

POLICE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 20, 1999

The Police Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 20, 1999 at 9:33 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Pat Pomeroy, Chairman
John Giles
Bill Jaffa

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Candace Cannistraro
Richard Clore
Fred Conway
Linda Crocker
Barbara Jones
Mike Kalember
Timothy Lafferty
Gil Otanez
Joe Padilla
Ron Poulin

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Bryan Raines
Jan Strauss
Mindy White
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Barrett Marson
Others

1. Consider applying for federal highway funding to purchase an unmarked aggressive driving enforcement vehicle.

Police Chief Jan Strauss introduced Police Officer Timothy Lafferty and informed the Committee that Officer Lafferty will be addressing this issue based on the fact that he currently operates Mesa's only unmarked aggressive driving enforcement vehicle.

Officer Lafferty stated that Police Lieutenant Luigi Digirolamo has applied for funding for an additional unmarked vehicle and outlined the benefits derived from such vehicles. Officer Lafferty reported that vehicles utilized for this special enforcement program do not reflect any visible markings (police identification) on the exterior of the car, which enables the apprehension of unsafe drivers. Officer Lafferty stated that the vehicles are equipped with moving radar, video camera, and audio capabilities.

Officer Lafferty outlined the circumstances in which an arrest can be made of an aggressive driving violator in accordance with the Arizona Revised Statutes and provided statistics reflecting the significant number of aggressive driving violations and DUI arrests that have been processed from this special enforcement. Officer Lafferty commented concerning the positive feedback from citizens relative to the utilization of this vehicle, whose input included a recommendation for additional vehicles to curtail these types of offenses.

Officer Lafferty informed the Committee that there has been only one instance where an offender did not stop for the unmarked vehicle even with activated police lights, and stated that in that case, motor officers were then summoned to assist.

Officer Lafferty provided handouts from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety which outline the manner in which individuals should respond to confrontations from aggressive drivers.

Officer Lafferty stated the opinion that utilizing unmarked vehicles will significantly reduce traffic accidents and traffic deaths.

Chairman Pomeroy thanked Officer Lafferty for his presentation.

Chief Strauss remarked that the funding for the requested unmarked vehicle is provided by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and stated that both the Office of Highway Safety and the Mesa Police Department consider this program a benefit in the enhancement of public safety.

It was moved by Committeemember Giles, seconded by Committeemember Jaffa, to recommend that Council ratify the Police Department's application for federal funding to purchase an additional unmarked aggressive driving enforcement vehicle.

In response to concerns expressed by Committeemember Jaffa, Chief Strauss assured the Committee that the illumination of the vehicle's lights and the fact that the officer is in full uniform diminishes the likelihood of a citizen hesitating to stop for the unmarked police vehicle.

Carried unanimously.

2. Tour the new SWAT van.

Committeemembers toured the new SWAT van located outside the Council Chambers.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Police Committee adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Police Committee Meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 20th day of May, 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK