

Community Engagement Group
October 19, 2021 / 4:15pm

Attendees: Larissa Hamada, Michael Barraza, Fernando M. Solorzano, Jesus Gonzalez, John Hamilton, Neil Hultgren, Ann Kinsey, Jafra Millner, Michelle Dobson, Nicholas Perez, Cynthia Ray

John Hamilton is the co-chair of the committee and the ASI President Jesus Gonzalez is the chairperson.

The purpose of the committee is to discuss and come up with solutions to better the relationship with the campus police, make some recommendations and determine what we can do better with community engagement.

John asked Chief Solorzano to repeat the presentation from the community engagement group meeting on May 17, 2021.

Chief Solorzano presentation:

- The community engagement fulfills the first pillar of the 21st century policing model and that is to build trust and create transparency for a police department.
- CSULB Police Department was recognized as a police agency on January 23, 1974.
- The officers on campus are fully licensed and certified.
- The only officer involved shooting was December 5, 1981. A student was on campus with a rubber gun that looked like a real gun. The student survived but the officer was so shaken by the incident he never returned to work.
- Over time the demographics of the police department started to change and mirror the diversity on campus.
- See slide for "Calls for Service" for numbers/percentages.
- A "Field Interview" or FI is when an officer gets out of the car and makes contact with a person, the stop is documented. Starting next year per DOJ and state law, police officer stops will be entered into the DOJ data system where it will be tracked. This has been created to minimize or bring to attention racial profiling.
- The Department engages the community through our community outreach activities. Some of the activities UPD participate in is Rape Aggression & Defense (RAD) classes, Coffee with a Cop, Pizza with a Cop, Pink Patch Project for breast cancer month, help with fundraiser for Special Olympics and several more (see slide).
- UPD will have a new uniform at community events. The new uniform will consist of a polo shirt with LB logo and a tactical pant, their weapon will not be visible.
- Community outreach should start with some of the student groups on campus.
- The objective for the program is to build trust, transparency, to allow people to ask the hard questions, to present and educate, community engagement and to make a difference in someone's life.
- When it comes to community engagement, the pandemic has been the biggest challenge. We have to be extra careful, have to make sure everyone is masked, making sure people are safe when interacting with others.
- It has been difficult to recruit and retain people in this field. A lot of people have decided to retire or look for another line of work.

- We currently use body cameras to record the actions of the officers and the public.
- Rebranding our service model. We are here to provide safety and make people feel comfortable not to intimidate.
- As a system we continue to evaluate our diversity making sure our police departments look like the community within our institutions.
- We are looking at different ways to respond to calls. In some cases, like mental health situations we can call on some of our resources on campus to help.
- We currently use the body cams but we have to take it a step further on how we communicate. Social media has been very effective. A student had a bike stolen and UPD arrested the person. We reached out to the public and received information on our Twitter feed.

Questions/Discussion

John H. Question:

- Is there a timeline for some of the items on the strategic priorities? Do you have your rebranding service model yet?
 - Chief Solorzano – We are seeking help from the Chancellor’s office for the rebrand. It will take some time to be completed. Hopefully, the other items will be in effect by the Fall of 2022.
- When will the uniform changes happen?
 - Chief Solorzano – The goal is by the Fall of 2022.
- How do we communicate the strategic priorities across campus adding a tentative timeline to it and let the campus know about the uniform change?
 - Chief Solorzano – First share information with this group for everyone to share with their constituents. Put out information through social media as it starts to happen. The information can also be put on the UPD website.
 - The uniform change will be for officers who attend community engagement events.
 - Sitting down with Strategic Communication is another option to help get the word out regarding community policing items.
- This type of information should be shared with the campus community. They should be given the upfront information.

Jesus G. Question:

- When we talk about transparency in what aspect are we discussing about transparency?
 - Chief Solorzano – To notify the campus community with available information when an incident occurs.
 - Transparency would answer the “Why and What are you doing about it” type questions. Being open about what we are doing and how we’re going to respond to an incident or trend. Being able to get the facts out before people start a different narrative.

Michelle D. Question:

- What kind of training do the officers have in responding to mental health calls?
 - Chief Solorzano - All of the officers have gone through mental health training. A representative from CAPS and a police officer train the UPD staff on dealing with mental health calls.
 - Have met with our local MET teams in Long Beach and they have offered to help, however, they are really busy.

- It was required system wide that all police departments go through mental health training. The training has to be renewed every two years.
- This topic should be brought to President Conoley's attention and be reviewed as a necessary expenditure to staff a position.
- Sgt. Millner response – the officers welcome the help of a trained mental health professional.

Nicholas P. Question:

- Are there any plans to track or evaluate the strategic priorities, goals and innovations that are listed to determine the effectiveness? Are there any metrics that are going to be tracked to determine if any changes have the intended effect?
 - Chief Solorzano - Surveys would be a means to track this information. UPD needs assistance in setting up the metrics or tracking tool.
 - John H. response – Kerry Klima can help build metrics.
- To report changes that are occurring it helps to have a base line so as the changes are developing we can point to successes, highlight the successes and make suggestions on improvements if things aren't working.
 - John H. – we need to put some timelines and outcomes to the strategic priorities, then we can get the assessment piece.

Jesus G. Question:

- What did you mean when you mentioned hiring individuals?
 - John H. – hiring a mental health professional.
- How many individuals would possibly be hired?
 - Chief – Michael would be best suited to answer the question.
 - John H. – we need to look at the data regarding how many mental health calls we have had.
 - Chief – 2019 there were 26 mental health calls. In 2021, we had six calls. Sometimes we get calls from CAPS to transport someone for services.
- When the conversation about defunding the police began one of the issues was the transparency of the funds going to UPD, can that be part of the transparency aspect of this group (knowing how the police department is funded)?
 - Chief – No problem. We are general fund.
 - John H. – Add as agenda item for the next meeting.

Michael B.:

- CSULB PD is smaller than CSUF and we have a similar student population. The more resourced we are the more options we have, the better we can deal with certain things. The less resources we have ultimately we are stretched a bit thin and that can result in other outcomes.
 - Chief – Unfortunately UPD is shorthanded at the moment, the officers are given a lot of credit for what they do and what they accomplish.

Neil H.:

- After everything is refined regarding the budget and the strategic priorities, the Chief can give a report to the Academic Senate to get the word out.
- There is a resolution coming through ASI about defunding the police that has been requested to be shared on the Senate floor and considered.
- It would be helpful for the Senate to hear about the information discussed in the group. The Senate is made up of students, faculty, staff and administrators.
 - John H. – In agreement. Because of the perception and mind set of police across the nation, UPD has to tell what they are doing and how are they trying to make things better. The

strategic priorities can be a powerful statement to the campus community on what UPD is trying to accomplish.

- Larisa Hamada – As a title IX person she prefers to have a police present if she has a mental health situation. She understands the defunding issue is coming from individual's life experiences as well. The police take courtesy reports for rape victims even if it occurred off-campus. The campus needs to have a properly staffed police department.

John H.:

- How many people showed up to UPD's coffee with a cop?
 - Chief – Unsure.
- Three items in mind for group: strategic priorities, budget review and what kind of engagement activities can be done community wise on our campus.
- He has been discussing with Larisa on building mental health partnerships. The social work department or CAPS may have some references.

Michael B:

- The suggestion on getting a base line was a good idea. He would be happy to help.

Chief Solorzano:

- Had some turnover in the group. Suggest finding replacements for vacancies.
- Thank you everyone for participating.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.