

Pleasanton Police Department  
**Community Advisory Board**  
Tuesday September 26, 2023  
Briefing Room

Department Attendees: Chief David Swing, Captain Larry Cox, Captain Kurt Schlehuber, Lieutenant Erik Silacci, Administrative Assistant Kim Monfort

CAB Members in Attendance: Tonya Bass, Gary Davila, Jennifer DeGroat-Penney, Bill Foley, Erica Gallegos, Andrew Gelb, Bryan Hardwick, Carroll Jacoby, Eugene Litvinoff, Melanie Sadek, Mary Scott, Camron Shimy, Maritess Simmons, Kenya Sullivan, Mike Telang, Sylvia Tian, Elizabeth Zhuge

Absent: Torin Fischer, Ediambolo Lokoto, Pinky Mukherjee, Puneet Pamma, Raffiq Rajabali

## **I. Chief's Welcome**

Chief Swing welcomed the group to the meeting. Attendees included outgoing CAB members, continuing CAB members and new CAB members. He went around the room and asked attendees to introduce themselves and share the following:

- Department Staff: Share how the CAB has impacted you and/or the Police Department.
- Tenured Members: Share your most memorable CAB experience or contribution.
- New Members: Share your passion and how you see that contributing to the CAB.

### a. Department Staff

Chief Swing shared how impactful the CAB has been over the last two years. He thanked CAB members for their support for the department while challenging staff at times as well. He expressed how important that feedback has been.

Capt. Larry Cox stated that the CAB represented a great cross section of the community and emphasized how their feedback has helped staff make informed decisions on items taken to City Council. He thanked CAB members for their support.

Capt. Kurt Schlehuber has been with the department for over 20 years. He spoke about the exercise in which CAB developed priorities for the group. While many priorities overlapped with staff priorities, some did not and that really validated the CAB's role.

Lt. Erik Silacci has also been with the department for 20 years. He really appreciates the outreach CAB has provided and the connections he has made with CAB members.

### b. Tenured Members

Gene Litvinoff stated that serving on CAB has been a tremendous opportunity. While his work travel abroad caused him to miss several meetings, he has been very impressed with the transparency with which staff led CAB meetings. He has appreciated the opportunity to provide honest feedback to serve the community better.

Erica Gallegos thanked the department for the last two years. She has appreciated the opportunity to represent the Latino community and has learned a lot. She said although the group represents a diverse cross section of the community, together they are one.

Gary Davila stated that being on CAB has been very insightful; the transparency has been huge. He feels the more the department reaches out to the community the more the community will support the department.

Tonya Bass thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on CAB. The support the department has shown to the African American community network has been very important and necessary. She feels heard, and thanked staff for listening to her concerns. Initially her sons were afraid of the police, but through her sharing what she has learned on the CAB that is changing. She emphasized the importance of having a diverse CAB.

Jennifer DeGroat-Penney is a psychologist for the Tri-Valley. She is very grateful to Chief Swing and staff and has learned a lot about the Pleasanton Police Department and police departments in general. She has appreciated the opportunity to lend perspective on what individuals with trauma may be experiencing when interacting with the police.

Melanie Sadek appreciates all the open and inclusive discussions the group has had. She loved hearing about new things the department is engaged in and being able to share that with the community, particularly the work of the Alternate Response Unit to mental health and the staff's de-escalation efforts. She also enjoyed the technology discussions. While she is sad to be leaving CAB, she feels it's the right time to bring in new members.

Bill Foley stated that he really felt CAB was a team and enjoyed the discussions, even the difficult ones because those required working towards finding solutions. He enjoyed the camaraderie and staff including the group in policy discussions. He said it was exciting to hear about the City's Strategic Plan efforts and to be a part of that discussion. He encourages members to attend City Council meetings when PD is involved.

Sylvia Tian expressed appreciation for how the Pleasanton Police Department has supported the Chinese American community. As an outgoing Chinese American CAB member, she is happy to see Elizabeth Zhuge join the board. She stated that Chinese Americans are a growing community and she wants to see their voices heard. She thanked Chief Swing for attending one of their recent events and encouraged him to continue that outreach.

### c. New Members

Mike Telang stated that he wanted to join CAB because he loves Pleasanton and is a big supporter of Pleasanton PD. He is an Executive Vice President for Wells Fargo and has extensive experience in the technology sector as well.

Kenya Sullivan stated that he has been a member of the community for the last ten years. He hopes to bring his experience as an African American male with a previous career in probation to the CAB. He is a licensed clinical social worker and has done mental health related professional development training for law enforcement and correction officers.

Maritess Simmons considers Pleasanton a very special place. It is where her kids grew up and went through DARE. She has been a block captain and is really impressed with how open and responsive Pleasanton PD is. She has been on the PTA for nine years and is happy to join the CAB.

Elizabeth Zhuge stated that for the most part she grew up in Pleasanton. She is currently a high school junior. She feels reassured when she sees the police in town. On an occasion where her family had to call for service, she felt the officers really cared about her family. She hopes to represent both the youth of the community, as well as the Chinese American community.

Camron Shimy is a technical program manager. He sees a lot of disability issues and accessibility issues and hopes to bring that to the table. He coaches youth sports and loves connecting with kids and parents. He looks forward to bridging the gap between youth and the police department.

Mary Scott has been a minister since 2007. She helped to plant a second campus for Crosspoint Church in the area and more recently has served as lead pastor at Graceway Church since November 2022. She has quickly become involved in the community. She shared that there is a lot of camaraderie among pastors in this community and they are very supportive of one another. She looks forward to serving on the CAB.

Bryan Hardwick stated that he is a new community member serving as Executive Pastor at Valley Community Church. He is also a member of the Inco Board who oversees Inklings Coffee Shop on Main Street. He has worked with Roseville PD as part of their chaplainry program. He believes in the mission of the Police Department and said this is a great way to give back.

Carroll Jacoby shared that she has lived in Pleasanton since 1983. Her children went through Pleasanton schools. She has loved living here. Prior to retirement, she had a career in Human Resources. She said she is a very data driven, process-oriented person and was originally a statistician. She also has experience with mental health and recruitment.

Andrew Gelb advised that he is a retired attorney with over forty years of experience. He has worked for the US Attorney's office, the DA's office and has called Pleasanton home for the last 22 years. He loves Pleasanton and looks forward to serving on the CAB to hear different perspectives and concerns. His driving passion is a love for learning.

d. Recognition of out-going members and reception

Chief Swing recognized outgoing CAB members and presented each with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Chief's challenge coin. Outgoing members in attendance included: Tonya Bass, Gary Davila, Eugene Litvinoff, Melanie Sadek, and Sylvia Tian. A brief reception followed.

## **II. Police Department Update**

a. Upcoming Events

Chief Swing invited CAB to two upcoming events: Coffee with a Cop on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> at Inklings, and the Police Department Awards Ceremony on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at the Firehouse Arts Center.

b. Bi-Annual Report to City Council

Chief Swing shared that twice a year, Pleasanton Police Department presents a report to City Council which can include crime trends, department operations, challenges the department is facing, collision trends, crisis response, community policing programs, etc. Command Staff will present the next update to City Council on October 3, 2023. That report will provide a programmatic update on recent crime trends, police stop data, the community advisory board, and police staffing.

c. Crime Trends

Chief Swing distributed an informational chart comparing crime data over the last three years through August 2023. Of note, property crime is up. Many crime types remained flat, while larceny was down. Chief Swing advised that one area tracked closely is the clearance rate. Department staff have worked very hard to clear cases from the previous year. Chief Swing shared that the department is working towards transitioning to NYBRS (National Incident Based Crime Reporting) which is a much more comprehensive way to look at crime data.

CAB members had various questions related to the data. Several were related to juvenile arrests, which are on the rise. Department staff discussed how the process for arresting juveniles differs from that for arresting adults. A lot of juvenile arrests are diverted and never go to the criminal justice system. Other questions related to how the data is analyzed. Chief Swing and Capt. Cox praised the work of Pleasanton PD's new Crime Analyst, Christine Guevarra.

In looking at the number of traffic citations written, the traffic unit was disbanded for most of 2023 due to staffing constraints. It was reinstated in early August, so those numbers will be going up. Pleasanton PD will be embarking on an education campaign for drivers. Chief Swing noted that the majority of crime is committed by people from outside of Pleasanton.

Capt. Schlehuber shared that in response to community concerns about school traffic, each motor officer has been assigned a school to patrol.

Other topics discussed included the role of traffic engineering, education for youth, bike safety, and electric scooters.

**III. Old Business**

No issues were raised.

**IV. New Business**

a. Role of the CAB and expectations of members

Chief Swing shared that the Community Advisory Board is really important for the department and the community. He spoke about the role of CAB and the expectations of members. Each member brings their own passions and ideas and that is what makes the group so successful. It is important to not promote one's personal agenda.

b. CAB Charter and Norms

Chief Swing shared the list of Norms inaugural CAB members created which have worked well over the past two years. This topic will be revisited in a future CAB meeting.

c. Meeting Dates/Times

Chief Swing stated that traditionally, CAB has met the fourth Tuesday of every other month. Ms. Monfort will reach out to CAB members in the next week to firm up the schedule moving forward.

d. Department Overview

Chief Swing shared that two and a half years ago, the department's leadership team met off sight and came up with a Mission, a Vision, and Values for the department. The department's Mission Statement is "As members of our diverse community, we selflessly serve as guardians with empathy, fairness, and respect, to protect life, prevent crime, and enhance quality of life." Chief Swing said the mission statement is a key part of who we are as an organization. The words are intentional and that is the operational mindset of staff.

The Vision Statement is "The Pleasanton Police Department will always be a model of excellence and a leader in the law enforcement profession." Chief Swing stated that the CAB is part of helping the department achieve that every day by challenging us to be better.

The Department's Values are: "Service, Courage, Leadership, Safety, and Teamwork." Chief Swing stated that the order is very important. Number one is to provide a high level of service with a "No call is too small" attitude. Chief Swing spoke about courage, and not just running towards gunfire, but standing up for what's right, having the courage to stop a partner if they're going too far.

Capt. Schlehuber talked about the expectation of having leadership at every level and giving staff the tools, experience and training so that something doesn't need to be run up the chain of command. He spoke about safety for staff and the public, and how teamwork and trust are integral to the department. The department runs a team patrol schedule to build that trust.

Lt. Silacci said that service really resonates with him and is ingrained in the department's culture from day one. Pleasanton is a special place and that is not lost on members of the department.

Capt. Cox agreed with Lt. Silacci and said the Mission, Vision and Values are a roadmap to success.

## **V. Next Steps**

Chief Swing asked for closing thoughts, questions, or comments. CAB member Foley shared that he has been a resident of Pleasanton for forty years and has prior law enforcement experience. He said the level of service provided by Pleasanton PD is outstanding at all levels, from the top down.

Chief Swing thanked the group for their thoughts and candid feedback. He stated that the last two years have exceeded his expectations. The next and final CAB meeting for the year is currently scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.