

Chico Police Department  
Police Community Advisory Board

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

8:00am – 9:30am



**Fire Training Center ~ 1466 Humboldt Road**

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**Group Agreements**

- Be Respectful • Stay Fully Present • Speak and Listen from the Heart • Expect and Accept Non-Closure •
  - Hold the Complexity of Other's Experiences Without Judgment • Maintain Confidentiality •

**AGENDA**

- I. Opening Remarks – Chief Madden
  - a. Introduction of New PCAB Members
- II. CPD Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Drone Program Presentation
- III. Mission Statement
- IV. Future Topics
  - a. Community Policing
  - b. Training
  - c. Communication/Messaging
  - d. Support Service Units
  - e. Recruitment/Hiring/Retention
  - f. Officer Safety and Wellness

**Chico Police Department | Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB)**  
**Fire Training Center Classroom ~ 1466 Humboldt Road**  
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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chief Matt Madden, Giovanni Tricerri, Antonio Arreguin-Bermudez, Gloria Halley, Scott Kennelly, Kasey Reynolds, Tray Robinson, Tom van Overbeek, Julia Yarbough

**ALSO PRESENT:**

PIO Michelle Walker, Admin Analyst Crystal Peppas

**OPENING COMMENTS**

**Chief Madden** opened the meeting by announcing that Tray Robinson was re-joining PCAB. Tray previously served on the board from 2012-2018. Also joining PCAB is Antonio Arreguin-Bermudez, who was introduced to Chief Madden by Tom van Overbeek. Chief Madden invited both new members to introduce themselves.

**DISCUSSION**

**Tray** said he was raised in Compton and came to Chico in 1989 to attend college and play football. He graduated from Chico State and currently serves as the University's Interim Chief Diversity Officer. Tray previously served on PCAB, as well as on the City of Chico Arts Commission. He said he is looking forward to the opportunity to engage and get back involved with the City as a member of this board.

**Antonio** shared that he came to the United States by himself from Mexico in 1985 to work in the fields in the San Joaquin Valley. He was deported by Border Patrol in 1986, on the day of the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. Antonio returned to the U.S., graduated high school in 1990, became a US citizen in 1992, and attended Fresno State where he earned the Ronald Erwin McNair scholarship; a scholarship named for an African American astronaut who perished when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded. Antonio graduated from Fresno State with a B.A. and M.A in Spanish, then went on to the University of Arizona where he earned a PhD in Hispanic Literature in 2002. He moved to Chico to begin his career as a professor in International Languages, Literatures and Cultures in the fall of 2002.

**Jovani** welcomed the new members and briefly discussed the group agreements of respect, being fully present and actively listening to promote open and honest dialog. In today's meeting, there will be presentation about CPD's Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) program, a discussion regarding upcoming topics to be scheduled for future PCAB meetings and its mission statement.

**Chief Madden** introduced a draft of the UAS policy to the board. The policy is guided by the FAA and has been vetted by Lexipol. Nothing can be removed from the policy; however, it can be made more stringent. Once the UAS program is operational, the policy will be posted on the City's website. The Chief introduced Lt. Michael Williams, who will share a presentation regarding the UAS program. Chief Madden will present the program to Chico City Council on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Lt. Williams**, a Patrol Watch Commander, is overseeing the CPD UAS program with one sergeant and five officers. Lt. Williams shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the purpose and use of drones, their efficiency, cost effectiveness, goals for the program, as well as UAS training, certification, and operations policy. The department has studied other local programs and is deliberately taking it slow rolling out this project. The drones are meant to support officers, not replace officers. Drones can relay crucial information before officers arrive on-scene and are critical for de-escalation.

**Tom** inquired about the cost of the program. Lt. Williams replied that a \$26,000 donation from a local community group funded the initial purchase of five UAS drones and specialized equipment. Ongoing costs will primarily be for training, which is estimated at \$10k per year. The cost of the program will be added to the department budget which is presented before City Council each year. Lt. Williams added it is possible that the use of drones could ultimately generate a cost

savings. For example, when a drone is deployed it may be able to assist in locating a suspect or a missing person within several minutes. For each incident of this type, the UAS Program could save hours of multiple officer's time spent setting a perimeter and launching a search. CPD has previously utilized the Chico Fire Department's drone to locate an elderly woman on the bike path. Having the UAS program in-house will allow CPD to deploy drones as needed and not depend on other agencies for air support, if that support is available at all.

**Kasey** said that the \$10k ongoing training cost seems minimal, especially if several incidents occurred in one year where a drone could be utilized. It is feasible that the program could pay for itself.

**Gloria** asked how would CPD cover a department that operates 24/7 with 5 drone operators. Lt. Williams said that is something to be figured out administratively. There could be one drone operator assigned per shift, or available in an on-call basis/as needed. Eventually, there may be a regional program similar to SWAT, where multiple agencies are able pool resources.

**Jovanni** asked if the drones were for outdoors only, or if they could be used indoors. Lt. Williams responded that CPD drones would be utilized outdoors at this point. However, other agencies have had success indoors with microdrones.

**Scott** was curious if drones could be used as a deterrent in places such as Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course or other remote areas where vandalism seems to frequently occur. Lt. Williams answered that in order to utilize the drones, there needs to be cause or other justified reason for use. CPD policy will be followed to ensure that the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> amendments are not violated.

**Julia** wanted to know if the District Attorney's Office is onboard with the submission of drone footage as evidence in a case. Lt. Williams said the District Attorney is on board. Drone footage is taken in plain view, like footage from helicopters and falls within the same standards. Language will be incorporated into search warrants regarding use of drones. Chief Madden added that as technology evolves, so does the use of technology in policing. For example, bomb squads use robots, officers wear body cams and we currently have cameras on bike paths.

**Tray** said that when the cameras were added to the bike paths, it was useful to have demos in the community and information about the program readily available. Tray asked if there are plans to present the UAS program to the public. Chief Madden responded that PCAB and City Council were seeing this presentation first. To launch the UAS program to the public there will be a press release as well as a social media campaign, video, and information on the website.

**Julia** suggested an extensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the website and any printed materials. Answering questions that may come up regarding drones may help remove some uncertainty about the program. It may also be reassuring to include some information about local and state agencies or other partners that currently work with drones. Regarding the video at the end of the PowerPoint presentation, Julia said she would like to see more diversity and also a Chico PD officer in it for perception in policing.

**Antonio** stated it will be important to inform the public of the benefits of the drones and to let the public know that drones would not be used to trespass or to invade privacy. Lt. Williams agreed and stated the drones are not a tool to violate the expectation of privacy, or the 4<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments. He went over the capabilities of drones and stated that drones do not have facial recognition technology, they are not armed, they do not have use of force capabilities, and they will not "swarm".

**Tray** asked about the accountability for personal use of a drone. Lt. Williams explained that policy prohibits personal use of a drone. The department takes all personnel matters seriously and appropriate discipline would take place. Misuse is not worth violating public trust. Additionally, if the program is not run professionally and with strict standards, the entire program will go away.

**Chief Madden** compared the drone program to the K9 unit. Both programs entail extensive training prior to deploying into the community. The UAS program can be such a valuable asset to the department, like the K9 Unit, that CPD would not want to risk losing it. The UAS program will have a coordinator, supervisor and FAA authorized pilots. Everyone has someone to answer to, and all employees ultimately answer to the Chief. Oversight and accountability are being built into the program.

**Jovani** led the discussion to topics for future PCAB meetings. Potential topics include community policing, communication/messaging, support service units, recruitment/hiring/retention, training, and officer safety and wellness.

**Kasey** would like to talk about community policing and how PCAB fits into that operationally. The board needs to address what it is, what it does, and how it relays information and provides support to the community.

**Tray** is part of the training and education pillar at Chico State. The University Police Department may help to educate and address concerns and recommendations from students to help bridge the gap. UPD may be willing to come in and present to PCAB.

**Julia** suggested PCAB be introduced to the City Council to discuss the role of PCAB and to open the door to conversations with the community.

**Jovani** opened the discussion regarding the mission statement. Two versions of a mission statement were drafted for the board's review. Jovani asked for thoughts on these drafts.

**Tom** said the draft mission statements were too long and wordy.

**Scott** liked the verbiage regarding PCAB being advisory, and **Gloria** agreed.

**Tray** stated there should be a clear expectation of the role of PCAB, and that is something that has been lacking in the past. Bullet points may help define key areas in the mission statement.

**Kasey** added that once the role of PCAB is well defined and a clear mission statement is developed, then a firm foundation will be established. Hopefully, this board will not need to be reinvented again in the future. The board agreed to give the draft mission statements more consideration and to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

## CLOSING COMMENTS

**Chief Madden** thanked the board members for their time and commitment. The direction of PCAB and what it wants to accomplish will be determined and then a presentation will be made to City Council. Updated PCAB member bios and photos will be posted on the website, as well as the revised mission statement once it is finalized and adopted.

Chief Madden closed by saying that the authority of being a sworn police officer comes from the State of California, but the real power of the badge comes from the community. PCAB can be a valuable link between the Chico community and its police department.