

**North Las Vegas Police Department
Chief's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
September 10th, 2007**

ATTENDEES

Chief Paresi	Florence Buchanan	Connie Holtmann-Spangler
Ted Johnson	Dwayne Miller	Laura Marscheck
Dan Morris	Oscar Saldana-Perez	Mimi Devore-Rigg
Susan Sayegh	Susan Schaaf	Al Greer

ABSENT

John O'Carroll	Dana Phillips
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GUEST SPEAKERS

Deputy C/A Kim Phillips	Senior Assistant to the City Manager Kenny Young
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- 1) Connie opened the meeting by welcoming the guests and thanking the Council for their attendance.
- 2) Chief Paresi discussed the Public Nuisance ordinance. In the past, the City of North Las Vegas had a "catchall" ordinance that was hard to enforce. As an example, the police are called out to a specific property constantly regarding loud music disturbing the surrounding neighbors where little could be done except to ask the owners to turn the music down. With the revised ordinance, police will be able to cite or arrest those responsible for creating the public nuisance or allowing it to occur. This will cut down the demands of the police for these types of calls and help to give the community a timely solution. Code Enforcement will also be able to take action against repeat offenders for such issues as obnoxious odors, junk cars/garbage left on private property, and unsecured vacant buildings. The fines will be significant amount and action may include seizing the property and getting a permanent injunction to obtain the property. The first time an officer is dispatched to the location, in all probability, a simple warning will be issued. Any subsequent calls to that location may, however, result in citations and/or property seizure.

Kenny Young spoke about finding ways to get the community positively involved. In order to identify issues facing the community, Kenny's office sends out forms and surveys as well as going door to door and meeting with Home Owner Associations (HOAs). They are trying to build community support. Kenny explained that there are two parts to the Public Nuisance ordinance: criminal nuisance which police officers act upon and property nuisance which code enforcement officers act upon. Before this revision, there were no remedies in place to cite owners of rental properties who did nothing to curtail/stop their tenets from committing nuisances acts. Now they will be able to take action against those property owners. With the new Computer Aided Dispatch System (CADS), which will have automated entry, the police will be able to pull up any prior calls made to an address so that they know what's been going on before they get to the call (i.e. how many times this same complaint has been dealt with. Kenny said that the ordinance is also being used to clean up homeless camps.

Kim Phillips spoke about the legalities of tailor making the ordinance to fit issues occurring in North Las Vegas. They tried to come up with language that would be tough; not too broad or too specific.

Chief Paresi discussed the new Public Nuisance brochures that are in the process of being created. They will be printed in English on one side and Spanish on the other and be used as part of our public education on the new ordinance.

Chief Paresi asked if anyone had questions regarding the Public Nuisance ordinance.

- Oscar asked how long will the calls stay on record. There will be a established parameters are in the system. Susan Schaaf suggested treating it like a misdemeanor - going back for one year and one day.
- Dwayne suggested that, once on the scene, the officer should take a moment to articulate the consequences that could result if there are any more calls to that location.
- Ted asked about an instance where a person who was issued a warning while living at one location moved to another location and created nuisance acts at the new location. Will CADS have the name of the suspect listed regardless of the address? Yes.

3) Connie asked if anyone had issues to bring up for the round robin.

- Mimi asked the Chief to give the Council members a project to undertake. Chief Paresi advised that there will be one forthcoming regarding educating the public about the red light cameras.
- Susan Sayegh commented on her HOA sending e-mails regarding the neighborhood experiencing three break-ins in as many days and blaming the police. She explained to them that this is not just a police problem and that the HOA needs to take preventative measures also. They are now looking into possibly hiring a security guard. Chief Paresi stated that at least something positive has come of the situation.
- Dan said that sometime after last month's meeting, there was an attempted car break-in in his area in which the police did well in resolving.
- Al suggested that when we see strange people or vehicles in our neighborhoods to get outside and take notice. Actions like walking the dog, checking for mail, weeding the garden are legitimate reasons to be out there without appearing to be watching. This may deter any criminal activity from occurring but, if anything did happen, you would be able to give a good description to the police.

4) Chief Paresi advised the Council that the City Council approved the red light camera study. The cameras will be installed by Redflex Traffic Systems. There will be cameras placed at two major intersections by December to record data. The first six months will be recorded blind - no signs regarding the cameras will be posted. The next six months will be recorded with posted signs advising that the red light cameras are enforced. The data will then be studied between the two time periods to see what affect, if any, the "enforced" cameras had with regard to drivers going through the red lights. Metro will also be doing a study on two of their intersections. Once all of the data is collected from both agencies, we would then have concrete evidence to provide to the Legislature supporting that the cameras are necessary.

Engineering, education, and enforcement are the three keys to cutting down the number of collisions. The hardest issue will be educating the public. We have to change the community's mind set to the fact that a yellow traffic light mean slow down and not speed up so that they can get through the intersection before the light changes to red.

There were 29 fatal collisions in North Las Vegas last year and we will be matching or surpassing that number this year. The Traffic Division also investigated over 4500 collisions last year.

- Dan asked if many of the accidents involved commercial vehicles. No, the majority involved cars or SUVs with factors being speed, alcohol, and disregard for traffic signals.
 - Connie asked Al if the Insurance Commission might join with the PD to do public service announcements. Al has a name of someone we might contact.
- 5) Chief Paresi gave updates on the status of the new area commands.
 - 6) Chief Paresi discussed the fact that the PD will have to adjust patrols to be able to answer calls for service when Craig Rd. gets shut down for construction.
 - 7) The next testing for police and correction officers will be on 09/18/07. There were over 700 applicants. This is the first time that there will be one test given to all of the applicants. How the applicant scores on the different areas of the test will determine if the applicant will be offered a police officer position or a corrections officer position. Applicants who score over a certain grade will be able to choose either position.

Recruiting will be going to the Marine Corps Base in Yuma, Arizona to try to recruit some of the technical people into joining our Department.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 15TH, 2007 AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE SOUTH AREA COMMAND ON BRUCE AND E. LAKE MEAD.