

**Public Safety Task Force**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**11/30/2010**

**Present:** Chief Miranda; Doug Hunt (Umpqua Bank); John Clark (The Whaler Motel); Sgt. Jason Malloy (NPD); Det. Ken Real (NPD/NPA); Don Rowley (retired); Jorge Hernandez (Centro de Ayuda); Jon Zagel (Newport High School); Jim Voetberg (City Manager)

**Absent:** Gabrielle McEntee-Wilson (Mo's Restaurants)

The meeting was opened at 1605 hours by Task Force Chair Hunt. He summarized the previous meetings' topics. Today's meeting will consist of presentations by Det. Real and Sgt. Malloy of comparisons to three other coastal jurisdictions—Coos Bay, Astoria, and Seaside.

Malloy distributed handouts of his presentation. Last week Malloy visited Coos Bay Police Department's (CBPD) patrol captain to discover similarities/differences between our two jurisdictions. Coos Bay contains 6,000 more people than Newport. Coos Bay does not have an established tourist base infrastructure. CBPD has the same number of officers on their shifts as Newport Police Department (NPD). They do have funding for a School Resource Officer (SRO) and a Traffic Officer. Annual community events in Coos Bay include Family Fun Day, similar to our Loyalty Days, and a Prefontaine Memorial Run. They don't assign extra staff as NPD does for long weekends, special holidays, or community events (e.g., Seafood and Wine Festival, Clam Bake, etc.). CBPD never goes below three officers per shift; NPD sometimes must do so, depending on the circumstances. The overtime budget of CBPD is \$40,000 more than NPD's. CBPD's vacations are scheduled the same as NPD's, i.e., no more than one officer per shift is authorized vacation at the same time. CBPD has a Crash Team, a Major Crime Team, a drug team, a mountain bike patrol team, two criminal detectives, and one narcotics detective. They use their detectives more flexibly than NPD in that CBPD will pull detectives to work administration or patrol when needed. CBPD has only two volunteers. One position works traffic, community service officer, property/evidence custodian, and back-up for Records. CBPD has 13 vehicles for patrol and administrators; NPD has 15 vehicles for sworn officers only. CBPD replaces vehicles every three years. They are in the process of switching from Crown Victorias to Tahoes, as the Tahoes are cheaper to operate. NPD does not replace vehicles on a calendar basis, but rather analyzes the vehicles' safety and cost to continue operation.

**Query:** Are some of the training expense taken from the overtime budget line? No; training fees and per diem come from the training budget; only staff time while attending training comes from the overtime budget.

Crime statistics contained in Det. Real's and Lt. Malloy's presentations are taken from Oregon Uniform Crime Reports, not the records systems of the respective police departments. In order to compare statistical information on a national basis it is necessary to use a common definition for crime comparison. The Crime Index seeks to overcome differences in individual state statutes that would ignore how the individual is charged, and create a standardized definition of crime classification. This is done by defining serious and non-serious offenses. Part I crimes are comprised of serious felonies and Part II crimes are comprised of non-serious felonies and misdemeanors. Together these two types of classifications make up the crimes reported in the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). We have a higher crime index than Coos Bay, even though their population is 6,000 more than Newport's. Visitors come to Newport as a destination point, rather than just passing through. Newport's population can reach 35,000 during peak times. A few years ago NPD compared itself to some law enforcement agencies in the Valley. NPD's call levels and officer activity are equal to a law enforcement agency in a city with a population of 45,000. When calculating revenue sharing, the State defines Newport's population as 10,000, rather than averaging the population to account for the tourist season peaks (which would average between 20,000 and 25,000). NPD is a proactive agency. Coos Bay PD is admittedly a reactive, rather than proactive, agency due to the loss of four police positions.

Det. Real explained the difference between proactive and reactive policing. If an officer is not in the office writing reports, he is expected to be out on patrol, not sitting in office waiting for a call (like firefighters). NPD officers are not waiting for the crime to happen; they are on the street enforcing laws, enforcing policy, conducting bar checks to prevent fights and OLCC violations, etc. Only adequate staffing can allow a PD to be proactive rather than reactive. How is being proactive reflected in the crime statistics? A proactive agency will evidence high customer satisfaction, and a high case clearance rate. The case clearance rate is difficult to compare to other agencies because each agency has a different way of defining "closed" or "cleared." Even though NPD lost a fulltime Records Clerk position and suffered a \$50,000 budget cut, the public did not see a decline in service; NPD did not alter the way its officers respond to calls. Law enforcement agencies also define "calls for service" differently, so direct comparisons are difficult. NPD defines a "call for service" as an event, dispatched or self-initiated, that is reported to the State (OUCR) as a call that requires an officer response. Some law enforcement agencies define a "call for service" to include citizen phone contact with dispatch, or a Field Interview by an officer does an FI, or a traffic stop, etc.

Query: In Newport, are perpetrators and victims more likely to be local or transient? Lt. Malloy responded they both are more probably local.

Query: Will this task force get information about citizen satisfaction with NPD's performance? The Chief will send task force members the results of a citizen survey conducted in 2004. Lt. Malloy added that public expectation is an important tool to use when articulating Department goals.

Det. Real distributed a handout comparing NPD to Astoria Police Department (APD) and Seaside Police Department (SPD). Astoria has a population of 9,813, and is 6.14 square miles. Det. Real's summary of comparisons included the same comparison points as Lt. Malloy's. Astoria is not a destination point. Although Seaside is smaller than Newport, it has several annual events, e.g., Hood-to-Coast Run, spring break parties, etc., during which they request assistance from other agencies. Thus SPD's overtime is higher than NPD's. Seaside is currently building more hotels, so their crime index will probably rise. NPD's training budget is almost as low as APD's; SPD's is higher. NPD and SPD participate in similar multi-agency teams, e.g., Multi-agency Crash Team, Multi-disciplinary Team focusing on child sex abuse, MDTs, narcotics team, tactical team, etc.). Astoria has only one detective, and participates only in the Major Crimes Team. APD's personnel include an Assistant Chief of Police (an administrative role), three sergeants, nine patrol officers, one criminal detective, for a total of 15 sworn officers. SPD's Records division also runs dispatch for the police as well as fire. Seaside has 50% less crime than we do, but with almost the same level of staffing.

Voetberg: NPD has done a fantastic job with volunteers; they are the eyes/ears/publicity for the Department and the City. Lt. Malloy said the volunteers help tremendously with public events; they are very visible in their jackets and hats. NPD tries to always send a couple officers to make an appearance, but it is the volunteers who are really visible, which helps NPD remain involved in the events.

Query: NPD has 50% more volunteers than officers. How does this percentage compare to other agencies state-wide? Chief Miranda replied that volunteer size depends on what type of tasks the volunteers are asked to do, and size of the agency. The larger the agency, usually the lower the percentage of volunteers. NPD must always be careful to not let volunteers do an officer's job; volunteers can supplement, but not supplant, a police officer.

Query: Should this task force review the issue of a single county-wide law enforcement agency? It was already decided to first examine current NPD staffing levels. Although the single county-wide agency issue was raised at City Council, there was no directive to investigate. However, this task force will look at the issue and provide an opinion. The Chief send a copy of the report presented and distribute to Task Force.

Chief Miranda distributed handouts of the November 2010 NPD schedule, and comparative statistics from other cities that was distributed at the previous meeting. He noted that green x's on the schedule indicate the days NPD had to maintain minimum staffing by calling officers in on overtime. Until today, when Lt. Teem's retirement became effective, NPD full officer staffing. NPD has been successful in reducing the overtime in the past two years, primarily due to sergeants' juggling the shifts and the scheduling. The next several months will be difficult for staffing levels because Lt. Malloy is taking Lt. Teem's position, Det. Real is taking Malloy's sergeant's position. This leaves opening in detectives to be filled. There is also an officer who will

most likely go to another agency within a month, which will leave a patrol officer position to fill.

Chair Hunt stated the information to be digested at the next meeting will be the citizen survey results, and the county-wide law enforcement consolidation report. These documents will be e-mailed to members in preparation for discussion.

Lt. Malloy would like to learn how task force members' perception of NPD's performance as well as their perception of the public's public expectations of NPD. Please put this information in bullet-points format for discussion at the next meeting. As an example, what is local Hispanic community's perception of NPD? Hernandez said NPD projects a better image than OSP and LCSO. Det. Real said he feels hesitancy or a reluctance from Hispanic victims to talk to police. Hernandez said it depends on what the crime is, what their friends' experiences have been, their knowledge of our culture, etc. Hernandez likes the idea of NPD being proactive, so that officers may approach Hispanic citizens on a regular basis, not just in response to a crime.

The meeting adjourned at 1720 hours.

**The next meeting will be Tuesday, 12/21/2010, at 1600 hours.**