

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

In August 2010, members implemented a public outreach process in order to gauge resident's perspectives/recommendations on improving communication with the Police Department. The public outreach schedule established by the Task Force included holding six public hearings at various City of Phoenix Senior and Community Centers (Devonshire, Paradise Valley, South Mountain, Maryvale, Sunnyslope, and Pecos).

In addition to the public hearings, there were two Teen Summits, one Young Adult Summit and nine focus groups (Interfaith; Hispanic Advisory Board; Small Business; Large Business; African American Clergy; Defense Bar; Gay, Lesbian; Bi-Sexual; Transgender, Non-profit; and Women) held during the month of August.

This document contains comments made at the senior and community center public hearings only.

Devonshire Community Center – August 9, 2010

1. The small attendance at this public hearing tonight is reflective of the good commander at Squaw Peak Precinct.
2. The commanders should form a task force to determine what the problems are.
3. Officers should be out in the community more.
4. Commander rotations should only occur once every 3 years. Commanders should also have the option on staying at a precinct more than one rotation if they choose.
5. Kudos' for Central City Precinct, overall they are very responsive.
6. Youth have a negative perception of Police. If police go out into the community more they can change that perception.
 - Start building relationships with kids at schools
 - Review school program and work to further develop and expand programs.
7. Became a community activist because of prior problems with police involving repeat street criminals. Police should do a better job of explaining why they cannot always follow up.

Paradise Valley Community Center – August 12, 2010

1. Police should utilize the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol more, what we report should receive follow-up.
2. Police should provide more information on kids attending school with the implementation of SB 1070. How are they being protected?
3. I would like to see more police presence/patrols within our communities.
4. Police make things up in their reports. They are not public servants. When they finally show up in court they have added additional information to the reports.
5. Police do not respect citizens.
6. Lives in Scottsdale but here representing Phoenix relatives who are afraid to come to this meeting. Family members are afraid of profiling because they look like the stereotypical immigrant.
 - There should be a video for citizens explaining SB 1070
 - Why do officers stop you to randomly run your plates then release you without incident
 - How do citizens report these types of false stops
7. Police have been highly effective. They work very hard for her community and the neighbors are not afraid of the police. Suggested residents work with police more rather than against.
8. Residents should utilize other city resources like the Neighborhood Services Department more.
9. Police are highly paid and should not be allowed to work part-time jobs.
10. The police union is too strong; the City should do away with collective bargaining.
11. We have one of the best police forces in the nation. Residents should go on ride-a-longs so they have a first hand look at what an officer deals with on a daily basis.

South Mountain Community Center - August 17, 2010

1. Would like the police to respond to him in a respectful manner. Want professionalism. Address him as sir; tell him that they cannot answer his questions. Do not just roll-up the window.

2. Police approach with a shot-gun attitude; don't like being disrespected by Police. Why do they intimidate? Police attitudes have changed. South Phoenix experience is making him dislike the Police.
3. Police who work in problem areas, they need to learn how not to profile. They need to take individuals on an individual basis.
4. Know the demographics of the community they serve, they should be professional and respectful. Take diversity courses and human relations courses. Realize people's first interaction with individuals sets the tone for future encounters.
5. Work with the community to teach them police are not bad. Ask how they can conduct a community outreach program.
6. His brother was arrested, police were polite.
7. Police is doing a great job, heard negative views from her friends and family. Police are doing a job of keeping people safe. Police officers should not run lights, they are abusing their authority.
8. Police should show their commitment to the community. They can participate in some of the carwashes, stop by and give their condolences at memorials. They could also educate our youth.
 - Phoenix PD should have presence at dances and art competitions.
 - Police should educate people on the law when they pull people over.
9. Police are profiling. Police should not tailgate residents. If people are doing things wrong why cannot police stop them prior to them making a wrong turn.
 - Police should come to community meetings
 - Notify the community of programs that target at-risk youth
 - Come and interact with youths – play basketball with them
10. Lack of trust between the community and police. Police should know community members by name. Officers should visit parks where people hang out to get to know them.
 - Police should follow-up on incidents
 - Community needs to take accountability
 - Provide step-by step information on how to file a complaint

- Police should do more to let people know what their rights are
Police should go to neighborhood services and get a list of all the community groups
 - Lindo Park resident – filed a complaint, the officer they sent out to meet with resident was the Officer who he was filing the complaint about
 - Provide citizens with information on how to file a complaint
 - Conduct workshops on what basic citizen rights are, so when police officers are outside of these boundaries, they know police cannot search their car without a warrant.
11. Friend had a small crack in her window, stopped by police. Police had a very aggressive attitude, very angry approach, suggested she was undocumented.
- Educate police on racial profiling
 - U-Visa for victims of crimes. PD should have a police statement relating to the issuance of U-Visa's their issuance is very inconsistent. Officers should take the training offered by the Federal government.
12. Phoenix Cop Watch member – legal observers of police stops. The City can expect to see more legal observers of police stops.
13. Her skin color allows her to have a different interaction with police. Her friend was stopped by police and the first question was, are you Hispanic? We have to work on the trust in the community.
- More community outreach
 - Training – there should be a certain level of respect by officers.
 - Training on proper interactions with community members, get to know community
 - Police must have an honest dialogue with the public about the implementation of SB 1070P
 - Police officers within the schools do not have anything to do with SB 1070?
 - Create a process for random follow-up and tracking on complaints by police management.
14. Dialogue being pushed by Russell Pearce is stereotypical; this hate against immigrants is cyclical. Everyone is being hurt by the economics related to the bill.
- Officers should take a class on immigration. They must understand immigrants have been denied their civil rights. Legal residents total approximately 1.5 million. We are a border state we will always have immigrants. They are turning the issue of migration into hatred. They are saying all Mexicans are criminals. Mexican-American citizens are being harassed. Legal citizens should not be treated criminally. Officers are anti-immigrant and abusing their powers.

15. Police Athletic League should be implemented in South Phoenix.

Maryvale Community Center- August 19, 2010

1. Improve relationships with the residents within each precinct
2. Everyone should be treated the same.
3. Expand the explorer program.
4. Simple interaction between police and youth would go long way in building trust.
5. Youth's perception of police is they are rude.
6. Police should adhere to the "Beat Accountability" model listed on the City's website.
7. Police do a fantastic job in the community.
8. Explain what SB 1070 requirements to citizens
9. Provide the community with updates on crime and prostitution in their areas
10. Police Officer came to his resident because false calls by his neighbors were made. Police were rude and kicked him during one incident. During another call to his house, police caused him to lose his hearing aid which he has been unable to replace; he would like the department to replace his hearing aid.
11. Bus driver called police and lied about being threatened her. Police boarded the bus and told her to sit down/be quiet. They did not listen to her at all and were being very judgmental until she identified herself as a City employee.
12. Police should ask an individual their name and their side of the story.
13. No issues with Police. School Resource Officer (SRO) program is a good thing.
14. Reported an incident of stealing to the SRO, the SRO talked to the Students about stealing. Students thought the conversation was helpful and came to the conclusion that sealing is not worth the consequences.
15. Most youth are afraid of the police based upon how they look. After participating in the Wake-up club he is no longer afraid of the police.
16. Police do a great job of educating. Police are not mean and only act when you get "smart" with them.

17. Expand/Develop communication plan on how a citizens can register a complaint with the Phoenix Police Department.
18. No issues with police, I don't disrespect them and I have positive conversations with the School Resource Officers.
19. Very positive experience in Maryvale. It is important Police build positive relationships with the community. Wake-Up is a positive program.
20. South Mountain Brawl – officers lost it on that incident with no follow-up. If officers had spoken to students they would be much closer at healing lingering feelings of resentment.
21. Lack of communication with public. Follow-up more on issues with crimes in minority neighborhoods.
22. Would like officers off main roads and into neighborhoods they serve.
23. Officers reluctant to follow the “Beat Accountability” policy outlined by the department.
 - Mentor or sponsor youth.
 - Provide crime prevention classes
 - Have officers tutor students
 - Conduct more ride-alongs
 - Provide self-defense and empowerment classes

Pecos Community Center - August 23, 2010

1. The first speaker reported that he has access to the Police and City management and still had trouble trying to make a complaint about the treatment of his daughter by a Phoenix Police officer. The speaker reported that the Mayor told him that he can't the Police Department to respond to his family's complaint. He reported that an officer told his daughter that he needed to be on the other side of the mountain handling real crime not dealing with this b_____t. He reported the officers' supervisor met with his daughter and intimidated her into withdrawing her complaint. He reported that the Police Department policy is to investigate. The incident was not investigated; is there any justice?

2. The speaker reported that she has had good experiences with the police department. She appreciates the forum and is frustrated about property crimes not being investigated. She reported that friend of hers had some musical equipment stolen from his/her home in central Phoenix. She reported that there was a lack of follow up and communication. They had to hunt to find out the name of the detective assigned to her case. She reported that the items are being auctioned on E-bay and that they contacted E-bay who told them the steps the Police Department need to take to get the address listed for the items. The issue is the system is too slow. The serial numbers were not entered into the system for several weeks. The speaker reported that improving communication would be her recommendation. The assigned detective should contact the victim.
3. The speaker reported citizens can go ride-along with the Police officers to learn how they work and get an understanding. She reported that all precincts have a website that could be used for spreading information. The websites are not always used effectively. She reported that she started something called "Tucke talks" to meet with the Community Action Officer quarterly talks about police issues. Recently they hosted a forum on Saturday and it was well attended. She reported that she coordinates block watch groups and there needs to be a process of identifying new groups so that all of them can communicate with each other. She reported the PNP patrols. She was upset by the mission statement because it suggests that there is a problem. She reported that we don't have corrupt lawless officers. She reported that the forum was not well advertised. She found out by a friend who works at the center. She reported that she went to the Police Department website and that it was not listed. She reported there should be subsequent meetings to report what is being recommended. She reported that other groups have started "coffee with a cop", but she found the interactions too social.
4. Create and implement a program to share positive stories about the Phoenix Police Department.
5. The speaker who was not identified reported that she left her garage door up accidentally and that a police officer was contacted and he stopped was closing her garage door for her.
6. The speaker reported that she saw three officers eating ice cream at Baskin Robbins. She reported that she understands that they have to take breaks and eat, but that she frequently sees multiple officers at pizza hut. She reported that it makes her wonder who is patrolling the community while you are at a restaurant. She also reported that the homeless situation near 48th and Warner is bad. She recommended that the community be educated on the officer's schedule and breaks. She indicated that it could be placed in the community news letter.

Sunnyslope Community Center - August 25, 2010

1. Expand/Develop communication plan on how a citizens can register a complaint with the Phoenix Police Department.
2. Notify the person filing the compliant when there has been a change in the PSB investigators reviewing your case.