

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, 3/8/11, 4:15 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Jo Balda, Barbara Buchanan, Cathy Niiro - Bonnie LaForest and Beth Connors arrived later.

Not Present: Dave Thomason, Ethelinda Larcena

Dept. Staff Present: Chief Rick Wallace, Martha Folsom

Also Present: Lauren Nelson, prospective new High School student member

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Niiro at 4:16 p.m. in the Police Department Conference Room.

AGENDA TOPICS

1. **November (2010) and January (2011) Minutes:** No Quorum of members was present. Moved on to the next Agenda Item.

(NOTE: Connors arrived at the meeting shortly after Chief Wallace began his Update)

2. **Pertinent Updates:** Chief Wallace reported that we are still down by one position. We have scheduled the Sergeant promotional process for April. We have been dragging our feet a bit, watching the budget, as we did not want to get into a situation where we test, promote, hire an officer to fill the vacancy left by the promotion – and then be in a position to have to layoff due to budget constraints. We will be watching out budget carefully, will know more in Oct-Nov-December timeframe, when accounts start running in the red. The training budget has already gone in the red; we will be doing more in-service training with our in-house instructors. We will concentrate on priority training, such as range qualifications, Defensive Tactics, Taser, Capstun, etc. Back to the Sergeant promotion – we hired the same firm to put on the Assessment Center that we have used in the past. The cost is steep (\$4000), and if all goes according to plan, we will replace the vacant position in June or July, and be fully staffed. The plan is to add the second motor officer back, once the newly hired officer completes training and FTO. Discussion was held on the merits of Assessment Center testing vs. testing in-house. Chief Wallace said that we pay the price because the process they use is defensible against a lawsuit.

(NOTE: LaForest arrived at the meeting)

Chief Wallace reported that Lt. Dyer is still at the FBI Academy, and will return at the end of this month. He also reported that Ron Esparza, who graduated from the Police Academy in November, has completed his FTO training and been assigned to independent patrol. He is doing a good job and having fun. Chief Wallace advised briefly on the good work done by our officers in the case of the shooting on New Years. The suspect was located and arrested in California, and was just extradited back here and is in our jail. The case was featured on Washington's Most Wanted. Niiro asked about the magazine salesmen (in reference to the Community Alert sent out by the PD, and the story in the News-Times). Chief Wallace said that we cannot regulate magazine salespersons and their activities, as the Supreme Court has ruled that these activities are protected under free speech. So, we are unable to require them to get permits, and therefore cannot do background checks, as we can on other sales/peddler activities. We did catch a couple of the magazine salespersons in the act of burglarizing a residence, and both had quite a criminal history. They were actually working for a magazine sales company. He said that Sgt. Gardner is right in recommending not giving out credit card information or personal checks, to these salespersons. While most are probably legitimate, he does not feel it is worth the chance.

3. **November (2010) and January (2011) Minutes:** As there was now a quorum in attendance, Buchanan moved to approve the November 2010 and January 2011 minutes; Balda seconded. Unanimous approval. The November/January minutes were approved as presented. (The November 2010 minutes were not approved at the January 2011 meeting, as there was not a quorum of CAB members present at that meeting.)

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. **Chamber Newsletter**: Niuro has a contact at the Chamber and will try to get mention of our Board vacancy put in their email newsletter. The vacancy needs to be filled by a business owner or manager.
2. **Prospective New Member**: Folsom had invited Lauren Nelson to attend the CAB meeting to see what it was about. She introduced Lauren to the CAB, and then the members introduced themselves to Lauren.
3. **Panhandlers**: Balda asked about a homeless person "right in the middle of the highway", which was determined to be on SR-20 at the turn onto S.W. Barlow Street. Chief Wallace said he hadn't heard about or seen any in that location. He said that as far as panhandling, it cannot be regulated, as it is not a crime. We can regulate "aggressive" panhandling, where for instance, they impede a person's travel, are menacing, or armed. They may be on public property, or on private property with the property owner's permission. He asked Balda if the person she saw was holding a sign, and she said no. She thought he may have been in a wheelchair. It is uncertain whether this person was actually panhandling, or perhaps crossing the roadway.
4. **Solicitation for Donations**: Balda asked about requests for donations, where it is stated that they give money to the local Police department. She asked if the Police Department actually gets the money. Chief Wallace said he was not aware of receiving money, but oftentimes the solicitors will say that the money goes to "local" departments. He said it is not illegal, but that they may not be telling you the whole story. He also said you should be aware that often the charitable organization is bonafide, but they are using paid solicitors, so 100% of your donation is not going to the charitable organization.

Adjourn: Balda motioned to adjourn; LaForest seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m. on 3/8/11.

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5/10/2011 at the CST office.

Prepared by M. Folsom