

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Emergency Meeting

December 21, 2005

PRESENT	ABSENT
Mary J. Andersen, Chairman	
Georgia Otero-Kirkham, Vice-Chairman	
Paul Edward Trujillo, Member	
Ron Gentry, Member	
Lynette Pinkston, Member	
Michael R. Trujillo County Manager	
Wimberly Law Firm, County Attorney	
Tina Gallegos, County Clerk	
Press and Public	

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mary Andersen at 10:00 AM.

**Chairman Andersen asked Michael Steininger to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Trujillo moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Pinkston. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Requests**

None

**Action Item**

**a. Discussion Holiday Season Burglary Issues – County Commissioners**

Commissioner Trujillo said he requested this Emergency Meeting after several calls by his constituents that they were being overrun by burglars. With the holiday season coming up, Commissioner Trujillo said we need to get whatever assistance we need to assist the public.

Sheriff Perea discussed the burglaries that have occurred in the Los Chavez and Jarales area and said we need to do something immediately to curb these types of incidents from happening. These areas have been hit the hardest. Undersheriff William Martinez discussed putting together a task force and with the reserve officer program being visible, we can reduce the amount of burglaries in the County. The task force is made up of Valencia County Officers, we use a lot of resources in the District Attorney’s Office and also with other local law enforcement agencies. We have 43 reserve officers at the time, they do not have law enforcement powers but are utilized to assist certified officers.

Commissioner Gentry said these burglaries are nothing new, in his District burglaries have been rampant for months and he is glad it is getting the Commission’s attention. He has heard many times from his constituents about the response time, reports and arrests and more money. Commissioner Gentry said we need to make sure by giving overtime to these officers, will this help and will we see results? What about equipment, does the Sheriff’s Office have enough equipment?

Sheriff Perea said right now we are asking for overtime for the task force. This will be a band-aid situation. Sheriff Perea said until we get the benefits and the pay to retain and recruit these officers we won’t be able to do anything. He hasn’t been able to get a full staff because of the pay benefits for Valencia County.

Commissioner Gentry said we have fulfilled every request the Sheriff’s Office has had to run the office. We did come up with a retirement package for the officers and the only thing we haven’t done is appropriate monies for more officer positions. Commissioner Gentry said he just wanted to make it clear for the record, is that the Commission has funded what the Sheriff’s Office has needed. The Sheriff’s budget is \$2.6 million a year, and he wants to make clear to his constituents that we do not have authority over the Sheriff, he is an elected official. Commissioner Gentry said the phone calls he has gotten is that the Commission needs to do something but the Sheriff is an elected position and he runs his own office. The Commission has no administrative authority to designate Sheriff’s patrols or anything to do with the internal operation. All the Commission can do is fund the office and Commissioner Gentry said he wanted to make it clear that we have funded almost everything the Sheriff has asked for and that is what we are here for today to further fund overtime. Commissioner Gentry said he is cautious because with the overtime, are officers already being worked to death? Commissioner Gentry said he just wanted to make it clear because people are blaming him for it and he has no administrative control.

Chairman Andersen said we did make a promise to the Sheriff’s Office that we would look at salary wages as soon as possible. Our Sheriff and his deputies are some of the lowest paid. The

surrounding communities pay their officers more and we just have difficulty keeping our officers. We will have a workshop to look at all aspects of the Sheriff's office and look at what we can do to keep and pay the officers properly and keep them in Valencia County.

Commissioner Kirkham said having owned her company for several years, it is difficult to do a job if you don't have the manpower to do it with. The Sheriff has a big job and if he doesn't have the people then he can't do a good job. We do need to look at the needs but for today we need to comfort these people as to what can we do today.

Commissioner Trujillo said he concurs with his fellow Commissioners, we have been supportive with the Sheriff's Office throughout and have done everything we can to provide incentives, for example, retirement packages, benefit packages, we did commit ourselves to a raise which we haven't enacted yet. The commitment was made a year ago and we will look into this at the mid year budget review coming up. There was a question earlier with people calling and the Sheriff's Office stating they only have three officers on duty, with 32 on staff, with 7 doing administrative duties, where are the other officers? In doing his math, Commissioner Trujillo said there should be seven officers per day on any given shift.

Undersherriff Martinez gave the explanation of taking into account, there are four officers with one supervisor on every watch, working a 12 hour shift, we have to take into consideration, days off, training that is mandated, there are a lot of scenarios involved here.

Sheriff Perea discussed a neighborhood watch program that can be implemented in the areas that are affected by the burglaries.

Members of the public spoke out on the burglary issue, Kenneth Baca, Frances Castillo, Roger Martin, Frank Stacy, Lorrie Nesbit, Karen Morgan, Myra Jane Thompson, Pinkie Myer, Kerry Jarvis, Bob Simons and Les Gibson.

**b. Resolution 2005-89, Emergency Overtime Law Enforcement – Mike Trujillo**

Commissioner Kirkham moved for approval of \$20,000.00 for overtime compensation for the Sheriff's Department. Seconded by Commissioner Trujillo. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously. **(Exhibit A)**

**The next Business Meeting of the Valencia County Board of County Commission will be held on January 6, 2006 at the Los Lunas Schools Consolidated Board Room at 9:00 AM.**

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

**NOTE:** All proposals, documents, items, etc., pertaining to items on the agenda of the December 21, 2005 Meeting (presented to the Board of County Commissioners) are attached in consecutive order as stated in these minutes.

**VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ss/  
MARY J. ANDERSEN, CHAIR**

**ss/  
GEORGIA OTERO-KIRKHAM, VICE-CHAIR**

**ss/  
PAUL EDWARD TRUJILLO, MEMBER**

**ss/  
RON GENTRY, MEMBER**

**ss/  
LYNETTE PINKSTON, MEMBER**

**ATTEST: ss/**

**TINA GALLEGOS, COUNTY CLERK**

**DATE: January 20, 2006**