

Community Policing Advisory Board
ACTION RECAP
Special Meeting
January 8th, 2014

CONVENE / ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. NO QUORUM

Board members present were Frank Castro, John Garvey, Krista Gulbransen, Chairperson Marcus Johnson, and Vice Chair John Nichols.

Absent were Doris Brown, Sal Gomez, Angela Haller, Barbara Hunter, Cheryl Walton, Renia Webb and Vertis Whitaker, and Chief James Williams. Vacancies are two mayoral appointments

Note: There was official recording of this meeting.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT / OPEN FORUM: None

2. ACTION RECAP:

2.1 Citywide Public Safety Report, **Discussion/No Action**

Three public speakers: Nye, Collins, and Sidebotham

2.2 Minutes – **No Action**

2.3 Old Items, No Discussion

2.4 Committee Updates – **Discussion / No action**

NCPC Resource Committee meeting canceled due to illness of Committee members.

No public speakers

2.5 Staff Report

2.6 Chair Report & Updates

Chairperson Johnson spoke at OPD 169th Police Academy event

No public speakers

2.7 Agenda Building

Public Safety report returned for discussion

No public speakers

NOTE: PAST MEETING DRAFT MINUTES ATTACHED

ADJOURNMENT 7:45 p.m.

Community Policing Advisory Board
Draft Minutes
Special Meeting
January 8th, 2014

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:10pm, there was not a quorum.

Members present: Johnson, Castro, Gulbransen, Garvey, and Nichols.

Members absent: Williams, Walton, Brown, Hunter, Webb, Gomez, Haller.

Item 1: Open Forum: There were no public speakers.

Item 2.1: Citywide Public Safety Report

Chairperson Johnson noted that although there is no quorum he felt it was important to have an initial discussion but that the report would be brought back in February as well. He also noted that he feels strongly that the Chief of Police should be part of the conversation. He called upon Deputy City Administrator Arturo Sanchez to provide an overview. Mr. Sanchez explained that it was always the intent to bring back a draft of the third report because the third part heavily involves the community and the CPAB as well as several other commissions and stakeholders. He noted that this third portion is a report and not a plan because the report needs to be taken out for input from many different groups before it can be finalized into a plan and approved by City Council. Mr. Sanchez went on to explain that the lens through which this is being viewed is the wide-community lens, not just a law enforcement lens which the first two reports were centered around.

He noted several key recommendations that were contained in the report:

OPD:

- Publicly acknowledge/apologize for issues of trust and poor conduct in the past
- Cease to consider itself a special agency by supporting other City agencies in their work, we cannot live in silos at the City
- Effectively coordinate actions with other agencies, collaborate on a regular basis
- Focus on crime prediction, prevention, and community engagement
- Expand and involve the community in legitimacy training whereby officers learn community perspectives
- Transition Community Policing from a small portion of the department to the entire department.
- Return the NSCs to OPD and place them under the supervision of the Area Commanders
- The CPAB should be more integrated in the development of strategies and have more regular contact with the District Captains (Area Commanders)
- Pay a stipend/incentive to keep PSOs in their beats longer.

OUSD

- Utilize OUSD's success with Restorative Justice on campuses into the neighborhoods to address disorder and minor crimes, preventing them in the future
- Create Crisis Intervention Teams of parents, teachers, school professionals, that can be activated when there is a potential for community disorder.

- Place multi-disciplinary teams at hot spots where youth congregate after school to monitor and eliminate youth anonymity

City of Oakland Agencies

- Create a City Coordinating Committee (under a “director of community improvement who reports to the City Administrator) to implement collaborative, coordinated efforts at addressing problems.
- Prosecute illegal dumpers, encourage neighbors to take pictures of dumping, involve other agencies
- Bring Ambassadors (and other highly involved citizenry) into crime reduction strategic planning
- Develop an “Internal Monitor” policy for demonstrations and include a requirement of such in the permitting process
- Roll out this report to various Boards and Commissions and Departments in a meaningful way—give department staff (not just the department heads) a chance to provide valuable input so they feel part of the process

Public

There are a lot of recommendations for large scale public involvement in this plan, all of which we should be promoting, encouraging, and/or providing the resources to make possible. He explained this is the beginning of the process to engage different groups.

Next Assistant Chief (AC) Figueroa addressed the Board. He first summarized some of the accomplishments from the first two reports. Building a community of trust is a significant thread throughout the reports and this month the department is scheduling retreats on this topic because studies have shown that by increasing police legitimacy in any community leads to voluntary compliance with the law.

He noted many of the tasks in the report are dependant on an increase in resources and a staffing level that the department has not reached. For example, the investigations report recommends that there be one sergeant and four investigators in each Police Area above and beyond what the department currently has. In order to get to that level, the department would need between 800 and 850 officers.

Cease Fire: AC Figueroa went on to discuss Cease Fire and the progress being made there. The Crime Reduction Teams (CRTs) have been deployed primarily to East Oakland as part of the Cease Fire effort and this has had a major impact. Through this deployment and the Compstat intelligence sharing process whereby the department conducts “shooting reviews” they have been able to have a measurable impact on violent crime. He also noted the street outreach teams and the intelligence led policy efforts are working well and that they are expanding the effort to engage with clients on a daily basis with intense case management.

Culture of Service: AC Figueroa also highlighted the fact that there are now more community members participating in the Police Academies than at any time in the department’s history. This effort is designed at developing a “Culture of Service” and included Lt. Lerone Armstrong (a lifelong Oakland resident) introducing new recruits to various communities.

District Advisory Committees: He noted that all five Area Commanders now have an Advisory Committee up and running and that all members of the CPAB should be on those committees if they are not already. He also noted that the management level training they have implemented has really helped the re-organization effort.

Increased Reliance on Data and Technology: The department is continuing to improve its use of data and technology. AC Figueroa noted the decrease in robberies in Area 2 and the impact on the prostitution trade in Area 4 are attributable to the proper use of real time data. Also, the department is more carefully examining racial profiling data.

Regarding Community Policing he acknowledged that it has been a challenge to keep officers in their beats and the department is committed to continuing to improve on this but when resources are short and a major event takes place, it is hard not to rely on them.

Other areas AC Figueroa covered included: the idea of seeking accreditation is something the department can look toward in the future once the NSA effort is complete. The crisis intervention team model is something the department embraces and wants to see the community rally around, and finally, that the department is getting much better with handling demonstrations effectively.

There were three public speakers on the item:

Bruce Nye from "Make Oakland Better Now" stated that he saw many things in the report that he liked but that his first reaction was that some things were missing. He was happy to hear the Deputy City Administrator explain that this isn't "The Plan" but a report that gets the City closer to one.

He went on to say he liked the emphasis on a coordinated effort that includes Measure Y programs, and other City Departments, not just the police. He also supports the idea of having a coordinator within the City Administrator's Office leading the effort but felt that there was no need for a new board. He feels the CPAB, the Measure Y Committee, and other stakeholders already serve that role but simply need better coordination. He sees the CPAB as the leader of this effort.

Geoff Collins spoke next and noted that while the report had a smorgasbord of services listed, there were some gems within that need to be highlighted and focused on. He also feels strongly that the need now is for the CPAB members to be the leaders in taking this report out to the community and creating momentum around it. He feels OPD has created a huge opportunity by having such success recently with cease Fire and that with the NCPCs and the newly crated Advisory Boards there is momentum and opportunity the City has not seen in ten years.

Nancy Sidebothem was the third and final public speaker. She was extremely happy with the report in that it builds upon the Harnett report from years ago and builds upon Community Policing as it worked in the past. She urged the Board to ensure the report does not sit on a shelf. She also noted her strong belief that the City should change the name of the Problem Solving Officers back to Community Policing Officers, in fact, she would call all police officers Community Policing Officers.

She also reminded the Board to examine the report that was done under Chief Batts administration and said it basically calls for the type of community policing the City had back in the 90's.

Chairperson Johnson then took comments from the Board.

Member Garvey has two thoughts: first, how to bring in the School District and the Housing Authority to the conversation as he sees the relationship with these entities as crucial. Second,

he posed the question of how to enshrine what works with a constantly changing world in order to ensure it is a sustained effort.

Arturo Sanchez responded that the City Council adopts policy and that becomes the direction the City moves in and this report would inform that process. AC Figueroa noted that the City wants to build success off of Best Practices, regardless of who is the Chief and who is on the Council because using those proven practices will be a sustainable strategy.

Member Nichols asked why it is taking so long to change the name of the PSOs back to Community Policing Officers. He agreed with Nancy Sidebothem's sentiments on this. AC Figueroa explained that the legislation calls them that and therefore would take a modification of the law to change the name of those officers.

Member Gulbransen asked if there would be a strategy to address the "No Snitch" culture that is prevalent among many in Oakland.

Member Castro noted the importance of coordinating ALL efforts in the City around public safety. For example he noted the CPAB should be developing policy along with the Mayor and City Council which will help increase the Board's legitimacy. However, he does not sense a strong desire from either to engage the CPAB. He went on to referenced the strategic plan developed under Chief Batts and that it included specific line items for the CPAB that were never implemented. He wants to see the follow-through this time and see the Board's legitimacy strengthened.

Chairperson Johnson closed out the comments noting that the report had a great inventory and was a good start and helps achieve buy-in from the other various City departments. He also sees a lot more work to be done to further define the role of those departments.

He expressed concern over how the Court Appointed Monitor would react to the report. He doesn't want to see all the work thrown out. He also asked how the City would engage officers more thoroughly, including patrol, and the rest of the department (not just the PSOs). He also asked how this would be rolled out to the NSCs, the NCPCs, and what the timeline would look like. Arturo Sanchez explained that the timeline and rollout were being considered right now and he would have answers shortly after collaborating with the Chief and City Council.

Chairperson Johnson also went on to point out that this report was a lot like the Harnett Report which didn't get fully implemented and that fact causes a lot of burnout for the citizenry who really care. They get disappointed when things don't get implemented. He stated that "This time we will implement it" does not suffice as an answer—people need to see fast, definable action steps being taken,

AC Figueroa responded to this by noting the entire department is undergoing a transformation due to this effort. From the top to bottom the department is reorganized, technology is being used effectively and the training of new officers is entirely different. He cited upcoming SMART Inspection trainings of the PSOs as but one example of this effort.

2.4: Committee Reports

Member Nichols stated that his other committee members were sick and therefore his meeting was canceled and will be rescheduled for February.

2.6: Chair's Report

Chairperson Johnson stated that he spoke with the 169th Police Academy and they were very engaging and he was inspired by their high quality!

The meeting adjourned at 7:45