

NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEMS

- i. Chief McGill presented the 2018 Annual Report:
 - a. Due to diligent efforts by the Dept., overall crime, citations and arrests were down compared to 2017.
 - b. NPD is fully staffed, retention and morale are up. Sustaining this trend long term may require wage increase. Currently Novato pays 15% less than Bay Area's average officer wage.
 - c. Negative comments about NPD on Next Door and other social media sites are not addressed by the Dept. Instead the station Facebook page is kept up to date with community outreach and other positive information.
- ii. Chief McGill reviewed Department activity since last meeting:
 - a. Complaints about officers or the Dept. are handled based on the severity of the complaint.
 - b. Formal complaints require City Manager involvement.
 - c. Two recently cleared complaints:
 - Dept. initiated "use of force" complaint regarding a woman who died due to overdoes en route to the hospital.
 - False complaint about an officer being dishonest cleared through review of body camera.
- iii. Chief McGill reviewed SB 1421
 - a. Peace officer personnel records that were classified as confidential per Governor, Jerry Brown, are to be released and published as of July 1, 2019 upon request pertaining to any sustained allegation with discipline of cases involving substantial use of force, sexual assault, officer involved shooting, or allegation of dishonesty.
 - b. The City of Novato's policy is to keep complaint records one year longer than the legally required five years.
 - c. The SB 1421 Law effective date of July 1, 2019 does not specify whether cases will be retroactively reviewed, however, the Attorney General announced that the cases would not be retroactively reviewed.
 - PARB Board recommendations to sustain allegations, when made in opposition to the Chief's recommendation not to sustain, are presented to the City Manager for final determination.
- iv. Schedule meeting dates for 2019

- Chief McGill recommends PARB meetings occur quarterly rather than “as needed” as discussion about the issue can be found in previous meeting minutes. Jon Abacci, the City Attorney, recommended creating a resolution to reflect the decision to meet quarterly, although one is not required. Chair Salazar expressed a preference in seeing minutes from the previous meeting, before deciding. Board Members Bartel, Dacre, Medigovich and Ritter along with Chief McGill voiced a preference to schedule the rest of 2019’s meetings now:
 - May 9, 2019
 - August 8, 2019
 - November 7, 2019

- v. Officer B. Jackson introduced K9 Officer, Rookie, to the PARB.
 - Rookie is a 2 ½ year old Belgium Malinois dual trained in protection and narcotics (minus marijuana).
 - He wears body armor and other protective gear while on duty.
 - He works locally and also assists with call-outs throughout Marin, as needed.
 - Checking unattended bags and other items is often how Rookie’s skills are utilized. He does not sniff for narcotics on passers-by or when with the general public.
 - There are three Novato PD K9 officers. Their combined schedules allows K9 coverage for almost all hours of every day.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

- i. Board Member Ritter requested that past PARB minutes be made available online. Staff will locate and have available minutes posted before the May meeting.

- ii. Chair Salazar requested an official PARB badge or identifier for public events, like those used in the past, be made available. Chief McGill invited all Board Members to the station to have new badges made. They will also complete LiveScans. Swearing-in will be conducted at the May 9th meeting.

- iii. Chair Salazar commended Chief McGill and his Department’s work within the community and asked how PARB could be of more service. McGill expressed that asking legislature for continued support was needed as funding is lacking. While crime is down, calls for service are up and the officers are always busy.

- iv. Board Member Medigovich asked how Novato’s homeless problem was being addressed since the REST program was discontinued. Chief McGill reported that 102 homeless people have recently been housed. He included that a count of Marin’s homeless is conducted every two years. A final count will be available approximately July 2019 and will help determine what progress has been made.

- a. Camping laws have been discontinued because Marin County does not have a shelter. Homeward Bound is not considered emergency housing.
- v. Board Member Ritter asked for an update about the Safe Exchange Program. Chief McGill said that the program, meant for people who use Craigslist for buying or selling items and may need a safe place to make exchanges, will not be implemented, primarily because parking in Novato is challenged and there have not been cases that would necessitate such a program.
- vi. Board Member Ritter asked for an update regarding texting to 911. Chief McGill reported that testing has been completed and Novato is ready to accept emergency texts. Fairfax will conclude their testing soon, and together with San Rafael, the three cities will announce March 1st then launch their text to 911 programs simultaneously.
 - a. People will be able to text to 911 dispatch as they would text to anyone else.
 - b. The system is expected to be very helpful during situations when someone is hiding so cannot speak, and also for deaf citizens.
- vii. Future training topics suggestions:
 - a. Text to 911
 - b. Fentanyl

Next Meeting Date – May 9, 2019

ADJOURNMENT: Moved to adjourn by Dacre, seconded by Ritter. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.