower that. The new Justice Complex is about six times larger than the new Washburn Facility. Additional costs will be technology oriented. It is a continuous upgrade process. We are taking over the McGruff program. The plan is to enhance our ability to keep doing work at the Department. Each Division is contributing to the budget. The \$9 million will be pared down.

This Saturday is the Martin Luther King parade at 10:00 a.m. in downtown Las Vegas. Drop by if you can.

We have joined with the United Way's Early Intervention for Youngsters at Williams and Squires Elementary Schools. Capt. Victor Dunn will be the contact person. The program is called "Success by Six". We have the highest rate of young kids in a before and after school nutrition program. They need this type of program to help the kids to succeed in school. It will be a 7 to 10 year commitment. John B. asked if there was an age limit. Chief said that it was for elementary age students. Mary asked if the program also deals with the parents of small children. Chief replied that the parents have to participate in the program. John D. wanted to know if it will cost the PD anything. Chief responded that it will cost only time and people.

Chief Paresi talked about the City having a retreat to discuss the strategic plan numbers with Vision 2025. All the Department heads got together to discuss ideas for the community. The PD is ahead of the rest of the City's request for proposal. Each Department must get together to make it happen.

- 9) Connie asked if there were any issues discussed during the round robin session. John D. spoke about going on line on Google searches to find information about business alarms and hold up training for businesses. He also asked about security checks when people go on vacation. Chief Paresi said that we do property checks but due to limited manpower, it is not advertised. We could look into possibly having the Cadets to do this. We are also working on a brochure for owners to vacation proof their houses. Mary asked if there would be a link to the web site. Chief replied yes.

John D. also asked if the PD had any plans for child seat checks. Chief Paresi said that it will be done soon. This is usually done once a year.

- 10) Dana thanked the Chief for the officers assistance during the Mission Linens strike.
- 11) Pamela asked if the new patch was designed yet. Chief Paresi explained that it will be a while before the patch is ready as the badge is what they are working on first. After the badge, the patch will be next and then the cars.

Next meeting will be February 7th at the Lake Mead facility.