

Academy Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2021

PRESENT:

Mike Perkins, AJ Director, CR
Lt. Peter Cress - Humboldt County Sheriff's Office
Richard Griffin – Chief, Crescent City PD
Dr. Kishan Lara-Cooper - Community Member

Michelle Haggerty – College of the Redwoods Faculty
Sgt. John Packer - Humboldt State University PD
Jose Ramirez - College of the Redwoods

Mike Perkins opened the meeting, sharing that the recent “Community Conversation” with the Basic Police Academy went well with good “back and forth” between Cadets and panel members. Cadets brought questions to ask of the panel which included Mo Desir, Noel Brown of the Advisory Committee and Eureka Police Officer, Ryan Swanson.

Thoughts for the future would be to look for ways to foster the relationship between the public and law enforcement; not just what officers can DO but how to enhance communication. “This has to be a mutual endeavor” – i.e. citizen’s academies. **Chief Griffin** mentioned that his department has an ornament contest during the Christmas holidays. They also delivered 365 flag kits to the area using gathered donations. **Dr. Lara-Cooper** noted that it is important to remember why policed forces were formed to understand the public perception. “If you’ve not been a target, it’s hard to understand”. Fear elements can be passed down for several generations. Suggested for Peace Officer Week: “What stories can you tell?” regarding positive interactions with law enforcement. Asked by **Perkins**: “Where do we find ways to break through the lack of trust?” **Dr. Cooper**: Highlight isolated positive events to balance the negative events. Attend events as community members (not in uniform). **Sgt. Packer** noted that HSUPD is reaching out, registering bicycles and handing out locks. His department co-sponsors campus events (as opposed to creating their OWN events). Listen to HOW people developed their value systems. It was suggested that returning Community Service to the Academy requirements for Cadets to partner cadets with agencies at community events. **Professor Haggerty** noted that the “police community needs to go further than the community to chip away at perception”. Being on this committee has given her incite that has helped her when she talks about these issues with her students.

Mike Perkins explained the current and future changes he has in mind for the Academy curriculum such as increased structure and discipline to help with “stress inoculation”. He plans more scenario-based training, writing assignments to make sure the most current skills are being taught.

Sgt. Packer noted seeing a decrease in the literate intelligence of incoming students and suggested assigned readings prior to the start of the Academy.

Michelle Haggerty recognized the need to draw more people into the Advisory Committee, noting fewer community members participating.

Jose Ramirez noted a frustration with the difficulty in affecting change with the requirement that any modifications go through POST.

Kishan Lara-Cooper “What we’re doing here is huge!” We have to address the process of following through – some suggestions were not included in the document we published.

Mike Perkins will put out a detailed agenda for the next meeting with the group going over suggestions that never made it to the last document.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Topping
Recording Secretary