

NOTES
Mayor Swisstack's Transition Team
Public Safety Team Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 2008
9:00 a.m. - RRRCC Conference Room

Paul Caputo opened the meeting by having the team members introduce themselves. Six of the eight team members were present. Three residents attended.

Chief Boone presented his concerns:

- DPS is lacking personnel, resources and equipment
- for a population of 90,000 resident 180 officers are needed, DPS has 125
- drug enforcement is lacking and the word is getting out to ABQ
- no specific gang task force to suppress gang activity, department shares in the responsibility
- ability to keep gang activity suppressed is getting harder
- Animal Control is experiencing an increase in calls, but not enough staff to handle demand, same with Code Enforcement
- lack of radio transmission/reception and IT capabilities in outlying areas; need to upgrade
- regional dispatch center skewed toward Rio Rancho's calls
- DPS and Fire/Rescue were not considered during increase in growth the last few years - hard to "play catch up"
- unable to have officers participate in task forces for FBI and others
- had to decrease traffic division to increase patrols

Chief Boone feels these areas are positives:

- good visibility of officers on the street
- ability to recruit and retain the best officers
- Rio Rancho has a low crime rate

Chief Tobin presented his concerns:

- lack of personnel, resources and equipment
- 4 medic units for the city, no new units since 1999 {ambulance at Station #1 is unavailable 35% of the time}
- "back-up" ambulances from ABQ and Sandoval County are available approximately 1% of the time
- 3 ambulances are overdue for replacement {County will be buying Rio Rancho one new ambulance}
- long distances between subdivisions and stations make it hard to cover calls quickly
- middle of city is lacking coverage

- **DPS and Fire/Rescue were left out of planning**
- **PHS emergency room won't take certain patients brought in by medics, have to go into ABQ {UNMH, Kaseman, Heart Hospital, etc.} this causes ambulances to be away from city for 2 hours or more**
- **by helping west side of Sandoval County it causes a drain on services for RR residents**

Chief Tobin feels these areas are positives:

- **68% of billing for ambulance services is paid while the national average is ~30% {monies go into general fund and not back to the department}**
- **department willing to help outlying areas**
- **ability to recruit and retain the best personnel**
- **medic units are well stocked and offer a higher level of care**
- **increase in department rating lead to lower premiums for homeowner's insurance**

The following items were discussed by Team members:

- **offer more crime prevention to neighborhoods; what resources are available to residents for crime prevention**
- **use civilians to do jobs that uniformed officers are doing {when and where applicable}**
- **would creating a dispatch just for Rio Rancho help?**
- **work with detention centers to offer treatment and programs to help prevent recidivism**

Public Comment:

- **make residents aware of needs of both DPS and Fire/Rescue; most residents don't know how serious lack of personnel, resources and equipment is**
- **Chief Boone and Chief Tobin were very well prepared for meeting**

For next meeting:

- **identify 3-5 areas of improvement and have ideas on how to make improvements**
- **Chief Tobin and Chief Boone will find out what the federal government's minimum standards for community safety are and what it is needed to get Fire/Rescue and DPS up to those standards**

Next meeting:

Thursday, April 17th at 9:00 a.m. at RRRCC offices