

Rancho Bernardo Public Safety Committee
Annual Report for 2005
Prepared by Denny Roe, Committee chairman

Mission Statement

The Rancho Bernardo Public Safety Committee is made up of representatives from the Rancho Bernardo Community Council and volunteers for Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol, Emergency Preparedness Program, and Neighborhood Watch. The Committee acts as a sounding board and receptor of issues pertaining to public safety matters, including, but not limited to, police, fire, paramedics, Neighborhood Watch, Emergency Preparedness, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol.

The Committee advises the Council and/or members of any major concern regarding public safety matters which affect RB.

Accomplishments in 2005

The monthly RBCC/PSC meetings provide, first and foremost, a formal forum for communication from the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) and the San Diego fire Department (SDFD) to volunteers of the Rancho Bernardo Community Council (RBCC) and Public Safety Committee (PSC), the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP), Neighborhood Watch (NHW) and Emergency Preparedness Program (EPP).

Aside: It is helpful to understand that RSVP and NHW volunteers save the City of San Diego considerable money, performing tasks otherwise done by the SDPD. RSVP volunteers conduct community patrols. NHW in other communities is managed within the SDPD. Thus the City of San Diego and the SDPD are very grateful for these Rancho Bernardo volunteers. RSVP and NHW leaders hold special certifications as a result of specific training administered by the SDPD. These volunteer organizations are managed on a dotted-line relationship with the SDPD, primary direction taken from the SDPD Northeaster Division Community Relations Officer.

Monthly information exchange was the most salient accomplishment of the PSC over this past year.

Paul Lennon, SDPD Northeaster Division Community Relations Officer, shared information on issues with potential threat to our community at our monthly PSC meetings. The RSVP and NHW leaders in turn were responsible for passing this information on to the community through their

respective organizations. The RBCC also makes this information public on their web site.

Ad hoc PSC efforts this past year identified the locations of area defibrillators (chaired by Diane Peters), resolved some problems with day workers (chaired by Ralph Stewart), and a separate committee was formed to improve fire station 33 (chaired by Karen Rott).

Much work remains on the effort to improve fire station 33. Annual updates on the locations of defibrillators would be a good idea. The day workers issue is too large for any single volunteer effort – really a federal level issue.

Awareness of NHW and EPP throughout our Rancho Bernardo community is an ongoing challenge. Many of our residents do not know of these organizations, or of the wonderful work done by their many volunteers.

Susan Fratamico from San Diego Gas & Electric presented emergency preparedness tips at the council's April 2005 general meeting, followed by Valerie Chan from Special Events. Also presenting that evening was Christopher Ball, SDPD Northeastern Division.

Neighborhood Watch district coordinators Tim Dodge (Westwood) and Joyce Gage (Sevenoaks) attended PSC meetings, August and September 2005 respectively. Many NHW blocks are without block captains and several area coordinator positions are not filled. Greater participation of volunteers is needed at these lower levels. Denny tried to encourage more meetings and efforts at these lower levels in order to increase participation at these lower levels, work remains with recruitment for these lower levels.

Captain Jim Collins, SDPD Northeast Division, spoke at our December 2005 PSC meeting, topic "The Van Dam case, from inside the SDPD."

San Diego Homeland Security and Community Emergency Response teams representatives, David Harrison and Barbara Ayers, presented at the council's January 2006 general meeting.