

CITY OF PERRIS

MINUTES: City Council Work Session
Date of Meeting: 21 May, 2002
Time of Meeting: 6:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting: City Council Chambers-City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER:

6:08 p.m. Called to Order

2. ROLL CALL:

*Four Council Members Present
Absent: Yarbrough*

Council Members Present: Landers, Motte, Rogers, Busch

Absent: Yarbrough

Staff Members Present: City Manager Vasquez, Assistant City Manager Apodaca, City Attorney Dunn, Community Director Gutierrez, Police Chief Kestell and City Clerk Rey

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

4. WORK SESSION:

A. Narcotic Enforcement Programs.

City Manager Vasquez said the presentation was a result of Council's request for information on drug programs, problems and issues. The presentation gave Council an insight on how the Police Department was performing and their effectiveness.

City Manager Vasquez's Introduction

Police Chief Kestell thanked Council for the opportunity to discuss a number of important issues regarding the City and the Police Department. A few facts and figures along with health and safety of the City would be shared. The Chief gave his background in the narcotic enforcement field and indicated he had spent six of twenty years assigned to the Sheriff's Special Investigation Bureau (Narcotic Intelligence/Gang). His presentation included the following:

Police Chief Kestell's Presentation

- Riverside County had been known as the Meth capital of the world; The Perris Police Department has two offices assigned to the street level Task force;

- Illegal drug use was present in every corner of our society, affecting inner cities, suburbs, and rural communities;
- The use affected the rich, poor, educated, uneducated, professional and blue collar workers;
- Recent studies indicated that about 73% of drug users in America are employed;
- Prevalent among the young;
- Innocent infants suffer in great numbers from chemical dependencies passed onto them by mothers who utilized drugs during pregnancy;
- Statistics reflected that that Perris did not have higher incidents of drug use than other communities; but, one person selling or addicted was too many;
- The phrase 'The War on Drugs' was misleading. If drug use and narcotic problems were a war, we would have lost the war long ago;
- Historical standards reflect that present rates of drug use are relatively low; today about 6.4% of Americans use illegal drugs; and was down more than 50% from 17.5% of the population in 1979;

Police Chief Kestell presented statistics of accomplishments of narcotic enforcement within the City. The statistics were for January, 2001 through March 2001, which made comparison to January, 2002 through March, 2002. The topics presented: 1) Narcotic/Drug Assessment; 2) Parole Questions; 3) Megan's Law (changed daily):

- City of Perris arrest statistics for January through May, 2001 comparison:
Crimes down: sex crimes; armed robbery; general theft; arson
Crimes up slightly: assaults, burglary, auto theft; drunk in public
Driving under the influence was up 96%;
- Felony arrest, in whole, had dropped to 29% in 2002 from 34% in 2001;
- Drug arrest had gone up 65% in 2002; credit, for decrease in crime, to City Council and the officers;

City of Perris Drug Statistics within the City in 1999, 2000 and 2001:

- Possession of narcotics climbed in 2000 and stayed static in 2001;
- Sales increased over the last three years;
- Labs decreased slightly.

It was estimated that statistics, at the end of the year, would reflect an increase of crime across the board. Riverside County reported that this last year there was a serious crime decrease of about 12.1%.

Comparison of Drug Statistic by Areas of Perris Station was presented which indicated an increase in each area. The areas included the City of Perris, County, and Canyon Lake and covered the last three years (1999, 2000, and 2001). Also presented was the Drug Arrest by Station statistics for Perris, Lake Elsinore and Moreno Valley for years 1999, 2000, and 2001 and reflected a decrease for all three cities.

In regards to the drug arrest statistics, Mayor Busch commented that Moreno Valley had the largest population of all three cities and asked how much affected our community.

In response, Police Chief Kestell said when it came to drug crimes there were no boundaries.

*Police Chief Kestell's
Response &
Continued
Presentation*

Police Chief Kestell explained the Southwest Corridor Task Force, of which an officer from the Perris Station participated. Riverside County Sheriff's Department had a Special Investigation Bureau, which was the main narcotic enforcer for the county. Their task dealt with the major dealers; clean up of labs; and investigation of street level drug trafficking. The force was staffed with one sergeant provided by the Sheriff's Department; one investigator; three Deputy Sheriffs; one Perris Police Officer; and one Sheriff's Service Officer. The bureau was housed at the Southwest Station and one day may be housed in Perris.

Southwest Corridor Task Force Arrests 2001-2002 areas of responsibility were Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Temecula County, and Perris County. The statistic chart reflected that most felony arrests were made in the City of Perris and Perris County area. The Southwest Corridor Task Force Team Statistics for 2001 reflected 42 search warrants served, 57 children evaluated by Child Protection Services which may rise, 243 felony arrests and 116 misdemeanor arrests.

In regards to the Parolee Information, Police Chief Kestell commented the total of Perris at 844 and Perris County at 302 would put us right behind Moreno Valley at 1318. The Perris area seemed to receive more than their fair share of parolees.

Mayor Pro Tem Rogers commented on the ability to stop the number of parolees assigned to one area and mentioned the City of San Bernardino's ordinance that prevented a constant flow. Also, the City of Redlands' Police Chief worked with their Council to institute a program for rehabilitation of parolees and the level of parolees committing crimes had decreased.

*Mayor Pro Tem
Rogers' Comments
Re: Parolee
Rehabilitation
Program*

In response, Police Chief Kestell suggested that the City Manager and he speak with Redlands in regards to their program. There had to be an answer to prevent/reduce the use of drugs and crimes committed by the youth/people. There were Welfare Funds that provided rehabilitation programs and equipment for youth correctional facilities. There might be funding available through Proposition 36. He commented on the lack of mental health facilities and how it affected society.

*Police Chief Kestell's
Response &
Continued
Presentation*

Mr. Finney, Planning Commissioner, asked what was the age breakdown of people that committed crimes. Within gang activity the older person would have filtered into society where his veneer had changed/matured and was productive. It was estimated that the age bracket was between 18 to 34 year age group.

*Planning
Commissioner Mr.
Finney's
Comments Re: Age of
Crime Predators*

In regards to Megan's Law, Police Chief Kestell said within Riverside County there were two retrieval sites where information was allowed to be released on sex offenders through a program. Identification was required. One of the sites, Information Services Bureau, was located at 4095 Lemon Street, Riverside and information was available between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Other retrieval stations would be implemented. There was certain information that could not be provided by Police Departments. But, if there would be a high-risk sex offender in the community it would be required that the community be informed.

*Con't. Police Chief
Kestell's Presentation
Megan's Law*

Councilmember Landers indicated that the Police Chief was doing a fantastic job because of the increase in population of more than 12% verses the 12% increase of crime. Councilmember Landers commented on the severe drug problem in Enchanted Heights and the citizen that constantly addressed the problem.

*Councilmember
Landers' Comments
Re: Job Well Done &
Enchanted Heights
Severe Drug Problem*

In response, Police Chief Kestell said the problem had been discussed and meetings had been scheduled with the citizen. With the Community Meetings the Police Department could work out specific problems. The Police Chief said it would require legal action to remove the proposed offender.

*Police Chief Kestell's
Response*

City Attorney Dunn commented that the problem in question was ruled in favor of the problem tenant. Information the City had was that the property manager was to refile a motion for reconsideration by the court. There were other options the City had such as the nuisance abatement and the State's Health & Safety Code. It gave an option to process a Drug Abatement Proceeding and would entail seeking a civil injunction against the owners or tenants. A City Attorney or member of the public could file the civil action.

*City Attorney Dunn's
Comments Re:
Enchanted Heights
Drug Problem*

There was general discussion in regards to a 'Nuisance Ordinance' that other cities utilized and deemed to be successful in resolution of drug problems. The Police Chief confirmed that he would obtain the ordinance for Council.

*General Discussion
Re: Nuisance
Ordinance*

Councilmember Landers recommended that the City make a statement on Zero Drug Tolerance and would appreciate it if the Police Chief would call the citizen in question to inform him that the City would definitely resolve the issue.

*Councilmember
Landers' Comments
Re: Concerned
Citizen-Drug Problem*

The Police Chief confirmed that they would call the citizen. The City should consider implementation of the program called 'Safe Streets' and he would check on the status of that program. He addressed and discussed the DARE Program's success; the school's Resource Officers; proposed new central Police Station, site location, funding; and the proposed construction of the Department of Social Services within the City.

*Police Chief Kestell's
Comments Re: Safe
Streets & DARE
Programs*

By unanimous consent the City Council determined to adopt a Zero Drug Tolerance Resolution and publish in the local newspaper. City Attorney Dunn was requested to establish resolution language.

*Zero Drug Tolerance
Resolution*

Councilmember Motte asked if more officers were required to lower crime.

*Councilmember
Motte's Comment*

In response, Police Chief Kestell said before the request of additional officers, he would over the next six months, review the population, allocation of City and County officers, status and projection of the City. The County might supply fifty additional deputy officers. The contract indicated 116 hours were required per day and that did not include the DARE Officer, Downtown Team, Gang Team, and the two motorcycle officers. Actual police services were at 116 hours (24 officers) and required three to four officers per shift for the City. More officers were required for swing shift and early graveyard. The Parole Officers monitored the parolees. Parolees could be arrested for violation of parole and documented. Police Chief Kestell indicated that he monitored statistics closely and if there was anything that was skewed the City Manager would be alerted.

*Police Chief Kestell's
Comments Re:
Additional Officers*

City Council voiced appreciation of Police Chief Kestell's presentation and requested to agendize, for the record, a condensed version of the presentation.

*Request to Agendize a
Condensed Version of
the Presentation*

Mr. Finney, Planning Commissioner, commented on the issue of the sales of drugs and informed Council that the State of California mandated that a specific chemical that was utilized in producing methamphetamine was sold in local feed stores, which had to be strictly monitored and recorded. To his knowledge no one from the State or local Police Departments had reviewed the records or monitored the people who bought the chemical.

*Planning
Commissioner Mr.
Finney's Query Re:
Type of Drug Sold*

In response, Police Chief Kestell said the Special Investigation Bureau would had retained a list of specific chemicals and monitored the sales. Also, businesses were required by state law to report to the state that would assess the information.

*Police Chief Kestell's
Response*

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** By unanimous consent the Special City Council Meeting was adjourned 7:35 p.m.

*7:35 p.m. Special City
Council Meeting
Adjourned*

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Rey, City Clerk