

Pleasanton Police Department  
**Community Advisory Board**  
Tuesday September 24, 2024  
Briefing Room

Department Attendees: Police Chief Gina Anderson, Lt. Roy Gamez, Lt. Chris Niederhaus, ASO Frankie Ayers, Administrative Assistant Kim Monfort

CAB Members in Attendance: Bill Foley, Andrew Gelb, Mary Scott, Maritess Simmons, Mike Telang

Absent: Torin Fischer, Erica Gallegos, Bryan Hardwick, Carroll Jacoby, Pinky Mukherjee, Raffiq Rajabali, Camron Shimy, Kenya Sullivan, Elizabeth Zhuge

## **I. Welcome**

Chief Anderson welcomed the group and thanked them for wanting to be part of the CAB. She provided a history of her career starting in Davis and progressing to Citrus Heights and eventually Newark PD where she recently retired as the Chief of Police. Growing up, her grandparents lived in Pleasanton and she always thought it was a beautiful community. She and her family relocated to Pleasanton almost five years ago and her daughter is active in the softball program at Foothill High School. Chief Anderson always wanted to be a Police Chief in the town she lived in, so when City Manager Gerry Beaudin called and asked if she was interested in being Interim Chief in Pleasanton, she jumped at the chance. Chief Anderson shared that it didn't take long to feel connected to the people in the department and the community.

Chief Anderson stated that the community is being served by some very great people. She emphasized the value of the CAB relative to helping the department form strategies to help the community in the best way they want to be served. Part of Chief Anderson's role as Interim Chief is to do an assessment of the organization so she can set up the new permanent Chief of Police for success. Part of that assessment includes asking staff to provide her with an overview of every unit and program in the organization. She's particularly interested in program goals, how the goals align with the department and city goals, and goals for the future, including any personnel or budgetary needs. The program presentations are going well and everyone in the department is welcome to attend as many presentations as they would like. Chief Anderson recognized Pleasanton for being a true full-service police department.

## **II. Police Department Updates**

### a. Chief's Process

The recruitment process for a permanent Chief is underway. The talented list of applicants was whittled down to five who went through panel interviews a couple of weeks ago. Two candidates moved forward and a selection was made. That person is now in background and will most likely come on board in December. Chief Anderson will defer to the City Manager to announce the finalist.

### b. Crime Update

Chief Anderson provided some crime statistic updates. Comparing year to date 2024 stats to this time last year, persons crimes are down by 16% and property crime is down by 19%. Looking at the last three years, while violent crime was up in 2021, it has been down every year since then.

Historically, the FBI has tracked crime using Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) which collects summary data focusing on more serious Part 1 offenses, i.e. homicide, rape, assault, burglary, property, arson and vehicle. It follows the hierarchy rule so if an incident involved multiple offenses, only the most serious offense is counted. In December, law enforcement agencies will transition to NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System) which will capture details on each single crime incident, as well as on separate offenses within the same incident, including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees and property involved in crimes. California is taking it a step further and will be using CIBRS (California Incident Based Reporting System). CIBRS collects the same core crime data as NIBRS but also includes additional details relevant only to California, like information on gang-related crimes, hate crimes, and domestic violence incidents.

The Computer Aided Dispatch System PPD uses is unable to support CIBRS, so the department will be switching over to Sunridge RIMS in order to start reporting all crime in CIBRS. Comparing annual crime stats reported under UCR Summary Reporting to CIBRS is challenging due to fundamental differences in how data is collected. Crime totals may appear to increase, even if actual crime rates are stable. For example, a robbery involving murder in UCR reporting only counts as murder. The new system will count murder and robbery as separate crimes. CIBRS is a much more robust way of capturing crime data in Pleasanton.

CAB questioned if it was even necessary to compare the data. Chief Anderson stated that she will likely explain the difference to City Council at the department Bi-Annual update in November. The City's website will also have real-time dashboards that the community will be able to use.

CAB member Foley asked if catalytic converter thefts have gone down. Capt. Gamez shared that a task force was created that worked with the state to identify and arrest those buying the stolen converters. That enforcement was effective, and thefts have decreased by roughly 99% since then.

### c. Staffing Update

Chief Anderson advised that Capt. Cox is on long-term medical leave and expected to return in April for a short period of time until he retires. His absence has created an opportunity for growth and development for staff. Lieutenant Gamez has been appointed Acting Captain for the Investigations Division until Capt. Cox returns. Lieutenant Gamez' position is being filled by Sergeant Ben Sarasua who will serve in an acting Lieutenant role until Capt. Cox returns. In addition, Lieutenant Erik Silacci is on leave due to an injury. His vacancy will be filled by Sergeant Chris Lewellyn.

The department is currently down three officers. There are also anticipated retirements on the horizon. While Lateral Officer applicants are down, there has been an increase in applicants for Police Recruit. The department has one recruit in the academy and four officers in field training. There are three openings for Community Service Officer. Also, there are several officers out on long term injuries.

The group discussed possible reasons for lateral applicants being down. Overall, Pleasanton is a desirable agency with relatively low crime and an incredibly supportive community. Unfortunately, it is cost prohibitive to live anywhere in this region. A lot of department staff live in Ripon, Modesto, and Tracy. Chief Anderson credits the Department's Personnel & Training Unit, and the City's Human Resources department for their work recruiting and getting people on board.

The department has also collaborated with the Southbay Academy to bring the PELLET B test to Pleasanton, which allows staff to build relationships with applicants. The department has seen a lot of success from that. The departments Dispatch Center is fully staffed with almost all laterals.

#### d. Traffic Collision Update

Lt. Chris Niederhaus introduced himself. He oversees the department's Special Operations Unit which includes the Traffic Unit, Alternate Response Unit, School Resource Officers and the Crime Scene Investigations Team (CSIT). Lt. Niederhaus provided a detailed overview and update on the tragic quadruple fatal collision on Foothill Road that happened back in April. Police Officers, CSIT and a number of police volunteers responded to the call. All four occupants were killed on impact. The National Traffic and Safety Board has provided resources as well as CHP's Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT). Every vehicle has an infotainment system. Data is currently being pulled from that system. Lt. Niederhaus is unable to speculate on the cause of the accident at this time.

CAB member Gelb asked who is responsible for removing debris from the roadway. Typically, it's the tow company, but if it's a scene too large to handle, the City's Streets department will assist.

#### e. E-Bike Enforcement

Lt. Niederhaus provided CAB with an overview of the three classes of Ebikes. Class 1 is a low-speed pedal-assisted electric bike. Class 2 is a low-speed throttle-assisted electric bike. Class 1 and 2 ebikes don't go above 20 mph. Class 3 are speed pedal assisted electric bikes with a maximum speed of 28 mph. Type 1 and 2 ebikes can go on bike trails. Type 3, cannot. Then there are Surrans, which are basically electric motorcycles. They do not have pedals and can go upwards of 50 mph. These types of ebikes have been causing significant damage to city parks and costing tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Utilizing grant money from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), officers have started to crack down on kids who are riding these bikes illegally. The department also plans to use social media to educate kids and parents on how to ride and be safe.

### **III. Old Business**

#### a. Officer Uniform and Appearance

Chief Anderson discussed officer uniforms and appearance with the group. Facial hair is now permitted per grooming standards outlined in department policy. Officers may wear outer carriers instead of duty belts. Baseball caps may be permitted in inclement weather. Chief Anderson's feeling is that baseball caps look more professional than outer carriers. Tattoos should be concealed while on duty. There is a growing movement to change that. Chief Anderson is conservative in that area and will leave the decision to Chief Avelar.

### **IV. New Business**

#### a. Volunteer in Policing Service (VIPS) Presentation

Animal Services Officer Frankie Ayers and Chief Anderson's assistant, Kim Monfort gave a presentation on the department's robust volunteer program. Both are department advisors to the program. The Volunteer in Policing Services program (VIPS) is overseen by the Community Services Sergeant Jason Knight. There are a total of five department staff who act as advisors to the program. There are currently 17 volunteers in the program, 14 work patrol and 3 are admin. The hope is to grow the program to 25 volunteers by the year 2030. The VIPS program was established in 2001 with the goal to "improve the department's already high standard of customer service to the community". Two volunteers who started in 2001 are still part of the program. Six volunteers have 15 – 18 years of service. Over 99,000 total hours have been volunteered since 2001.

The Mission Statement of the VIPS program is to support the goals and objectives of PPD by developing a partnership between the department and citizens of Pleasanton. This partnership increases awareness in the community and helps to reduce crime and improve the quality of life within Pleasanton.

VIPS volunteered a total of 3,844 hours in 2023 and are on track to exceed that number in 2024. If those same hours were worked by a Community Service Officer, it would have cost the city roughly \$155,913 in salary alone, not factoring in employee benefits.

Patrol volunteer duties include, vacation checks, traffic control, parking enforcement, wildlife transport, special events, and crime scene logs and scene security. Administrative volunteer duties vary and can include airport runs, LiveScan, data entry, overseeing the Citizen's Academy, updating brochures, filing and miscellaneous projects as needed.

Volunteers receive initial and on-going training relative to their assignment. The annual budget for the VIPS program is \$9,000 which includes uniforms, ballistic vest, and an annual appreciation dinner.

Many CAB members did not realize PPD had a volunteer program. They were very impressed with the program and eager to spread the word to the community.

b. Carry Concealed Weapon (CCW) Permits

Lt. Gamez shared updates to the Carry Concealed Weapons (CCW) program. Up until two years ago, anyone requesting a CCW permit was required to show good cause to get a weapon. The law changed however, and good cause is no longer needed. As a result, the number of people wanting CCW's has gone up significantly. CCW permits for the county have been processed by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department for the past twenty years or so. Unfortunately, ACSO is no longer able to keep up with the demand and have pushed permitting to municipalities. PPD is now responsible for issuing CCW's within Pleasanton. PPD staff has reached out to other agencies for best practices, and is developing policy and processes for CCW permitting. The anticipated launch date is October 1, 2024.

The county has provided PPD with 52 names that need to be reprocessed, and an additional 30 names of community members interested in getting CCW's. Each permit will take approximately four hours of staff time to process. County Commanders met and developed a uniform process that all municipalities will follow. Applicants must submit an application, pay a fee, undergo a criminal history check, a psychological examination and attend a 16-hour training course. PPD will look at each applicant with a critical eye before issuing the permit.

**V. Next Steps**

a. Next Meeting December 3, 2024 – Topic: FATS Training

Chief Anderson stated that as Advisory Board members, she believes CAB members want to be ambassadors for PPD and the community. She shared that the department has a Force Options Group and a Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) machine. The FATS machine trains officers on how to make decisions in pressure situations. The operator of the machine can change the scenario based on how the officer is responding to the test. Chief Anderson stated that she would like for CAB to have the opportunity to run through scenarios on the FATS machine at the next meeting.

CAB member Foley, who has experience with FATS machines, shared that the training builds muscle memory and highlights how quickly officers need to make split decisions on the streets.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.