

JUNE 30, 2004

REGULAR MEETING

The Police Commission of the City and County of San Francisco met in Bayview District at the Southeast Community Center, 1800 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco, at 6:05 p.m., in a Regular Meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Renne, Orr-Smith, Chan, Keane, Marshall, Sparks, Veronese

Commissioner Renne introduced herself and gave a brief bibliography of her background. Thereafter, Commissioners Chan, Keane, Orr-Smith, Marshall, Sparks, and Veronese all introduced themselves and gave a brief bibliography of their background.

CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Review of Recent Activities

Chief Fong addressed the Commission and brief Commission regarding recent activities in the Department. Chief Fong stated that the Department has been busy this past week. Friday the budget was presented to the Board of Supervisors and the Department will be returning this coming Friday. Over the weekend, the Pride celebrations were held and occurred in a very safe fashion. Chief Fong also stated that over the weekend, there were homicides that the Department is now investigating in order to close these cases as well as to find those responsible for the violence. The Department is also preparing for the July 4th celebration. Chief Fong also talked about the incident in the Ingleside District and stated that the Department is doing two investigations, one by MCD and the other by Homicide. Chief Fong introduced the members of the command staff that are present: Deputy Chief Suhr, FOB, Deputy Chief Tabak, Investigations Bureau. Chief Fong then deferred the rest of her report to Captain Rick Bruce, Commanding Officer of the Bayview Station.

Commissioner Keane stated that he had received a phone call from Chief Fong after the officer-involved shooting that occurred Tuesday. He stated he appreciated the response and hopes that the Department will be more transparent in these types of issue and he believes the Department is heading in that direction.

OCC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Report on the function of the Office of Citizen Complaints

Director Allen addressed the Commission and the community and described the functions of the OCC and how complaints are made and investigated. He also handed out information regarding the OCC, including address and phone numbers.

Commissioner Marshall stated that his Commission is working very hard to strengthen the OCC as an entity and to respond to the community about any concerns that it may have about officers and urged the public to take advantage of the OCC and what it can do for the community.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Scheduling of items identified for consideration at future Commission meetings

None

CAPTAIN RICHARD BRUCE, COMMANDING OFFICER OF BAYVIEW STATION, TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON POLICE ACTIVITIES IN THE BAYVIEW DISTRICT

Commissioner Renne thanked Captain Bruce for putting this meeting together.

Captain Bruce, Commanding Officer of Bayview Station, addressed the Commission and discussed the police activities in the Bayview District. Captain Bruce stated that the Bayview Station has the highest staffing levels in the department and thanked the command staff for their support.

Captain Bruce also stated that flyers are utilized to get information out to the community regarding homicides. The flyers include a list of phone numbers of the homicide inspectors, the 24-hour tip line, the Bayview Station line, and some of the facts of the case are included for reference.

Captain Bruce explained the Cease Fire Operation. This operation is based on the premise that there is a small number of people in any community who commit most of the violence and that those people should be targeted. This operation has been done for approximately three years.

Captain Bruce also talked about what is called the 11532 Program. Captain Bruce explained that one of the most frustrating situations that exist in the Bayview is the constant loitering near some of the notorious street corners in the Bayview. What frustrates people is that police seemed to be unable to deal with this situation. Captain Bruce explained that there is a law on the books, in the Health and Safety Code, which allows police officers to take action against people who are loitering when it can be demonstrated that they are loitering for purposes of using, selling, transporting narcotics. So a program was put together that will be taking off next week. A data base is started and these individuals will be tracked. Captain Bruce stated that the department will be going after these individuals who hang out in street corners for purposes of buying, using, selling drugs.

Captain Bruce also talked about the Drug-free Zones. Captain Bruce explained that there is a law in the books that provides for a 3 to 5 year enhancement for anyone caught transporting, selling, or possessing for sale narcotics within 1,000 feet of either a school or a youth facility. In order to implement this program, Captain Bruce and staff have worked with the Mayor's office, funding was found for this and the Mayor's office have supplied with about \$8,000 and the department have purchased about 70 drug-free zone signs and have targeted 70 locations in the district where they felt this enforcement operation was most appropriate and the signs are going to be going up in the next few weeks in hopes that these individuals would get the message and stop hanging out near the schools.

In terms of traffic, Captain Bruce stated that the Bayview is a very dangerous district to drive in. There are constant complaints of reckless driving, speeding, side show activities, donuts, et cetera. A more recent development is with the pocket bikes. These are extremely small motorcycles that can be purchased for as little as \$199. These bikes are illegal and cannot be used on any public highway, public sidewalk or any other place. They are not outfitted to be licensed. So an operation was started to try to target these things so that some young people's lives can be saved. Captain Bruce stated that the first day he sent out emails regarding these pocket bikes, that afternoon, there were two children run over on these bikes. The kids can't see the cars and the cars can't see the kids and that's the problem. They are extremely dangerous and they are trying to get them off the streets.

Captain Bruce stated that there is a tremendous amount of community outreach in the Bayview. The most common way is through community meetings. In terms of community meetings, there are community meetings in the Bayview a minimum of four nights a week all across the district and the

officers from the Bayview attempt to be present at all the meetings. In the past two nights, Captain Bruce stated he's been to six different community meetings. Another outreach is the daily email that goes out. It goes out five days a week. There are an excess of 500 people who subscribe to the Bayview's email alert. The emails contain the general nature for the community and all of the information regarding crime starting with all the felony arrests, robbery series, sexual assaults, et cetera. Whatever is known it's put out on the email so that the community is aware of it. Captain Bruce stated that the community have actually assisted in a couple of cases but what have been told to the Captain is the members of the community who receives the email updates feel that as if they've got a connection with Bayview Station. They feel also that they have instant access to the officers at Bayview Station. Captain Bruce stated that he receives approximately 50 emails a day with people responding back to his email update.

Captain Bruce also talked about the Quality of Life Phones. Captain Bruce explained that one of the common laments from the people in San Francisco is they become very frustrated trying to contact the police. People feel frustrated with non-emergency calls. They feel frustrated because they believe they get the runaround. So what Bayview did is to have what they called quality of life phones. One deals with the issues of graffiti and homeless situations, the second deals with narcotics and prostitution, and the third one deals with abandoned autos. What is done is at the end of each email update, the names of the officers who carry these phones with the phone numbers. Captain Bruce stated that this system has been very effective.

In addition to the quality of life phones, the Bayview has six phone numbers and phones assigned to public housing officers. Approximately 2 months ago, 12 officers were assigned directly into public housing. He stated that so much of the violence is occurring right in public housing and they felt that it was absolutely necessary to place police officers there and start to do some community policing, start to do some outreach in order to stop violence.

Captain Bruce talked about substations being opened in public housing. One substation is at 130 Westpoint Road. This substation is currently open and was provided by the Public Housing. A second station will be placed on the 900 block of Connecticut for Potrero Hill. The third substation will be placed at 195 Kiska Road.

Captain Bruce talked about youth outreach. Captain Bruce explained that the department understands that there are a variety of youth activity programs that exist already in San Francisco but we're trying to accomplish two things: one is to provide kids with youth activities. The second this is to break down the historical barriers that exists between the Bayview community and the Police Department.

Captain Bruce talked about the Milt Meyer Gymnasium located at 195 Kiska Road. The bad news is that when you go into this gymnasium, you will not find children in this gymnasium. It's extremely rare to see people using this gym. Captain Bruce stated that when he first came out to Bayview, there was a murder that occurred in front of the gym and it drove a lot of the kids away. It made the community reticent to go up there and use the gym. So what the Bayview is doing is they are working with Park and Rec to get into the building and get into an office in the building to make it a police substation.

A baseball program was also established to bring safety to the neighborhood. Uniforms were provided to all kids that showed up. Kids are also taken out to Harding Park to teach them how to play golf. The hope is to expose kids to some of the sports that they are not normally exposed to. Midnight Basketball is also a program that was started about a decade ago.

Captain Bruce explained that Midnight Basketball is anything but basketball. The age is between 18 to 25. The goal is to not only get the young men off the streets but to break down the animosities that exist. He explained that you come in and get drafted to play but you don't get to play with your buddies in the same team. You are forced to play with different group of guys that are from different areas in the Bayview District. There is also a nightly lecture which is done before they are able to play basketball. The lecture is to talk to them about life skills, how to take a job interview, how to get GED, how to clear traffic warrants, and just to try to pull their lives together.

Commissioner Orr-Smith, a resident of the Bayview, thanked Captain Bruce and the officers of Bayview Station for the work being done by the officers.

Commissioner Chan asked about the budget and asked Captain Bruce what his officers are telling him about their needs. Captain Bruce stated the officers ask for training and equipment. Training in how to approach suspects who are armed with assault weapons.

Commissioner Veronese stated that he had visited Bayview Station and addressed the line ups.

Commissioner Sparks asked about Operation Impact and asked if the program continues, what changes would be made. Captain Bruce stated that he believes that the operation was successful and he thinks that the CHP should return.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, a Bayview resident, addressed the Commission and the community. She thanked Captain Bruce for the community work being done and thanked the Commission for hold the meeting in her district.

Michael Petralis stated that voting registration is very important and people should register to vote. He also stated that Commission meetings should be broadcast on T.V., channel 26.

Unidentified commended Captain Bruce for the police activities in the community. He stated that focus should be more on the good things that occur in the district and not just the bad things.

Joe stated that the people are afraid to come forward to report crimes because the news media will repeat their names or pictures in the news.

Karen Pierce addressed the Commission and discussed her concerns.

Meesha Irizary, Idriss Stelley Foundation, stated that she was impressed with Captain Bruce's presentation. She also stated that the root of the violence must be removed from the community before it can be stopped.

Anna stated she was disappointed that the Commission did not have a Hispanic member and she hopes that the mayor will correct that oversight. She also mentioned the Cease Fire Program and that it should be looked at by the Commission.

Malaika Parker, Bay Area Police Watch, addressed the Commission and spoke on the issue of the officer-involved shooting of Cammerin Boyd and asked when will information be released.

Ms. Brown, Bayview resident, thanked the Commission for meeting in the Bayview and that she feels that she has access to someone about the issues in the district.

Mr. Biase, Youth Commission, talked about issues of the youth with the city.

Marylon Boyd, mother of Cammerin Boyd, stated that she has not seen any changes in how police respond to the family of victims of officer-involved shootings. She stated that when a mother of a victim asked about the shooting of her son, she was arrested.

Tupufa Valentine discussed concerns.

Sam Ripley addressed the Commission and thanked Captain Bruce for a job well done and stated that more effort should be spent toward the Pacific Islanders community and stated that Samoans represent 35 to 40 percent of the community.

Unidentified commended Captain Bruce for the good job he is doing and asked what programs can be done for the older members of the community.

Sharon thanked the Commission for meeting in the community.

Ms. Brown welcomed the Commission and Chief Fong to the Bayview and stated that although we are meeting at the Bayview, the problem is citywide.

Unidentified commended Captain Bruce for the work he is doing.

Kamilla Boyd discussed concerns regarding police getting assault rifles and stated that she is against the idea.

Ms. Mays, Bayview resident for over 30 years, spoke against police misconduct.

Unidentified, long time Bayview resident, stated that over the years he has seen more than eight captains come and go but Captain Bruce is the first to participate with the youth and the community.

Julie discussed concerns.

Howard Wo thanked Captain Bruce and stated that he has learned more in Captain Bruce's daily emails about the District than in 40 years of reading the newspaper.

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Lieutenant Edward Geeter
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission

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