

**Van Nuys Area
Community Police Advisory Board Minutes
January 10, 2008**

Attendees: Captain James Miller, C-PAB members, Debbie Klevens, Leroy Metz, Mark Sellz, Rick Crivier, David Rankell, Norman Isaacs, Gloria Gesas, Gail Pincus, Zach Behrens, Sha Newman, Micky Victor, Charles Bunnell, Gilbert Echeverria, Carrie Konjoyan, Donahue Vanderhide, Gaby Nadjar, Sergeant Steve Gottchalk, CRO Sergeant Marti Whittemore, City Attorney Tamar Galatzan, Ruben Zaragoza, SLO Justin Bergmann, SLO Lucas Hamilton, SLO David Ham, SLO Troy Collins, SLO Tony Cabunoc, SLO George Aguilar, Field Deputy Lexi Richards, D.A.R.T. advocate Josie Chavez, D.A.R.T. Officer Miranda, C-PAB Liaison Officer Michael Perez

Introductions:

Captain Miller and Debbie Klevens (Co-Chair) welcomed those attending and introduced themselves. Everyone attending also went around the room and introduced him or herself. Captain Miller began the meeting by stating he was very pleased by tonight's C-PAB member turnout. He stated that the 2007 goal of the Department was to reduce Part One crimes by five percent. He was pleased to announce that Van Nuys division had a 5.6% reduction in Part One crimes and a 10% reduction in property crimes. Overall, Van Nuys saw a 9.6% decrease in overall crime this year.

Captain Miller stated when he arrived in Van Nuys in 2003, Van Nuys Division had 320 officers. In 2007, we had 273 officers which is 15% fewer officers. However, between the years of 2003-2007 we saw a 150% increase in citations and violent crime arrests. This in conjunction with treating the community with respect and great community involvement has led to this success.

Committee Reports:

None.

Upcoming Events:

Captain Miller read the upcoming events per the agenda. Captain Miller corrected the date for the SLO summit as being April 17, 2008.

Presentation:

C-PAB member and Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) advocate Gail Pincus began her presentation with the history of the DART. In 1993, the LAPD took a hard look at domestic violence cases which lead to the creation of the Major Assault Crimes detective table. Captain McMurry understood the amount of time Domestic Violence (DV) cases took and as such thought we can better help the victims if services were available closer to the time of the occurrence. The DART was formed, to provide immediate services to victims and document the past history of violence, which in many cases have never been recorded. His recording of

violence as well as having an officer, who specializes in DV laws, has lead to a 35% increase in successful prosecution and filings in DV cases.

DART advocate Josie Chavez stated other services they offer are documenting current and past DV incidents, assessing the danger the victim is in and transporting them to the hospital, and/ or shelter, counseling, and support groups. The DART advocates also attend court with victims and assist them with court paperwork, welfare, and victim assistance.

DART Officer Miranda stated at times immigrants are fearful and intimidated of the police and they are reluctant to ask for help. His position on the DART car is to be an expert on this complex situation and determine who goes to jail. He also obtains Emergency Protective Orders, conducts the on scene investigation and completes reports.

C-PAB member Leroy Metz asked what does the Department do to protect victims of domestic violence.

Officer Miranda stated that the Department mandates that all DV incidents are documented. Department guidelines in investigating DV cases are stricter than the Penal Code. The county has shelters available for victims and their children, and officers are able to obtain Temporary Restraining Orders (TROs) at the scene.

Gail Pincus also stated that in divisions that have a D.A.R.T. unit, DV related homicides are lower than those divisions that do not.

Captain Miller stated in 2002, in 77th Street Division there were 116 homicides and 1,000 shootings but only one DV related homicide. In Van Nuys division we have had 55-60 homicides in four years and only one DV related homicide in that same time. In DV cases, the victim is isolated by their batters. DARTs most effective weapon is the volunteer who run the program. Captain Miller concluded that he has the highest respect for Gail's work and dedication to the DART program.

C-PAB member Gloria Gesas asked, could they prosecute without a victim or with a reluctant victim who refuses to cooperate.

Captain Miller stated in DV cases the City Attorney can and will prosecute on behalf of a reluctant victim. In those cases, the investigating Officer would testify on the victim's behalf and any statements made to the DART advocates would also be allowed in court.

Crime Update:

Captain Miller spoke about the resizing of the boundaries of the Van Nuys Area with the opening of the new North West Station in October 2008. The re-organization of the Valley Divisions will decrease the size of the Van Nuys Division. At the present time, Van Nuys handles 22% of the calls in the San Fernando Valley. After the downsizing, we are projected to handle only 17% of the calls and with only eight basic cars.

Senior Lead Officer Updates:

SLO George Aguilar gave an update of his “Leave it. Lose it” Anti-BFMV campaign. He now has posters made that will be displayed in storefront windows in the Van Nuys area.

Next Meeting:

The next Van Nuys C-PAB meeting will be held February 14, 2008, at 6:30 p.m., in the Van Nuys Station Community Room.