

Public Safety Task Force
Meeting Notes
10/05/2010

Present: Chief Miranda; Doug Hunt (Umpqua Bank); John Clark (The Whaler Motel); Gabrielle McEntee-Wilson (Mo's Restaurants); Don Rowley (retired); Sgt. Jason Malloy (NPD); Det. Ken Real (NPD/NPA)

Absent: Jorge Hernandez (Centro de Ayuda); Jon Zagel (Newport High School)

The meeting opened at 1600 hours. Chief Miranda would like this group to be known as a task force, with one specific topic, i.e., the City Council's goal to create a public safety committee to balance needs with resources. A sub-topic will be examination of possible consolidation of all LE agencies in Lincoln County.

Members of this task force were selected by Chief Miranda for their independence, business skills, and abilities to look at NPD's staffing levels. Chief Miranda is not a member of the task force because he does not want the findings to be a "rubber stamp" of the Chief's or the Department's perspective. The Chief will be available to offer staff support, answer questions, provide research, etc.

Rowley: How can we make recommendations for staffing if we don't know what future budgets will be? Chief: We can use past budgets as a guideline in making long- and/or short-term recommendations to the City's budget committee.

Real: The task force's objective of analysis of NPD's staffing is attainable. The objective of a consolidated law enforcement agency will need county-wide buy-in. It seems premature to focus the task force's energy on such a tenuous objective.

Clark: The issue of law enforcement agency consolidation has come before City Council; he is not in favor of it. His loyalty is with an effective city police department.

Rowley: It seems we need to focus on what NPD staffing is now, not on what a county-wide law enforcement consolidation might look like.

Hunt: Shouldn't we come to a consensus on the two foci assigned to this task force? If we decide on staffing recommendations, it will be up to City Council to find the funding. Shouldn't we talk about consolidation in order to see what the issues are?

Chief: The City Council wants this task force to address the two issues.

Malloy: There has been no recent push toward consolidation from City Council from any law enforcement agency. If the situation to consolidate due to budget issues again arises, the decision to consolidate may then be explored.

Clark: I suggest we work on the staffing issue first. The Chief said consolidation is not very common in this area, certainly not in Oregon.

McEntee-Wilson: Do law enforcement heads meet regularly? Chief: Yes; and there are multi-agency teams for many issues (LINT, sexual assault, etc.). We all share resources.

Clark: The argument for consolidation seems to be efficiency in administration—one chief will cut down on expenses.

McEntee-Wilson: The local policing concept is best; it's important that officers know their community.

Malloy: Waldport pays Lincoln County for a deputy in the area, although it is not necessarily the same deputy, nor is he/she always in the town. He has not yet heard of a benefit to consolidation.

Rowley: How is the contracted parking enforcement officer working out? Will this position go back to NPD? Chief: The contracted PEO is on a trial basis. It's working well. We'll evaluate at end of year to see if want to extend the contract with TCB Security.

Rowley: Is OLCC moving out of town? If so, will this create more work for NPD? Chief: It is a real possibility that the Newport OLCC office will close, but it will not create more work for us. They have state statutes to enforce; NPD does not deal with that aspect of OLCC.

Chief Miranda distributed a roster of task force members to review for accuracy. He distributed ride-along applications, encouraging task force members to ask what specifically they want to see when submitting application, so the appropriate officer can be assigned. Chief Miranda distributed the September 2010 statistical report. He distributed an article from *The Washington Post* describing police chiefs' nationwide feeling the pinch of budget cuts. He distributed the survey/comparison of similar-sized coastal agencies' police departments. The comparison study, prepared earlier by Lt. Teem and Det. Real for City Council, shows that the number of NPD's calls for service are higher than comparatively-sized coastal towns because those towns don't have Newport's transient influx; full service state-mandated issues such as child abuse; heavy traffic; high tourist population, etc.

McEntee-Wilson: Are animal complaints NPD's problem? Chief: when the Animal Control Officer is not on duty, NPD officers will respond to calls within the

City. Even if a call comes from outside Newport, and not LCSO deputy is available, NPD will help is possible.

Rowley: Port of Nedwport security is handled by TCB Security, effective 10/01/2010. The rationale of contracting out for security was to save money, and release the Port from personnel issues. Port security has other responsibilities, e.g., inventory of boats, etc. Private security training requires certification from DPSST (8 hours for an unarmed guard; 16 hours for an armed guard). The same applies for dispatchers, firefighters, etc.

Clark: The consensus of the task force is to deal primarily with staffing levels.
Chief: The task force can recommend sources for funding, operating levy, grants, etc. This year there NPD made no budget request for fencing the back NPD vehicle parking lot, key cards, or new vehicles.

Rowley: Does NPD's National Guard officer need to be recertified with DPSST after serving 18 months in Iraq? Chief: No; if he were gone three years, he would need to. He could be called back to active National Guard service any time.

Clark: How should be begin to study the staffing levels? Chief: We will tell you what we have now (15 patrol officers, five sergeants, one lieutenant, one chief of police, one Community Service Officer) what we do, why do we do it; our scheduling rationale, etc.

While there is a national standard for minimum staffing, it is not mandatory. NPD uses the measure of one officer per 750 calls for service (CFS). NPD's 2010-to-date statistics show an average of 463 CFS per officer (using 15 patrol officers). Relevant variables include, in addition to the number of officers per capita, the types of activities requiring officer response, what the community wants their police department to do, state-mandated responses, etc. NPD conducts outreach and training for the community, e.g., for mandatory reporters, homeless, skateboarders, predator training for school bus drivers—which is what the City Council expects. For example, NPD does respond to alarms, and strives to be on scene within two or three minutes. (If TCB Security is alerted to a client's alarm, they can respond, but cannot enforce or take action.) NPD has minimum of three officers on duty; sometimes we need ten, depending on what the emergency is. If NPD has to start cutting officers, what sort of responses/calls will be eliminated? All supervisors/officers attend community events, e.g., Nye Beach Association, Deco District Association, Clam Bake, etc.; we never say "no". It might reach the point where we can provide only minimum coverage, but we still try to respond whenever called, even if it's a fender-bender in a parking lot, an alarm, etc.

McEntee-Wilson: This current approach seems like pro-active policing, which is good. Malloy: If we're not proactive, our reactive responses might be too late.

Department policies and procedures are related to officer safety—equipment, back-up, training, etc. We want people in Newport to know NPD officers WILL respond.

Homeless Connect is a forum of community agencies, including law enforcement, that offers information, services available, camping suggestions, outstanding warrants out (if they request it), courtesy transports, etc. Sometimes arrests are made, but usually only if the warrant is for a violent crime.

Doug Hunt was appointed Chair of the task force; John Clark will co-chair.

Hunt: It would be helpful to hear presentations on the questions asked today, then hear presentations about similar-sized departments that are doing more with less, and others doing less with more, etc., so can get view of exactly what brackets NPD on both sides. Malloy will work on presenting Coos Bay; Real on presenting Astoria and Seaside. The next meeting will include a presentation on Newport, followed by the comparison presentations. Palmer will forward meeting notes to members, and any other research/information needed.

The next meeting will be November 2, 2010 at 1600 hours in the NPD Conference Room. Hunt encourages task force members to go on ride-alongs as well as attend shift changes.

The meeting adjourned at 1700 hours.