

PONA Minutes  
8/19/2010

Jan Scully guest speaker; all neighborhood invited



Some PONA business -

- 9/11/2010 picnic for all for Veterans
- Needs volunteers for the Community Gardens (9/18)
- Yards of the Month for July  
Pat and Church George,  
Rich and Debbie Dildine  
Sally and Nick Garcia

Rick Doyle introduced Jan Scully. She gave kudos to the Chief of Police Chris Boyde and the Citrus Heights City Manager, Henry Tingle.

**She is here to provide information to people**  
She commented on the handouts she brought from the district attorney's office. .

Brochures:

- 1) Information on the victim or witness assistant program. If you hear from her you are either the victim, witness or the committer of a crime.
- 2) Victim's bill of rights, "Marcy's Law".  
Everybody makes sure rights and protections are provided to all.
- 3) Citizen's academy - walks people through the process from arrest to all aspects of what happens through the system. If you are a community activist you need to be part of this program so you can help others. April 5 is the first class and it ends on June 2 and is at Sacramento Police Headquarters on Freeport Blvd. \*\*(CH also has a Citizen's Academy of our own.)
- 4) Chart of the criminal justice system. DA needs to be adequately funded for us to consider cases. Our main office is downtown across from the courthouse.



- 5) Chart about the total cases submitted to the office.
- 6) Filing of cases of adult cases. Who are our biggest customers.

I will talk about budget issues.

CSI - they do wear white coats. Don't go to the scene. They are scientists and they stay in their labs. They don't solve cases in an hour!

Others refer cases to her office. Most come from the public defenders office. When a case is filed they start acting. Most offenders stay in the community

Your cops, prosecutors and probation department are the key players with offenders. In 2009 there were 45,000 cases as felonies or misdemeanors. They filed about 30,000. One third were felonies and about 20,000 were misdemeanors. Misdemeanors give local jail time. Some cases can be either and are called, "wobblers". This is a crime that can be classified as either a felony or misdemeanors. They have to believe they will be able to get 12 jury folks to convict the person in order to continue with the process.

When officers arrest it is because of reasonable case. Sheriff covers unincorporated areas. Sheriff runs the jail and the detective division (like the Police Dept). If there are cities that have their own police they monitor their own. City of Sacto is the largest customer. CHP is another large customer.

CH police is very active and works with the DA office.

District Att budget; general fund money and they special funding. General funds cover regular crimes. They have had layoffs, and have had to keep positions vacant. Last year there were 14 days of furloughs and no cost of living raises for prosecutors. Crime lab has had to slow down as well. Funding determines how cases are moved. They try to be as efficient and cost effective. How cases move often depends on the resources that are allowed by the budget. They are doing what they can to be as cost effective as they can. Some of the burden of proof is shifted back to the individual city police because the county doesn't have the resources. Every unit in her office has endured budget cuts.

They need citizens to help make their own communities safe. The DA office cannot do it alone.

Making the communities safe is dependent on the help of the communities. Karen Maxwell is assistant chief district district attorney. She runs the Citizen's Academy as one of her job.

All the people are on a team; cops, officers and probation - these are the "legs of the system". All must be adequately funded in order to have everything operate well. Probation is a county wide service. There are thousands of felony probations that are

not being supervised because there are not enough funding. With not enough probation officers there is not enough officers policing the situation.

State budget is a disaster. Prosecutors are concerned about the many felony folks being let out with no people to "police them". People in jail are in there for a reason. Three strikes has put people away who were already doing time in and out of prison. Prisoners usually have a history of a lot of violent actions - they do not just have one offense. The third strike may look like an unjustifiable offense, but other offenses have been violent. They are at risk of re-offending. They work hard to make the court system as efficient as possible under the budget constraints.

Questions/Concerns/Comments:

Privatization of jails; she has no view on it because she hasn't studied it.

Owning a gun for protection: supports the 2nd amendment. It would be nice if the bad guys worried about their victims might have a gun. You have a right to protect yourself.

Ankle bracelets: the news has shown they are easy to cut them off; not her area and she didn't know.

Prison; concern about cell phones and drugs out of the prisons. Jan - prisons are a scary place. Special funding: STOP - State Targeted Offender Program - get paid to prosecute prisoners committing offenses in jail.

Issue of a neighbor stated that the CH police dept hasn't done anything about his issue involving a neighbor. He has a restraining order. She can't speak to that issue. Chief Boyde will talk to you tonight. They may not be able to do anything yet. What do we do when we get no help from the police? Her office will consult with Chief Boyd.

Homeless: One neighbor is having issues with the homeless on her property. There is a homeless committee. She has reported it to the police a number of times and not enough has been done. She has a motor home parked on her property and it needs to be removed. It is a low priority crime. She needs to talk further with the police department. One of them is a drug dealer. It is hard to prosecute "homeless people". They often put them in social service programs because they need services, but on their own they will never be able to get them.

District att office doesn't investigate cases. Gentleman's wife died. Paper evidence stated cause of death was starvation. It is not enough evidence to prosecute a case. They have to have people to testify. The law enforcement agency or regulation agency (nursing home case) has to do the investigating.

Traffic citations - have to go to the courthouse. He needs to go to the courthouse. Gentleman had an issue about getting a \$170 ticket for wearing his seatbelt incorrectly. Process to contest is to go to the County Courthouse and appeal.

Neighbor said we are blessed with the police department that we have. She lives in Stonegate Mobile Home Park. Her area had thieves and the police patrolled the area at night. They now have a neighborhood watch in the park. She stated her support of the police department.

Youth Ranch closed and what happens to the youth now. This was a good place for some of our youth, but now there are few options for our young people. They are serious offenders. Some are in youth jail and some have been sent out of state for other juvenile programs. There is no good answer for providing resources to youth offenders. Some are back out in the street.

Fraud victim sent all information to her office; they don't investigate cases. The CH police dept or sheriff dept has to investigate before sending it to the district attorney. Asked for him to give Jan's second in command the name of the offender to see if they have done anything about that case.

If a youth does something like stealing, the store does the research. If the offense is done in CH the Neighborhood Accountability Board steps in and establishes a punishment. This offense can be taken off the youth's record if they complete the process set out for them.

There was much frustration from the community about cases that have been referred to the Dist Attorney, and nothing has been done.

What can we do to help you: Sign up for the police academy and work with the police dept. If you are knowledgeable you can help with let others know the process.

Opinion on Prop 19; marijuana - against it. Having under an ounce cost you \$100. Some medical problems do need it. Property values can decrease when neighbors are cultivating near you.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30