



**Rio Hondo Community College District
POLICE ACADEMY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – August 28, 2023**

Location: Administration of Justice Conference Room
Department of Public Safety
3600 Workman Mill Road, Whittier CA 90601

Attendees: Walter Allen III, Rio Hondo Police Academy Director
Chief Garrett Kennedy, Alhambra Police Department
Chief Fabian Valdez, San Fernando Police Department
Brian Saeki, City of Whittier City Manager
Don Meredith, Rio Hondo Police Academy Coordinator
(Remote participation: Mark Yokoyama, Rio Hondo College
Division Dean, Eric Nunez, Retired Police Chief and Calif.
Police Chiefs Association Rep.)
Minutes reviewed and approved externally: Tim Vu, Associate
Dean Golden West College; Andrew Flor, Montage VP Risk
Management and Security, Montage International; Rio Hondo
College AJ Faculty)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

2. Welcome

Director Walter Allen welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and their continued support. Director Allen indicated to the attendees that although there was a downturn in current police academy recruits, as is the case with all the Southern California based academies, the Rio Hondo Police Academy was operating smoothly and trouble free.

3. Rio Hondo Police Academy Class No. 215 Update

Walt Allen provided an update of the status of police academy session No. 215. The current class stands at 26, after the recent resignations of 3 cadets and the double failure of one cadet on firearms test. Currently, 20 cadets are sponsored by the following departments:

- Hermosa Beach Police Department
- Irwindale Police Department
- Exposition Park Police Department
- Montebello Police Department

- Bell Gardens Police Department
- Huntington Park Police Department
- Vernon Police Department
- LBUSD Police Department
- San Gabriel Police Department
- Irwindale Police Department
- Westminster Police Department

Currently, only four cadets are still non-sponsored and two are currently in backgrounds.

4. Upcoming Academy Activities

- Seven PC 832 Courses are scheduled from August to December 2023
- The Rio Hondo Police Academy will be hosting a Memorial Plaque Enrollment Ceremony for Fallen El Monte Police Sergeant Michael Paredes on September 12, 2023.
- The Rio Hondo Police Academy will be hosting a CDCR POST Certified Module II Police Academy Session September 25 to November 28, 2023.
- The Advisory Board member was advised that the next Rio Hondo Police Academy session (Class No. 216) would begin on January 10, 2024, and the Pre-Academy would begin on November 27, 2023.
- Advisory Board members were advised that although we had recently received two new patrol vehicles in the police academy vehicle fleet, we were still in need of donated patrol vehicles to replace the existing worn-out vehicle fleet.

5. Rio Hondo College Updates

- Director Allen advised the board members present that the college had recently undergone a rebranding campaign, which resulted in a change in the college logo and the current Rio Hondo Police Academy logo would be changed to the new logo sometime in the immediate future.
- Director Allen related that the Scenario Village is currently at a standstill due to state budget shortfalls. Senator Bob Archuleta, who was able to secure \$400,000 for the Rio Hondo Police Academy, indicated that funding for a Rio Hondo Police Academy Scenario Village will have to be on hold for now.
- Director Allen advised board members that the community college system was hemorrhaging FTES and Rio Hondo College was also suffering from an FTES shortfall. As a result, the Division of Public Safety is

implementing additional PAC courses. The Police Academy is currently looking at additional opportunities for new PAC courses.

6. Academy Instructor Status

- Director Allen advised board members that following the November graduation of Class 215, the academy would be hosting a meeting and in-service training of all Rio Hondo Police Academy Instructors and would also be hosting a joint meeting with several agency Field Training Officers who have had one of our Rio Hondo graduates as a recruit during the past 18 months. The sole purpose of the joint meeting with Rio Hondo Police Academy Instructors and agency FTOs is to continue enhancing the delivery of instruction to academy recruits.

7. Course Development and Implementation

Director Allen informed board members that the academy had been meeting with Los Angeles Metro and working on the possibly of establishing a Transit Security Training Program for their rail and bus security personnel. LA Metro Security Chief Gina Osborn indicated that LA Metro would be providing a former RFP to the academy in the foreseeable future. Additionally, the Academy and the Public Safety Division's Advance Officer Training Program is already providing POST training in the following courses:

- PC 832 Course
- Supervisor Course
- Dispatcher Course
- Field Training Officer Course

Director Allen also related that the academy is currently looking at the development of additional training programs for other agencies in the future. Recently, the LA County Department of Animal Control was interested in placing their Animal Control Officers through a former training program crafted by the Rio Hondo Police Academy. Also, some of LA County Police Chiefs have shown some interest in the possible establishment of an academy for Community Service Officers.

8. POST Update

POST will be rolling out an Officer Wellness Learning Domain for the Academy sometime in October 2023 and Rio Hondo had already been providing an officer wellness component to the academy curriculum for the past 3 years. Additionally, POST has made updates to Principled Policing in the Community (LD-3) and in Firearms/Chemical Agents (LD-35). The Next Director/Coordinator Consortium will be held on September 13 and 14, 2023.

Director Allen updated the committee on AB89, Modern Policing Degree legislation, and which Advisory Committee Meeting Member Eric Nunez is also a representative for the California Police Chiefs Association. It was recommended

and proposed by Director Allen that the division move forward in implementing a degree program from Rio Hondo College meeting the requirements of AB89 as it directly relates to the police academy and future hiring standards for police agencies. Although cleanup language is proposed for AB89 it would not materially affect the academic requirements and thus it is recommended to implement the degree program and requirements. This was approved by the committee members and will be forwarded to division faculty for consideration.

9. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.