

**NORTHEAST REGIONAL COMMAND CENTER
CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
9600 Dyer
El Paso, Texas 79924**

February 11, 2014

Co-Chairman, Brooks Dawson called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Brooks led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Committee Members Present:

*Commander Zina Silva
Brooks Dawson – Co-Chairman
Carol J. Mesler - Secretary*

Board Members Present:

<i>Inge Anton</i>	<i>Jose Rubio</i>
<i>Regina Arnold</i>	<i>Jessie Ruelas</i>
<i>Magnolia Curtis</i>	<i>Fred Shuford</i>
<i>Gus Hebrok</i>	<i>Lt. Eddie Valencia</i>

Board Members Absent:

<i>George Anton (excused)</i>	<i>Brian Haggerty</i>
<i>Dale Baugh (excused)</i>	<i>Gloria Rubio (excused)</i>
<i>Pat Baugh (excused)</i>	<i>Dave Scepanski</i>
<i>Leslie Canada</i>	<i>Bill Schultheiss (excused)</i>
	<i>Carmen Torrez (excused)</i>

Introduction of Guests:

Brooks welcomed and thanked several Neighborhood Watch block captains and apartment managers for attending the meeting. Then he introduced one of the guest speakers, Mark Weber, a Neighborhood Services Coordinator with Community & Human Development. He explained how Neighborhood Associations are formed, training involved, zoning. There is a neighborhood improvement program for which a neighborhood association can apply for grants. There is also an annual summit at the Ysleta ISD building with work shops, keynote speakers, etc. He said some revitalization has been done in some city areas. The commander said the county attorney had to cancel. City Representative Carl Robinson did attend and began by discussing the area parks, mainly Franklin Park, that there is a big problem with student truancy; that Judge

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Haggerty works with the city and legal department as to solutions; that the parks are off limits after curfew; citizens want to monitor parks, but there is a liability issue. Fred Shuford explained his involvement with Franklin Park, the truancy and drugs and the difficulty to get police response, and students know they probably won't be caught. Commander Silva explained the shortage of officers and that calls are handled by priority/tier system; currently there are nine officers on patrol for all northeast El Paso. Carl said the citizens can have anything they want if they're willing to pay for it. He said a police academy class just graduated and another will begin in June, but with officers retiring or going elsewhere, we never have enough officers. He also explained that police officers will direct traffic at the ball park with those officers being on duty and will have to work about a full shift, meaning they will not be doing their normal police duties. The commander said each command center will provide about 3-5 officers.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of January 14, 2014 as presented; motion carried.

Commander's Report:

Commander Silva introduced herself to the group and thanked everyone for coming. She wants to keep in contact with the block captains; also wants to increase the CAB membership and wants to keep the public informed of the northeast activity.

Lt. Valencia's Report:

The traffic problem at Dyer and Hondo Pass is fixed. The signal settings at Fairbanks and Kenworthy have been changed to normal. McCombs and Dyer traffic is being monitored; McCombs and Sean Haggerty needs to be monitored. A lady in attendance said that during an insurance check on Magnetic and Hercules the officer was very polite.

Notes from Lt. Velasquez:

- *Rash of storage locker burglaries throughout N.E., took place last couple of months. Arrest of culprit was made. He told investigators he hit lockers with cheap locks. He said when he saw the large commercial padlocks that are rented or sold by the storage locker facilities, he avoided them because his bolt cutters did not work on those. It is recommended if you rent a storage locker, use a large commercial padlock available with the facility. They are rounded and a little larger than a regular lock.*
- *2/6/14- a City-wide Tobacco Operation was conducted 2/6/14. Plain clothes officers were assigned during lunch time at each of the 4 N.E. high schools, to attempt catching minors under 17 years of age using or possessing tobacco. Violators if caught on school grounds would be turned over to school staff, and if caught off school property would be cited and turned over to school staff or parents. All 5 regions conducted the*

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operation simultaneously. The purpose was to make an impact on negative effects of underage smoking as part of the Great American Smokeout observation.

- 2/22/14- NE PAR officers and NE Explorers are joining Rep. Romero and some volunteers, and Border Patrol staff and volunteers in a clean-up along all center concrete ditches of Diana Street. They will be cleaning up graffiti and removing trash, and will start at 8am.
- 2/22/14- Black History Month Parade to be conducted at Montana and Raynor area from 930- 1100. NE traffic officers assigned to help Central Regional Command with traffic control.
- 2/23/14- The Annual El Paso Marathon takes place from 8am- 2pm. Runners will start at area of Trans Mountain and Resler, run up Trans Mountain towards NE, through Gateway/Diana/Kenworthy/Fairbanks/Deer areas of N.E., in through Rod & Gun Club entrance of Ft Bliss, through Ft Bliss, exit at Ft Bliss Pershing Gate, and through Central area all the way to finish line downtown. PD is conducting traffic control at all intersections in the route, to include use of all NERCC traffic, PAR, detective, and TAC staff.

Committee Reports:

Jessie Ruelas said he is working to get reflective Neighborhood Watch signs; Carl said he'd buy ten signs and to let him know if more are needed.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Commander Silva said the county attorney will be the guest speaker at the March CAB meeting.

Community Concerns:

Several questions from those in attendance were addressed. Brooks will find out from a U.S. Postal official about community mail boxes – that it is a work in progress. Regarding lights being out on 54 – it's done in different areas to conserve electricity. The Police Department is checking into the car windows being shot out in the North Hills area. School police don't monitor parks – it's the city's responsibility. It was asked why there's not a school zone on Edmonton and Mackinaw when Prince Edward and Ketchikan has one which is further from the schools. Carl said school zones are determined by the schools and the signs are paid for by the schools. Carl said streets around schools should be zoned so students don't park on them, block drive ways, etc. – Mackinaw especially mentioned. The school zone(s) around Andress and Newman schools need to be monitored and the former zone on Sun Valley needs to be extended as

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it once was. Carl said he would talk to the schools about the school zones and the student parking. Carol explained to the audience how long it takes an officer to make an arrest, write the report, find a JP, take the arrestee to the jail, wait in line behind other officers for booking, etc. The commander further stated one officer may be off the streets for half a shift, multiplied by many officers with an already short staffing problem. Someone asked if northeast would be getting more restaurants. Carl said Sam's will be building across from the Community College and flag pole area; McCombs & 54 will be retail; 54 and MLK is to be developed; a developer for North Park has been selected with hopes of building to begin this year. He said he would e-mail info to those interested. An apartment manager said people park in a fire zone at her Alabama complex – police will monitor. Apartments on Zion has late hours solicitation on weekends; commander said to call 911 and to contact the police officer who lives on the premises. Brooks said April is Autism month – 4/6/14, 2-5:00 p.m. at 7900 W.H. Burges.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Mesler, Secretary

***NEXT MONTH'S MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.***

Please call one of the following if you cannot be at the meeting:

Carol Mesler – 755-0209

Or

Isabel Hernandez (the commander's secretary) – 759-2051

“Without the assistance of the Divine Being...I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail!”

Abraham Lincoln

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