

MINUTES –APRIL 11, 2017

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY (ACOPS)

Paradise Valley Police Department
6433 E. Lincoln Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

ACOPS Members:

Julie Pace, Chair
Victoria Bellomo-Rosacci
Larry Fink
Paul Moore
Jay Ozer
Bill Post
Chuck Matthews

PVPD:

Chief Peter Wingert
Officer Kevin Albert

The ACOPS meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at the Paradise Valley Police Auditorium, 6433 E. Lincoln Drive.

ACOPS Committee Members in attendance: Chair Julie Pace, Larry Fink, Chuck Matthews, Paul Moore, Jay Ozer and Richard Post. In addition, Chief Peter Wingert and Officer Kevin Albert were in attendance. Absent: Victoria Bellomo-Rosacci.

A. Oath of Office

The first item of agenda was to provide the oath of office for new ACOPS board member, Chuck Matthews. The town clerk, Duncan Miller administered the oath of office. The ACOPS committee and chief Pete Wingert and officer Kevin Albert and the ACOPS committee members welcomed Chuck Matthews as a new ACOPS member.

B. Fire and Police Rescue Team

Chief Wingert and the ACOPS Committee invited the Phoenix fire and police mountain rescue team to provide background and information regarding their collaborative operations regarding mountain rescues and hiker rescues to discuss various protocols, concerns, and issues. The following individuals from Phoenix Police Department and Fire Department attended:

1. Lt. Scott Sowerwine (Field Operations)
2. Sgt. Paul Apolinar (Pilot)
3. There were three others who attended.

The presentation and interactive presentation were informative. Quantitative statistics were provided by the Phoenix fire, police and air rescue team. For example, they had 84 rescue responses at Camelback Mountain and rescued 83 people and rescued approximately 86

individuals, used the hoist 41 times, had 28 two skid landings and engaged in helping lost hikers with lights to assist in getting hikers off the mountain at night.

In 2016 they had two body recoveries on Camelback Mountain. They had approximately 163 hours of use on the twin helicopter in 2016. It takes them about 18 minutes from hangar to hangar to address Camelback Mountain responses.

They have two helicopters. One is the blue patrol helicopter and the other is the twin red and white helicopter. The twin red and white helicopter is safer, quieter, and has hoisting abilities. There is redundancy with the twin engines which is one of the reasons it is safer.

This is a regional rescue team for other mountains that the Phoenix fire, air and police department assist. All pilots in the air are police officers. It is a unique and collaborative effort between medical, fire, and police to have this skilled team available to the community. They performed services on a patient based analysis along with conditions and needs.

In the helicopter they usually have two individuals up front, including a pilot and observer, and the crew chief is in the back. They have numerous years of experience to handle mountain rescues. For example, they would generally have at least seven or eight years' experience and 2000 air hours before they are allowed to perform mountain rescues. Some of the protocols that they utilize are consistent with Coast Guard protocols.

Landings and take offs are still the largest risk regarding helicopter usage. The Fire Department often is on foot going up the mountain while the air support is assisting.

We discussed drone use and use of lights and audio when needed, we discussed the FAA standards, and the impact that drones have on the ability for air rescue to come in and perform these duties to assist patients in need on Camelback Mountain. It is difficult to detect drones and because of the number of rescues it may be helpful to limit or address recreational drones being used on the mountain given the number of rescues that this team is performing. Drone incursion is a serious safety issue for the helicopters, fire, and police rescue teams.

We discussed that airplanes have an approximately 2,000 foot height restriction above houses. Helicopters have no legal limit regarding the heights they need to be at and that is why they sometimes are low to the ground or to the houses on the mountains. They tend to try to stay at 300-500 feet and they try to circulate and avoid hovering, but again their work is driven by the patient needs and conditions.

Camelback Mountain is a controlled air space. The fire, rescue, police team do communicate regularly with the two primary tourist scenic air helicopters: Universal Helicopter in Scottsdale and Quantum in Chandler.

The team and ACOPS committee members discussed reaching out to the resorts to do more education outreach regarding hiker safety. We discussed the flyer that is a public service benefit entitled "Take a Hike, Do It Right." We discussed that the ACOPS Committee would reach out and obtain more flyers and talk to the resorts regarding having the flyers available and reminding hikers to try to minimize the number of incidents on Camelback Mountain. We are all proud that Camelback Mountain is iconic and hiking on it is a sought after activity in Arizona and from visitors, but we need to remind them about safety and that many people have issues with lack of water and not understanding the risks on the mountain.

We discussed other strategies to help educate the public regarding the need for water and having a phone available. We discussed the water signs that remind hikers about the need for a lot of water, including water with electrolytes based on the heat in Arizona.

We discussed the mutual aid arrangements among the police department in the Valley. Phoenix Police and Fire are proud that they are the only model in the country that works together instead of having separate units. This improves efficiency and enhances communication and a collaborative effort to benefit all of the community.

Reminding residents that serial numbers are important to obtain on items as the Paradise Valley Police Department has had a large successful increase in the number of items recovered where serial numbers exist. The successful blue Wednesdays when officers meet with school kids and have lunch and are visible on the campuses.

We discussed the congestion or traffic at Echo Canyon and the available park and ride services and trolley service that operates three months a year in the peak tourist times that assist with reducing traffic congestion.

We also discussed that Chair Julie Pace would follow up with Terrence Thornton at the Paradise Valley Independent to request an education article addressed based on the information we learned and that the newspaper may be interested in publishing that information and they may be in contact with the officers. Julie Pace will draft the first draft of the frequently asked questions for the PVPD website regarding the Phoenix Fire and Police Department Rescue Team.

The ACOPS Committee members, Chief Wingert and Officer Albert then proceeded to go outside and continue the meeting for a hands-on exploration of the twin engine helicopter. The fire and rescue team had brought the helicopter to the parking lot behind the Paradise Valley Police Department so that we were able to ask questions and interact with the fire and police rescue team.

The Phoenix Police Department team was very professional and skilled, and the technical expertise was impressive. Safety is a foremost concern in their operations. The ACOPS Committee and Chief Wingert thanked the Phoenix Fire and Police for providing this information and taking time to educate us about their operations.

C. ACOPS Goals

The next item of business was to have a mini-retreat on the goals for ACOPS moving forward. The Committee reviewed the Town of Paradise Valley Resolution 1330 that forms the foundation of the work that we perform at ACOPS. We then reviewed specific goals. Chief Wingert provided a list of the past of the 2016 goals and we discussed a list of expanded goals and reviewed the previous goals to determine which of those items could be removed from the list. Chief Wingert will review with his team and finalize the list of goals and timelines.

The goals include, but are not limited to, and are subject to Chief Wingert's review for more formal notes, summaries and approval:

1. Continuation of floor plan collection process is complete for schools, but needs to be done for churches. The wonderful Paradise Valley civilian volunteers are helping with this process.

2. We agreed that ACOPS should meet six times a year during fiscal year 2017.
3. We discussed continuing education outreach on a variety of topics including
 - (a) home security audits;
 - (b) coffee with a cop;
 - (c) crime prevention meetings;
 - (d) scheduling a cybersecurity meeting on October 16, 2017;
 - (f) conducting CPR classes;
 - (g) continue recycling opportunities at Town Hall every six months;
 - (h) the community of Stone Canyon has agreed to work with Officer Kevin Albert to complete a virtual block watch and would like to implement the virtual block watch in 2017;
 - (i) reminding residents that serial numbers are important to obtain on items as the Paradise Valley Police Department has had a large successful increase in the number of items recovered where serial numbers exist;
 - (j) the successful blue Wednesdays when officers meet with school kids and have lunch and are visible; and
 - (i) other items to continue security awareness in the Town.
4. We discussed the CPTED principles in town code as an item to remain on the list to include a review and education on CPTED principles in town code. CPTED stands for “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.”
5. We want to include more education outreach on the website and link to helpful items to residents and add items and add frequently asked questions about pertinent topics. We could develop frequently-asked questions that we could potentially put on the Paradise Valley Police Department’s website,
6. Development of a construction security list which would provide options to residents and HOAs when constructions or remodels are occurring in their locations that they could select a list of best practices to require the general contractor and that it would be available at the building department to hand out as options with different levels of controls and security involved in the lists. Chuck Matthews and Rich Post agreed to work on this item.
7. One item was having a meeting with Phoenix Fire and Rescue in determining the information and understanding the work that the Phoenix Fire and Police perform and then drafting a frequently asked question that can be placed on the website about drone safety to increase safety for fire and rescue team and residents that live below these operations.
8. Evaluate false alarms and try to identify best practices and proposed recommendations that could reduce false alarms and allow officers to focus more on other items to protect our community. In 2016 the Paradise Valley Police Department had 11,000 alarm calls and 3,200 were false alarms.

D. Upcoming Events

The Chief included the following four items that would be occurring and that all ACOPS Committee members were invited to attend:

- (a) Skills USA - April 18, 2017 8 – 3 p.m. at the Phoenix Convention Center
- (b) Coffee with a copy – May 3, 2017 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at PVPD Auditorium
- (c) The Literary Landmark Celebration – May 5, 2017 8:30 a.m. Cherokee Elementary School
- (d) PVPD Awards Ceremony – May 16, 2017 at 3 p.m. at the PVPD Auditorium.

Assignments were also given out that Larry Fink would gather the FAA drone regulations and that Larry Fink and Julie Pace would work on a frequently asked questions about drones.

The ACOPS Committee will rotate the completion of minutes alphabetically: (Pace (completed last 2 minutes); Post; Woody, Bellomo-Rosacci, Fink, Moore, and then Ozer

The next meeting will be scheduled in June.