

Pleasanton Police Department
Community Advisory Board
Tuesday January 23, 2024
Briefing Room

Department Attendees: Chief David Swing, Captain Larry Cox, Commander Megan Wilske, Lieutenant Erik Silacci, Administrative Assistant Kim Monfort

CAB Members in Attendance: Jennifer DeGroat-Penney, Torin Fischer, Bill Foley, Erica Gallegos, Andrew Gelb, Bryan Hardwick, Carroll Jacoby, Pinky Mukherjee, Camron Shimy, Kenya Sullivan, Mike Telang, Elizabeth Zhuge

Absent: Raffiq Rajabali, Mary Scott, Maritess Simmons

I. Chief's Welcome

Chief Swing welcomed the group to the first meeting of the New Year and asked if there were any items pressing or not on the agenda that the group would like to discuss. No items were raised.

II. Police Department Update

a. Department Communication

Chief Swing informed the group that he has been meeting with each team and unit in the department to talk about accomplishments of 2023 and what the department is looking forward to in 2024. He mentioned the implementation of on-duty workouts last year, and the fact that Pleasanton saw three homicides for the first time ever. In terms of 2024, all radios used by staff will be fully encrypted. This has been very successful for agencies that have moved in that direction, and it is recommended by the Department of Justice. Also in 2024, the department will be offering LEOWEB to all staff to maintain privacy of their personal information. Additionally, the department will be switching to a new Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Maintenance System.

b. Staffing Impacts & New Hires

Chief Swing shared that due to retirements and officers out on injury, the departments traffic motor officers have been reassigned to patrol. He also shared that five new officers will begin field training on February 5th, 2024 and an additional five police recruits are anticipated to start the police academy in February and March, 2024.

III. Old Business

a. Review of Minutes

Chief Swing reviewed the minutes from the November 28th, 2023 CAB meeting, specifically the discussion about priorities for CAB. He asked the group if anything sticks out as a top priority or if there is anything on the list they would like added. CAB members discussed general safety in Pleasanton as it relates to the priority list. CAB member Gallegos asked that "drugs and substance abuse" be added as a priority.

IV. New Business

a. Priority Item – Community Ambassadors

- What does it mean to be a Community Ambassador?

Chief Swing hosted a discussion relative to what it means to be a Community Ambassador. CAB members provided a lot of great definitions some of which included: a two-way conduit of information, representing the community and engaging in what other people are hearing or saying, correcting misinformation, and being a negotiator.

- What spheres of influence do you have?

Chief stated that it would be helpful to know what spheres of influence CAB members have. First, the group developed the following broad categories or spheres: Business, Faith Based, HOA, Non-Profit, Racial/Ethnic, Schools, Seniors, Youth. Then each member indicated what their connection might be under that sphere. For example, under Faith Based, CAB member Gelb indicated he has a connection to the Jewish Community; under Business, CAB member Hardwick has a connection to Inklings Coffee House, etc. Extensive lists were created. The group reviewed the lists for any gaps. CAB member Gallegos stated she would like to see a connection with the Hispanic community for drug, alcohol and mental health issues.

- What do you need from the department to be a Community Ambassador?

The group talked about what they will need from the department to be an effective Community Ambassador. A lot of different ideas were shared and communication platforms like WeChat and Slack were suggested. Chief Swing indicated staff would take all of the suggestions and create those communication channels and procedures on how it will work.

V. Next Steps

a. Next Meeting March 26, 2024 – Topic: TBD

Chief Swing thanked the group for raising the issue of community ambassadors. The next meeting will be held March 26, 2024. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.