

**North Las Vegas Police Department  
Chief's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**ATTENDEES**

**Laura Marscheck  
Ted Johnson  
Florence Buchanan**

**Mimi Devore-Rigg  
Dwayne Miller  
Susan Sayegh**

**Connie Holtmann-Spangler  
Dan Morris**

**ABSENT**

**Chief Paresi  
Dana Phillips**

**Gregory Troutman  
Al Greer**

**John O'Carroll**

**GUESTS**

**CSA Pat Fischer**

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Connie and our guest speaker, Crime Scene Analyst (CSA) Patrick Fischer, was introduced. Pat was asked to speak to the council to explain why certain crime scenes get fingerprinted while others do not.
- 2) CSA Fischer first started off by telling the council his background. He was a Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) at the Tucson, Arizona Police Department for three years, as well as being a free lance photographer.

He then went on to discuss the fingerprint process. If the hand is too wet or too dry, no fingerprint is left. Prints can be left on smooth, non-porous, clean surfaces. Wood, fabrics, and rough surfaces make it hard to obtain prints. CSA Fischer explained that before powder is used to obtain prints, a release form is given to the victim to sign. A lot of the procedures used may be destructive to the property or can be hazardous to one's health.

- Susan asked if property owners can ask for reimbursement for damage to property caused by the fingerprint process. CSA Fischer explained that the reason the release forms are given out was to avoid problems like this from developing.
- Mimi asked if ride-alongs were possible. It is up to the sergeant, who, at the moment is Sgt. Ojeda. She can be reached at 633-2364.
- Dan questioned who makes the call as to when a CSI/CSA goes to a crime scene. In response, CSA Fischer stated that when we hear a major crime (homicide, kidnapping, robberies, etc.) go out on the radio, we would just start heading out to the scene. The primary officer who arrives at the scene can request a CSI/CSA, as well as a sergeant or lieutenant.

CSA Fischer advised that depending on the quality of the print(s), the person gets run through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to see if there is a match. If there is a match, the person is run in the Nevada Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS) via a State Identification Number (SID). A copy of those prints are requested which

are then compared with the new prints taken to assist in further identification of the suspect.

When comparing prints, a minimum of 8-15 points is needed for a match. Teeth marks, ear patterns, and retinal scans are also unique to each individual so they are also good sources of comparing and matching. (This Department does not use these at this time.) Also, bare footprints are unique. Once a CSI/CSA finds a match, a second CSI/CSA verifies the information.

- Susan asked if all the police agencies were linked together. No, as different states and areas have different computer systems which would cost too much to change over to a new system. North Las Vegas in with only four states at this time.
- 3) Connie spoke about an article regarding the Coroner's Inquest and a possible reform with that system.
- 4) Group time was opened.
- Susan had a neighborhood issue that happened over the New Year's weekend. Homes were being vandalized by kids throwing rocks and beer bottles at second story windows. Neighbors ask her why the police hadn't come in a timely manner. Susan explained to them about the priority process for calls, which seemed to help some. She also contacted Lt. Larotonda to ask for extra patrol in the area. He advised he would look into the problem.
  - At the request of a citizen, Connie brought up the issue of traffic violators around school zones. Discussion followed that it was learned that there are 26 elementary schools in NLV (not counting middle and high schools) with only about 16 officers on duty at any given time.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE SOUTH AREA COMMAND ON BRUCE AND E. LAKE MEAD.**