

## Claremont Police Commission

League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area Observer Report

By Observer Jack Caselles

May 11, 2017

The purpose of this Commission is to be interactive and to facilitate dialogue on issues of concern regarding the Police Department. The Commission's overall objective is to create a climate of mutual respect and partnership among community members and the Police Department by creating a forum for communication and deliberation about actions that is inclusive of all citizens.

\* Meetings are usually every other month: January, March, May and June

\* Current members of the Commission: Edgar W. Reece – Chair, Frank DeLeo, Linda Forenza, Tina Brooks, Jon Strash, John Perez, and Caleb Mason.

\* In Regular Attendance: Police Chief Shelly Vander Veen, and Captain Aaron Fate.

\* Support Staff include: Lisa Amaya – Sr. Administrative Assistant

After the voter rejection of the proposed new police facility, the Commission has authorized an Ad Hoc committee to seek ways to present the voters a proposal that would be acceptable in cost and architecture.

Early in the year, Chief Paul Cooper retired after 30+ years of service to Claremont. The new Chief, Shelly Vander Veen, is attending to the responsibilities of the job and is to be commended for her leadership. Her actions are conducted in a professional manner.

For the most part, the Committee is not well attended by members of the community. While there are a few community members in attendance, they are usually there to voice approval of Department training of civilians in efforts such as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and Neighborhood Watch.

A major source of crime in Claremont continues to be theft. Car doors and windows need to be kept closed and locked and bicycles protected.

The Department is currently doing research on body-worn cameras. Cameras give an irrefutable history of patrol techniques and actions of individuals at the scene. Responses to questions concerning privacy, officer and citizen rights are being researched at this time.

The Department continues with the "Coffee with Cops" and "See Something, Say Something" campaigns which seek to engage the community in reporting suspicious activities.

Attention to the: "Police Department 2016 Annual Report", found online at:

<http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us/government/departments-divisions/police-department>