

FEBRUARY 22, 2006

REGULAR MEETING

The Police Commission of the City and County of San Francisco met in the Northern District, at Rosa Parks Elementary School, 1501 O'Farrell Street San Francisco, at 6:15 p.m., in a Regular Meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Renne, Campos, DeJesus, Marshall, Veronese

Commissioner Marshall arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Commissioner Renne welcomed the audience and asked the Commissioners to introduce themselves.

CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Review of Recent Activities

Chief Fong introduced the members of the Command Staff. Present were Deputy Chief Tabak, Deputy Chief Parra, Commander Harper, Deputy Chief Shinn, and Commander Craig.

OCC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Ms. Susan Leff, for Director Allen, explained the duties and functions of the OCC.

CAPTAIN KEVIN DILLON, COMMANDING OFFICER OF NORTHERN STATION, TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON POLICE ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT

Taken out of order.

Captain Dillon addressed the Commission on police activities in the Northern District. Captain Dillon introduced his lieutenants. Present were Lieutenants Sanford, Johnson, Barrett, and Lee. Captain Dillon went on to describe the demographics of Northern Station.

Commissioner Veronese asked about stats on sexual assault crimes. Captain Dillon stated that often times you can look at numbers and see clearly a reason for why it happened but other times we can't. He stated that he cannot explain the change.

Commissioner Veronese asked about homicides and asked if the police can do something to assist in the prosecution, what is it. Captain Dillon stated that the Captains in stations where there are a large number of homicides meet on a biweekly basis with the director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Gang Task Force, the lieutenant of Homicide, the Captain of Investigations and all of the homicides and shootings that occurred in the last two weeks are discussed. One of the things that they do is identify the individuals that have been involved in numerous cases.

Deputy Chief Tabak also explained that the level of success is proportionate to the willingness of the community to step up. About 80 percent of the cases where witnesses come forward results in an arrest. Relative to homicides and aggravated assault shootings is that the Department does see repeat offenders. The deterrent factor to a consequence, it sends a loud message. Most homicide suspects will commit multiple homicides. Most shooting suspects will commit multiple shootings. So it stands to reason that when someone is in custody, the rate of homicides and shootings goes down proportionately.

Commissioner Campos asked about community policing. Captain Dillon stated that there is a huge increase in foot beat officers. There are eight officers that are walking in the Western Addition that were not walking here a year and a half ago. The officers are also making an effort to be as accessible to the public as possible and also the Captains are more accessible and the added email access adds to the communication with the community. Captain Dillon stated that the two biggest locations in the Western Addition for interaction with the community is the Ella Hill Hutch and the African-American Arts and Cultural Center.

Commissioner Campos asked about the public's willingness to come forward and provide information to the department about homicides and violent crimes. Captain Dillon stated that the station receives a lot of information from the public. There are some reluctance on the part of some witnesses to get involve in the case and actually testify in court but as far as providing information to the police, there is an excellent flow of information from the community.

Commissioner Marshall what does this station is currently doing that addresses the gab between the community and the police. Captain Dillon stated that he feels the area that feels most separated from the Police Department would be the Western Addition and part of the Hayes Valley. Captain Dillon stated that the number of beat officers that are in those areas have increased. Captain Dillon stated that he's making every effort to be at every meeting, every event and have increased the number of African-American officers that are working in the community.

Commissioner Marshall stated that it will take a lot of creativity on both sides to close the gap between the community and the police but he also thinks that new idea, fresh ideas, and attention to that can only help.

Commissioner DeJesus asked about homicides in 2005. Out of the 11 homicides in 2005, how many arrests were made and of those arrests, how many were prosecuted, and the ones that were not prosecuted, did he have any dialogue with the district attorney's office as to why they did not proceed with the prosecution. Captain Dillon stated that his dialogue was with Lt. Hennessy, the Lieutenant of Homicide. Of the 11 cases, there were no prosecutions. There were arrests on three of those cases but that according to the lieutenant, he felt that a suspect had been identified in each one of those but in some cases, there just isn't enough evidence to prosecute. The cases stay open.

Commissioner Campos asked if there is anything that can be done to have arrests for every homicides. Captain Dillon stated that in some cases there just isn't any evidence or eye witness testimony which makes an arrest very difficult. Captain Dillon stated that the cameras on Larch and Buchanan have had a huge effect on the crime in that area.

Commissioner DeJesus is there a homicide inspector at the scene at each and every homicides. Captain Dillon stated that there are often multiple homicide inspectors at one scene.

Commissioner Veronese asked about use of force and what is the Department doing to bring down the level of force that's being used during arrests or to assess the level of force being used. Captain Dillon stated that short of video taping every encounter that involves force, it is very difficult for the Department to try to assess that and determine what else could have been done. Captain Dillon stated that the more comfortable the officer is with his/her capabilities and they know that they are able to handle the situation and they know they have the skills from the training provided by the academy then they are going to be better to handle the situation and less likely to get scared

and less likely to maybe perceived as over reacting.

Commissioner Renne thanked Captain Dillon for his report. She also stated that Commissioner Marshall have hit the nail on the head when he talked about the gap. Commissioner Renne stated that what the Department needs to do is to take a look at recruitment for the future and particularly in those areas where there are gaps, what can be done to be creative in terms of focusing efforts on where the gaps are so that more can be done to lessen that gap.

Commissioner Marshall stated that it can happen if everybody wants it to happen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Taken out of order.

Veronica Perry would like to have a meeting with the Captain of her station and commented on how the police can communicate with the community.

Richard Johnson, Hayes Valley Community Partners, asked for more beat officers to interact with the community and asked the Commission to look at the recent closure of John Swett School.

London Breed, director of African American Art and Cultural Complex in the Western Addition, stated that growing up she had bad experience with police. She stated that beat officers in her district are helping kids in a positive way and that kids are starting to feel that they can actually approach police officers without being labeled a snitch. She asked the Commission to appreciate the officers and to respect them and to show them as much support as they can possibly get. She went on to commend Captain Dillon for his work with the community.

Kathy Perry discussed community policing and thanked Commissioner Veronese for his DGO proposals. She thanked Captain Dillon and Lieutenant Johnson for their work in community policing.

Joann Minsky, Hayes Valley resident, commended Captain Dillon and the officers of Northern Station. She also stated the community policing has been going on in her district for a long time. She also stated that the community can't expect the police to parent their children.

Jeanette Berger commended Captain Dillon and all of the Northern Station officers.

Cindy Wydell, executive director for SF Safe, commended Captain Dillon and his staff for work done with Safe. She stated that they are working with Captain Dillon and his staff in addressing the auto break ins and burglaries and providing a number of security assessments for condominium and apartment buildings and doing neighborhood watch groups.

Maddie Scott, Healing Circle, group of parents who have lost children to senseless gang violence as well as parents for murdered children. She stated that community policing is very very important and it is something that everybody needs to come together to work on and there also needs to be a forum for young people.

Ace Washington thanked Captain Dillon and thanked all the Black officers that are in Northern Station. He invited the Commission to come to the African American Police Relationship Branch to see what is being done.

Matt Leroy stated that it is the job of a police officer to be a parent to the community.

Mary Harris, President OMI Neighbors in Action, read a letter she wrote to the Chief in regards to Officers Bragagnolo and Briggs and asked the Chief to get the officers back out on the streets.

Marylon Boyd discussed concerns regarding OCC complaints being taken seriously and concerns regarding officers involved in the shooting of her son.

Mission District resident discussed concerns regarding complaints

against his vehicle on Alameda and Bryant Streets.

Steve Johnson, POA, discussed concerns regarding statement made by Ms. Boyd and discussed concerns regarding who is making the use of force complaints.

Unidentified discussed concerns.

Unidentified discussed concerns regarding problems with the police.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2006

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, second by Commissioner Campos to approve the minutes. Approved 5-0.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Assignment of disciplinary charges filed in Case No. C06-28 SL to an individual Commissioner for the taking of evidence on a date to be determined by the Commissioner.** (Assigned to Commissioner Marshall, Resolution 11-06)
- b. **Assignment of disciplinary charges filed in Case No. C06-29 SL to an individual Commissioner for the taking of evidence on a date to be determined by the Commissioner.** (Assigned to Commissioner Marshall, Resolution 12-06)
- c. **Assignment of disciplinary charges filed in Case No. C06-30 SL to an individual Commissioner for the taking of evidence on a date to be determined by the Commissioner.** (Assigned to Commissioner Veronese, Resolution 13-06)
- d. **Assignment of disciplinary charges filed in Case No. C06-31 SL to an individual Commissioner for the taking of evidence on a date to be determined by the Commissioner.** (Assigned to Commissioner Veronese, Resolution 14-06)
- e. **Assignment of disciplinary charges filed in Case No. C06-32 SL to an individual Commissioner for the taking of evidence on a date to be determined by the Commissioner.** (Assigned to Commissioner Veronese, Resolution 15-06)
- f. **Assignment of disciplinary charges filed in Case No. C06-33 SL to an individual Commissioner for the taking of evidence on a date to be determined by the Commissioner.** (Assigned to Commissioner Veronese, Resolution 16-06)
- g. **Assignment of disciplinary charges filed in Case No. C06-24 JCT to an individual Commissioner for the taking of evidence on a date to be determined by the Commissioner.** (Assigned to Commissioner Campos, Resolution 17-06)

SCHEDULING OF ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commissioner Veronese asked the Chief if the Department would consider a pilot program in having the officer and the trainers in the Academy to determine whether or not the appropriate amount of force was used. Chief Fong stated that she will have discussions and report back to the Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Marshal, second by Commissioner DeJesus to adjourn the meeting.

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned.

Sergeant Joseph Reilly
Secretary

San Francisco Police Commission
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