

**Berkeley Safe Neighborhoods Committee (BSNC)  
Regular Meeting, Monday, February 1, 2016, 6:30 pm  
Meeting Notes**

**State of the Berkeley Police Department** - Captain A. Greenwood

The authorized strength of the Department remains at 176 sworn officers. Currently there are 169, coming up to 170 probably in the next week. The 170 figure includes 5 in the academy, 6 who are off-duty injured, 2 who are currently pregnant and 3 who are assigned to light duty.

City of Berkeley pay is competitive - not the lowest, not the highest. The Department requires at least 2 years of college. Most current officers can retire at age 50, and receive pension according to the formula of 3% of salary X years of service. The Department is working to hire to 176, and to accurately estimate likely retirement, but cannot always predict ahead of time what will happen with those leaving the Department as well as those retiring. The Department's goal is to fill positions to 176. They are currently in the first of three hiring cycles in 2016 with the first testing and interview process underway. The Department may be able to "over hire" in order to reach and maintain 176 sworn officers, but the first challenge is simply to hit the 176 goal.

The Department is seeing a declining number of applications to fill vacant positions. This is not just true for the city of Berkeley. It seems to be happening to other departments as well. It could be there is a change in standing regarding law enforcement as a profession.

Crime in the city of Berkeley was up overall in 2015, but continues to be lower than previous high year's numbers. So far in 2016, crime is trending slightly downward. Residential burglaries continue to be a problem and people taking simple crime prevention measures could affect this problem. The annual crime report will be presented to the City Council at their meeting of March 8. (BSNC NOTE: BSNC will send a copy of that report to our members via e-mail. Watch for it.)

There was a discussion of what size police department is adequate for a city like Berkeley. We have new development on Telegraph Avenue and in the Downtown that will increase population. There is also an increasing night time population. The Department has an increased number of calls for service. The Police accompany Fire Department calls and the Fire Department is seeking to retain the

fourth ambulance. The Department also utilizes a Reserve which is often staffed with a number of retirees. The Department also works with the UC Police Department in various joint efforts. The number of UC Police Officers is not known at this time.

In March, the Community Services Bureau is undergoing several changes and a slight restructure: Two longtime Area Coordinators, Ofc. Jessyca Nabozny and Ofc. Stephanie Polizziani have completed their four year CSB assignments and are rotating back to Patrol. Ofc. Sean Tinney will take over Ofc. Nabozny's Area 2 (South Campus). Ofc. Jumaane Jones will take over Ofc. Polizziani's Area 3 (Downtown, South Berkeley). Lt. Kevin Schofield (a former Area Coordinator and Press Information Officer) will assume command of CSB. Sgt. Spencer Fomby will continue to supervise the Area Coordinators, Special Events, and Reserve Program. The PIO position is being moved to CSB. PIO Ofc. Coats is returning to Patrol. Sgt. Andrew Frankel will be serving as the new PIO. We expect they will visit the BSNC in the near future to introduce themselves.

All-in-all, attendees were very pleased with this discussion with Captain Greenwood who remained after the meeting was adjourned to carry on the discussion with people who wished to stay.

#### **Discussion about the Future of Berkeley Safe Neighborhoods Committee**

The following decisions were made:

1. The Board will contact each person on our contact list for their feedback regarding what is happening with their neighborhood watch group, and how to strengthen their contact with BSNC and the Police Department.
2. The next regular meeting of the BSNC will be Monday, April 4, same time and place.
3. We will invite the new Area Coordinators and others in new positions in the Department to attend the meeting.
4. We will continue to ask a representative of the UC Police Department to attend each meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Dean, President and Acting Secretary for this Meeting