

Pleasanton Police Department  
**Community Advisory Board**  
Tuesday February 25, 2025  
4833 Bernal Avenue, Briefing Room

Department Attendees: Chief of Police Tracy Avelar, Administrative Assistant Kim Monfort

CAB Members in Attendance: Torin Fischer, Bill Foley, Pinky Mukherjee, Camron Shimy, Mike Telang, Elizabeth Zhuge

Absent: Erica Gallegos, Andrew Gelb, Carroll Jacoby, Raffiq Rajabali, Mary Scott, Maritess Simmons, Kenya Sullivan

## **I. Welcome**

Chief Avelar welcomed CAB and gave an overview of what to expect in tonight's meeting.

## **II. Police Department Updates**

### a. CCW Update

Chief Avelar provided history of the issuance of CCW's in Alameda County. The Alameda County Sheriff's Office handled CCW processing until recently when the responsibility was shifted to municipalities. The Sheriff's Office has now agreed to continue processing CCW renewals and Pleasanton Police Department will only process new CCW applicants.

### b. City Finances

Chief Avelar shared that the Budget Advisory Committee has had a number of meetings and held budget workshop meetings with City Council. The City also had an independent study done to see if their findings match the city's assumptions. They did. City staff has had numerous conversations regarding where cuts can be made. With regard to the Police Department, there is not a lot of wiggle room with tools, personnel and training hours. Every department is slashing where they can. The city is looking at \$14 million in cuts. Difficult discussions have been had. Considerations include cutting library hours, pool hours and crossing guards.

CAB member Foley attended the Budget Town Hall and shared his experience from that meeting. Attendees were given stickers to place where they felt cuts could be made. He said it was interesting seeing placement for the Police column. Several attendees felt the Alternate Response Unit (ARU) should be cut. He felt that was likely because people don't have a good understanding of what ARU does. Chief Avelar shared that the most consistent call for service every day is for ARU. It is a great program staffed with officers and clinicians.

CAB member Fischer initiated a discussion about priorities and what the city is required to do by law. Core functions versus "nice to haves" were discussed. Historically the city is low on charging residents for services. CAB member Shimy stated that he is more troubled by where the money went, instead of where cuts need to be made. He asked if staff is talking about how the city can get more money, versus just talking about making cuts.

Additional discussion related to personnel costs, needing to keep salaries competitive, pension costs. Capital projects that aren't bond funded are being looked at closely. The group agreed that core services are expected by residents, while most people live here because of the "nice to haves". CAB member Fischer stated that while it's a difficult time, it's also a good time in that it makes government take a good look at what it's doing.

CAB asked what they can do to help the police department, or to create more sustainable change to support the department. Foundational funds were discussed. CAB member Telang suggested the possibility of community members funding LPR cameras. Chief Avelar shared that Livermore Police Department has a foundation fund for their canine program. Foundation funds are being considered. Chief Avelar stated that any decisions on the topic would be brought before this group before being enacted.

CAB member Shimy shared his experience working at Google. Internally, it's all do it yourself. He asked how residents can become their own cop. Chief Avelar advised that one of the first things she did when she arrived, was to fill the Crime Prevention Officer position. The crime prevention officer works with neighborhood watches educating residents on how to secure their homes with cameras, alarms, etc. CAB suggested they host crime prevention fairs in their neighborhoods and invite camera and alarm vendors with the intent being to set residents up for success.

c. Crime Update

Chief Avelar followed up on Interim Chief Anderson's discussion relative to the change from Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) to California Incident Based Reporting (CIBRS). The change went into effect at the beginning of 2025. There isn't really a way to compare 2024 stats to 2025 stats because of how differently crimes are now reported.

Chief Avelar reviewed data from 2024. Part I persons crimes include homicide, rape, aggravated assault, and robbery. Part I property crimes include burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson. Overall, in 2024, Part I persons crimes were down 10% compared to the previous year. Robberies were higher. The majority of robberies were related to retail crime. Part 1 property crimes showed an overall decrease of 15% over the previous year.

<b>PART I Crimes</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Homicide	3	1
Rape	20	6
Aggravated Assault	36	42
Robbery	33	35
<b><i>Violent Crimes</i></b>	<b>92</b>	<b>84</b>
Burglary	206	155
Larceny/Theft	1100	948
Stolen Vehicle	188	177
Arson	6	4
<b><i>Property Crimes</i></b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>1278</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1592</b>	<b>1362</b>

The average emergency response time in 2024 was 5:16, and the non-emergency response time average was 19:34. While en route response time is important, it's equally important to recognize that officers must respond to emergencies in a manner that balances urgency with safety. CAB asked if they could receive a copy of these numbers. Chief Avelar said she would provide it once the numbers are finalized and the report has gone to council. CAB member Zhuge asked if there is an age break

down for drug offenses as it relates to schools. Chief Avelar advised that most arrests are adults away from the schools.

### **III. Old Business**

No issues were raised.

### **IV. New Business**

#### a. Chief of Police Introduction

Chief Avelar shared a little about herself. She is a 20-year Dublin resident. She previously served as the Police Chief with the Foster City Police Department. Her career spans all areas of police operations and administration. She advanced through the ranks serving in roles such as patrol officer, Youth Services, Field Training Officer, Administrative Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Union Institute and University and a master's degree in Homeland Defense and Security from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Ca. She is a graduate of the Sherman Block Leadership Institute, LAPD Leadership and possesses an Executive Certificate from California POST. She has held positions on several boards to include the Rotary Foundation, Leadership Council San Mateo County Founding Board, Critical Reach Board 2024 President of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association and President of the California Police Chiefs Association.

#### b. Q&A

There was further discussion related to Crime Prevention. CAB Member Telang stated that there is a growing sense of frustration in the community about break-ins, packages being stolen, etc. CAB agreed it would be helpful for the Crime Prevention Officer to provide educational presentations to the community and even make them virtual or record them and offer on the city's website.

CAB Member Foley stated that it has been very nice to see the Traffic Unit back up and running. CAB member Fischer asked about the status of recruitment. Chief Avelar shared that for the most part the department is fully staffed. The challenge is staff out on injury which takes time to resolve. Recruitment is also a lengthy process with officers needing to go through background, the police academy, and then field training before being released onto the streets as a solo patrol officer.

The group discussed trauma that officers and dispatchers experience. Fortunately, the department has a very good wellness program. Chief Avelar was asked how she feels about the department and if she has encountered any surprises. She said PPD is amazing. Personnel are very caring and have very big hearts. They are willing to go out of their way to help. She is very happy to be here.

### **V. Next Steps**

#### a. Next Meeting April 22, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.