



City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

10:00 AM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Committee Member Peters opened the Meeting at 10:05a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Lindy Peters, Bernie Norvell, Steve Orsi and Lesley Bryant

Absent: 3 - Linda Ruffing, Fabian Lizarraga and Tom Varga

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Committee Member Norvell and seconded by Committee Member Peters that the minutes of the June 21, 2017 Meeting and June 26, 2017 Special Meeting be approved. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

- 1A. [17-424](#) Approve Minutes from June 21, 2017 Meeting and June 26, 2017 Special Meeting

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No Comments

3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 3A. [17-423](#) Receive Report Regarding 2016 Dispatch Log

Lt. Gilchrist was attending the Meeting in place of Chief Lizarraga.

Committee Member Peters began the discussion by clarifying the reason this item was on the agenda. Council Member Cimolino has mentioned at City Council that he would like to see a breakdown of the annual number of calls for service the Police Department received in 2016. This would allow the community to be more aware of the types of calls handled frequently by the Department. There was no indication as to the amount of time spent on each call. It would appear that more time would be needed to be spent at a domestic violence scene rather than a loud music complaint.

Committee Member Norvell added that he had heard some concern on what was happening in the community and what the response was to certain calls.

Lt. Gilchrist stated the figures provided were broken down by types of calls and not location. It is almost impossible to be able to give a breakdown showing the location of every call. Some calls can take hours to complete an investigation spread over several days while handling other incoming calls at the same time. There is a mechanism in the Police Department's records management

system to identify gang related incidents. Numbers of calls, types of calls and locations can be produced in a report, but reports themselves can not.

Committee Member Peters asked if figures could be produced to show gang activity. He then added that there were 51 calls for child endangerment, and that this type of information could be provided to City Council Members. This information could be easier to show the community how time is spent.

Lt. Gilchrist added that the press and the public has access to the calls for service via the Ukiah Police Department website, and that call logs for the past thirty days are held at the front counter at the Police Department. When calls come in to Dispatch, they are logged and that's what appears on the call log, but it not necessarily what has actually occurred. Calls sometimes get cleared out as "not as reported", but does not know if the original call information gets changed. To be able to compare calls for service, each report would have to be read and then determined. The Sheriff's Office has a system that is linked. As Fort Bragg is dispatched by Ukiah Police Department, we have two separate systems. Sometime in the future it would be nice to provide more precise information.

Committee Member Peters noted there was only one call for a speeding vehicle in 2016. If a citizen sees a speeding vehicle should they call it in and can an Officer then pull the vehicle over? At a previous meeting a citizen had a breakdown of citations issued. The community wants people ticketed for speeding.

Lt. Gilchrist stated the Department's goal is to educate drivers. Officers need to generate their own probable cause to pull a vehicle over. Officers can not issue a citation for a crime that did not occur in their presence. If a citizen wants a person arrested, they can sign the citation, and appear in court. Lots of calls are from anonymous callers. People's perception of speed is very different. Officers are doing lots of extra patrols and citations have been issued. The Department is a complaint based agency. Lots of agencies do not handle smaller calls, i.e. vandalism or petty theft. The Department feels it is important to respond to every call, but now are we spoiling the community? We do not "Supe Can" (Supervisor cancel) calls. Managing time is difficult with calls, follow up and investigation. The calls listed do not show any investigation that is done. All officers handle their own investigations as we do not have a Detective to hand calls over to. There is no way to study how many crimes go un-reported. It is important that all crimes are reported.

Committee Member Peters asked how these calls for service could be printed and that it would be helpful for the City Council Members to see how busy the Police Department is. It is an indicator of what is happening. Community Oriented Policing (COP) benefits the population, which used to be wary of the police, and therefore the whole department has benefited.

Lt. Gilchrist stated population numbers are skewed. Average numbers are 1 officer per 1,100 people. If hotel bed numbers and transients are added, the numbers increase. The Police Department could be more aggressive in tackling issues, but this allows time for officers to tackle other issues. Public Works are feeling the same pressures, with the Coastal Trail and new parks to maintain as well as visitors. The Police Department is not good at "selling itself" and could do a little better in that department.

Committee Member Norvell stated he gets the Press Logs emailed to him. Having spent several hours driving around with Police Officers and not noticing any violations, even though the officers did, he has a different perspective on what officers deal with during a shift. Does additional overtime add up to the cost of another officer? With the logs broken down by officer, it does not show a bad

officer, just their calls.

Lt. Gilchrist pointed out the busy times in June 2016 which were Thursday and Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Shift change occurs at 7:00am and 7:00pm, but there are options to changing deployment hours. Although fully staffed, it would be nice to have a relief officer to cover those busier hours. Additional officers have never been offered in negotiations. Grants are available for a School Resource Officer (SRO), but grants have an expiration date.

Committee Member Peters asked if the Police Association have ever had an input at Rezoning Committee Meetings. There will need to be considerations for access. It is amazing how much information can be extrapolated from Dispatch logs.

Lt. Gilchrist responded that the Police Department has been very involved in the planning of Bainbridge Park, but that could always improve. Developing the Mill Site will add to the Police Department and Fire Department workload. Some departments have designated plan approval officers, but specifically college campus'. Without the Community Service Officers (CSO's), the officers would be totally swamped with low priority calls. This was a public "thank you", as they allow the officers to be detailed to more serious crimes. Night shift will have less calls than day shift. Sometimes it has been one officer and one sergeant. There have been some big investigations, and there is one officer out recovering from surgery.

Chief Orsi has attended meetings in the past but not in the past couple of years.

Committee Member Norvell asked if the Police Department had noticed any change with the new LED lights. PG&E had stated the Police Department prefer them. Was it easier to see at night?

Lt. Gilchrist stated he had not really noticed a change, and was unsure if it was easier to see at night.

Committee Member Peters stated the light was more diffused and that he had noticed it was easier to see on his street, but there were other factors as well.

3B. [17-210](#) Receive Oral Update from Staff on Departmental Activities

Chief Orsi did not have a lot to report. It has been a rough couple of weeks with the loss of members and close friends. The department has been pretty active, with 100 calls since July 1, but nothing earth shattering. As far as the district goes, it is still early on in the season, but the team is gearing up and a truck with a team are ready to deploy if they are needed.

The volunteer department has been coming to weekly training and are even training each other on the weekends. There are aggressive younger fire fighters who are keen. The "family" needs to be nurtured, and to keep them happy as they are volunteers - a "fat and happy" family is a secret ingredient.

Lt. Gilchrist reminded everyone the PAL Bicycle Rodeo is on Saturday at the High School. Narcan (Naloxone) will soon be issued to the department members. K9 Maverick will be soon receiving his vest. Takoda already has his. The department is busy with lots of calls.

Committee Members Peters added the Fire Department is like a family. Any loss affects the team, and therefore we need to rally around each other. He also thanked Lt. Gilchrist for standing in and explaining the call breakdown.

4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Peters adjourned the Meeting at 11:00hrs a.m.