

**District Four Community Advisory Panel
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2007**

CAP Members in attendance: Tom Boggan, Randy Broussard, Beverly Castleberry, Steve Reas, Freddie Williams and Nancy Tower. Guests: Chief Chris Abrahams and Assistant Chief Glenn Berry.

The meeting was held at the Sheriff's substation on Cypress and was open in prayer.

Chief Abrahams was introduced to the CAP members and asked to address the possibility of reinstating a traffic division within the SPD. Tower suggested to Abrahams that a traffic division would not only help to curb traffic violations, but it could pay for itself and additionally, routine traffic stops will find other violations such as: driving without insurance, with expired inspections, warrants, DUI, etc.

Abrahams communicated that the SPD had tried to have a traffic division about two years ago. However, the problem was that officers were taken off of patrol and weren't available to respond to more serious issues when they were assigned to traffic. He continued by telling the panel members that the Police Department was short staffed as it was.

When asked why the SPD couldn't add additional officers with the funding that would be made available from the increased ticket income, Abrahams communicated that only 2% of the ticket income comes back to the City of Sulphur and this would not be enough to hire additional officers.

Abrahams communicated that from a statistics standpoint – "We do have a problem with red light offenders and we believe our problem is worse here than in other areas. Since the red light camera option is on hold as the city waits for an attorney general opinion, we will be suggesting another option to try and curb this problem," said Abrahams.

In the 2007/08 budget Abrahams has included a recommendation to purchase two motorcycles. With motorcycles the officers can much more easily pull out into traffic and stop a red-light violator or turnaround to get a speeder. They could be called to assist with other issues in the City, but would be more effective at traffic patrol than an officer in a car. He will propose that one officer per shift, Monday thru Sunday use the motorcycle – 12 hour shift. "We could use more per shift, but at an average cost of \$50,000 per officer per year, the cost adds up," said Abrahams.

CAP members questioned the 2% return on tickets and asked for more information on the ticket income to the City at a later meeting. Tower also questioned the Chief regarding why he did not believe that the movable radar signs would be helpful. Abrahams communicated that he worried about vandalism and the effort needed to move the signs around as well as where they would be located. Another CAP member asked about using unmanned, marked police cars to place in areas where speeding has been a problem. The response was that these units also require maintenance and increase PD costs.

After thanking Chief Abrahams for his time, panel members continued the meeting on other topics.

Beverly Castleberry communicated that panel members could bring their waste paper to the Lion's Club for recycling. She and the other panel members asked when the City could begin supporting this type of voluntary paper recycling. Tower communicated that the council had passed the resolution in support of voluntary paper recycling unanimously and it was her understanding that the bins are now available, although they are for City employees only at this time.

With regard to topics for upcoming CAP meetings, some discussion was held on Air Quality and Quality Management regarding permitting and drainage. Additionally, Freddie Williams asked for some traps for squirrels.

The next meeting of the CAP will be held on the third Tuesday of April at the Substation.

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