

Pleasanton Police Department
Community Advisory Board
Tuesday May 27, 2025
4833 Bernal Avenue, Briefing Room

Department Attendees: Chief of Police Tracy Avelar, Capt. Kurt Schlehuber, Lt. Chris Niederhaus, Crime & Intelligence Analyst Christine Guevarra, Dispatcher Amber Wisgerhof, Administrative Assistant Kim Monfort

CAB Members in Attendance: Torin Fischer, Bill Foley, Erica Gallegos, Carroll Jacoby, Pinky Mukherjee, Mary Scott Woo, Camron Shimy, Maritess Simmons, Elizabeth Zhuge

Absent: Andrew Gelb, Raffiq Rajabali, Kenya Sullivan, Mike Telang

I. Welcome

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

II. Police Department Updates

a. Staffing Update

Chief Avelar provided several staffing updates. Capt. Larry Cox retired. In addition, a police officer retired due to an industrial injury. Currently, there is one sworn position opening that PD is actively recruiting for. A department Cadet applied for a Police Recruit position and started the police academy last month. The department's Facilities and Maintenance Assistant also applied for a Police Recruit position and will start the police academy later this summer. PPD will recruit to fill his position. Dispatch and all Community Service Officer positions are fully staffed. The Traffic Unit is reinstated and staffed with one sergeant and two officers. Interviews for two additional traffic officers will take place on Thursday.

b. Traffic Unit Update

As mentioned above, Capt. Schlehuber is happy to report that the Traffic Unit is back up and running. It has collapsed in various forms in the past, but never for a full year as it was last year. Capt. Schlehuber introduced Lt. Chris Niederhaus who oversees the unit to provide an update. Motor Officers have staggered schedules to provide coverage Monday through Friday, from 0600 to 1900 hours. Two additional Motor Officers are scheduled to be selected and added to the unit in the weeks to come, with a final two later in the year. Once fully staffed, the unit will be staffed with one sergeant and six officers.

At the request of CAB member Foley, Lt. Niederhaus provided year to date enforcement data. The department has written 2,778 citations. Of those, 928 or 33% were issued by the Traffic Unit. The traffic unit has issued 291 written warnings, 22 verbal warnings and made 12 arrests. The arrest included DUI, driving on a suspended license, warrants, and restraining order violations.

In addition, the traffic unit has responded to 500 traffic collisions. Reports were taken in 128 of those.

The unit also provides special enforcement at targeted locations for targeted violations. These locations are determined from complaints on the traffic hotline, complaints on the police non-

emergency line, and citizens flagging down officers out on the street. Locations targeted in May include Paseo Santa Cruz North/South & Valley, Mohr, Greenwood, Harvest Park Middle School, First Street, Case Avenue, Laurel Creek, Santa Rita Valley, Amador High School and Fairlands Middle School. Targeted violations range from speed, distracted driving, and red-light violations to stop sign violations.

The Traffic Unit also participates in a variety of programs designed to keep roadways safer. These include Commercial Officers of Southern Alameda County (COSAC) and Combined Intensive Traffic Enforcement (CITE). All motor officers are certified in commercial enforcement.

CAB member Foley appreciated the presentation and stated that it answered his questions, but pointed out that the community doesn't know this. He asked if data like this or a traffic blotter could be put on the city's website. Lt. Niederhaus advised that as the unit is further staffed, the department plans to increase its presence on social media and can include information like this. Capt. Schlehuber stated that he's seen other departments do a stat page once a month on social media. The group liked that idea.

Chief Avelar noted that citations are not revenue generating for the department or the city. The department's number one goal is traffic safety. 50-60% of citation fines go to the state, 20-30% goes to the county with very little coming back to the city.

CAB member Gallegos expressed that she is having an issue in her residential complex where cars parked on red line curb are getting towed. As this is on private property, Lt. Niederhaus explained the difference between private property tows and public property tows. PD contracts with seven tow companies that are required to have a storage yard within a half mile of Pleasanton. If that lot is full, the company is permitted to tow the vehicle to Hayward. Fines generated from these tows go to the tow company not the police department. If a vehicle is parked illegally on a public roadway, a PD officer will generally first attempt to find the registered owner. Tows are handled differently on private property.

CAB member Simmons raised concerns related to ebikes. Lt. Niederhaus informed the group there are four different levels of ebikes and each has its own different requirements. PPD started an education campaign in January specifically targeted to students. On May 21, COSAC and CITE team worked together to make 76 stops and wrote 22 citations. Educating the child is part of the enforcement stop. There have been some very serious crashes involving ebikes.

III. Old Business

CAB member Foley stated that the previous meeting on use of force was excellent, and the presenters did a great job helping the group see the role differently, especially when given the opportunity to participate with the simulator.

IV. New Business

a. Real Time information Center Presentation

Chief Avelar introduced Police Dispatcher Amber Wisgerhof and Crime & Intelligence Analyst Christine Guevarra. They comprise PPD's newly established Real Time Information Center.

Ms. Wisgerhof provided background on how the program started. In 2022, she attended a Crime Scene Symposium in Elk Grove, CA. She was in awe of what agencies were doing across the country.

Real Time Crime Centers have been established on the east coast for quite a while and are rapidly popping up on the west coast. A Real Time Crime Center is a public safety group that serves as a centralized location for criminal information and intelligence analysis within a public safety organization. The purpose is to manage real-time data and intelligence to proactively mitigate crime, reactively investigate crime, and provide situational awareness to increase officer and citizen safety.

Ms. Wisgerhof was recently elected Vice President of the National Real Time Crime Center Association and worked with Ms. Guevarra to inform Command Staff of the benefits of having a center at PPD. Command staff approved a pilot program to begin while policies and procedures are being established. The hope is to go live with the RTIC on July 1, 2025.

The mission of the program is to provide law enforcement with the ability to capitalize on a wide and expanding range of technologies for efficient and effective modern policing.

Real Time Crime Centers can be used in a multitude of situations. Some examples are using cameras to guide officers to an active domestic violence incident happening in a vehicle, getting eyes on a major traffic collision within seconds and providing lifesaving updates in real-time, and quickly locating an at risk missing elderly subject with dementia by tracking her to a bus stop on the other end of town. Real Time Crime Centers rely heavily on technology like ALPR cameras, Traffic Cameras, Situational Cameras, Body Worn Cameras, social media applications and subscription services such as First Two and CLEAR. Neighborhood cameras can also be purchased by HOA's and shared with PPD.

CAB member Simmons stated that her HOA bought a camera but the city attorney would not let them place the camera on a pole because it was located on city property. Capt. Schlehuber and Ms. Guevarra are working with the city attorney to identify and resolve such issues. PPD has a camera registry program and knowing where security cameras are installed around Pleasanton has helped solve cases.

For continued success, PPD's program needs additional ALPR and situational cameras, data integration (integrated mapping interface), drone(s) and further down the road, a video wall, and Dash Cams in patrol cars and Live 911. Livermore PD and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office already have drone programs. Live 911 is software that enables officers enroute to a call, to hear the call that dispatch is taking in real time.

Ms. Guevarra and Ms. Wisgerhof expressed that transparency and communication are key. They want to invite people to see what they are doing and why and are considering releasing a Real Time Information Center video. They also want to partner with businesses and stakeholders.

Ms. Wisgerhof and Ms. Guevarra shared a number of successes they have already had with the program.

b. Q&A

CAB member Foley praised PPD's website, particularly the crime mapping tool and blotter. He stated that they are done very well and provide a lot of information. The only thing he noted missing from the booking log is the city of residence. Chief Avelar stated that she would share the feedback with Lt. Stocking. A lot of effort went into building that platform.

V. Next Steps

a. Next Meeting July 22, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.