

**Claremont Police Commission**  
League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area Observer Report  
By Observer Jack Caselles  
May 2018

**Persons in attendance:**

Commissioners: Edgar W. Reece – Chair, Frank De Leo, Tina Brooks, Frank Bedoya, Jon Strash, John Perez – Vice Chair, and Caleb Mason

Others in Attendance: Police Chief Shelly Vander Veen and Captain Aaron Fate

Staff: Lisa Amaya – Sr. Administrative Assistant

Between May 2017 and April 2018, there were 7 meetings. I attended 6.

**Past Issues and Reports**

Chief Vander Veen and Captain Fate have been diligent in their reports of city matters and explanations of current and changing laws.

An annual report of citizen's complaints against Peace Officers was given for year 2017:

- a. The Department received three citizen complaints against officers. (Two were for racial profiling and were exonerated, 1 complaint is still pending.)
- b. The Department also received over 140 commendations.

Captain Fate gave a PowerPoint presentation of the history of the Department's shoulder patch. (A citizen's interest in the symbols led the department to do research on its history.) A copy of the power point can be found on the Department's website.

**The Chief's Reports.** The Chief gives a report at each meeting on issues directly related to the Department.

1. There has been concern over the use of Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs). It is widely accepted that these devices are of great value to law enforcement, both for recording officer behavior and for evidence gathering. Concerns arise over loss of privacy, misuse of images, and changes in the law.
2. A new Public Safety Facility is to come before the voters of Claremont at the next election. The City Council will finalize a resolution to place a bond measure on the June 5th ballot. Department staff will provide tours for citizens of the current facility and to view models of the proposed facility.
3. The Chief submitted and explained in detail the report entitled "2017 Part I Crime Data." The entire state uses this program for Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR). The system divides crimes into Part I and Part II. Part I crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft, auto theft and arson. Part II crimes are all other crimes. The Department provided the Commission and the City Council with a detailed overview of crimes reported in Claremont in the previous year. That report is available as an agenda report for the March 1, 2018 meeting.
4. The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. This program is designed to promote safe and healthy living environments at apartment communities. A recommendation to the 2009 report was to provide crime

statistics to the City Council every six months. The report was received and filed by the Commission and is available as an agenda report for the March 1, 2018 meeting.

5. The Chief reported on Department staffing and Community Outreach. In addition to many holiday and community events, the Department participates in “Coffee with a Cop”, neighborhood meetings on crime issues, and fundraising for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and other police programs.

### **Current and Future issues**

Surely the matter of the Public Safety Facility will be of some great concern as the months go by, as will the issue of Body-Worn Cameras. The rise and fall in Part II crimes in Claremont, especially around Multi-Housing is a constant concern as are outreach programs such as “See Something – Say Something” and “Coffee with A Cop.” Who pays for the protection provided by the Claremont Police Department may, and in my opinion, will be an issue. The increased use of the Department to respond to calls from the colleges will continue to put pressure on the resources of the Department.