

Meeting Minutes District 4 Coalition – August 19th, 2026

In attendance: Alameda North Valley Association, Academy North, Albuquerque Meadows, Del Norte Neighborhood, Heritage East, North Domingo Baca NA, Quail Springs, Quintessence, Vista Del Norte

Friends of D4C:

Guests: Anthony Richardson and Erika Hartwick Brown

Meeting called to order by President Lorna Howerton at 6:30PM. A Quorum was met.

Approval of Minutes from June 17th, 2026 motion Judie Pellegrino and seconded by Goldialu Stone. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda for August 19th, 2026: motion made by Robert Stetson and seconded by Goldialu Stone. The motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers: Chief of Police

Chief of Police Cecily Barker- Been with APD for 23 years, spent most of her time on patrol as a field officer. Has worked in violent crimes, crimes against children, juvenile crimes, property crimes, and crime labs. Served as chief of staff under Harold Medina

Chief of Staff: Jeff Bernard - with the department for 19 years. First half of his career in field services and then into investigations. Commander of criminal investigations and prior to that commander of the special investigations division- overseeing undercover operations.

Jose Sanchez- Oversees the Valley Area command. 20 years with APD. Extensive knowledge of patrol. Valley area command is between I25 and Rio Grande.

Crime is down but what is the perception?

Auto theft and property crime are both down by double digits but the perception of crime in ABQ is not good.

To date there have been 38 murders in 2026 vs. 47 at the same time last year in 2025.

30 of the 38 have been solved in 2026.

One of the major priorities is having officers in field service, in uniform, taking calls. Once a year officers bid for a shift into patrol. This year 43 more officers bid for patrol than the year prior. As officers are graduating the academies the focus is putting the majority in uniform in the field for calls for service.

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APD is doing decently across the country in recruitment. The last few years APD has seen at least 100 officers joining each year.

Juvenile crime and repeated juvenile crime is a huge deal. These kids don't know how to handle conflict and it escalates to violent crimes. With the surging of social media, juveniles are using social media for selling drugs or weapons, which is becoming a lot of the juvenile crime.

Some of the positive trends are auto theft down 40% last year and down another 33% this year. Working on clearance rates, the homicide clearance rate was roughly 130% last year because they solved cases from previous years in addition to the cases from last year. At this point 65 of 67 homicides from 2025 have been solved.

Valley area crime- Of the areas they are struggling with is the aggravated assaults. They have brought in additional help with the Proactive response team. It is additional help within field services. They have identified some problem areas and they have deployed the additional resources to those areas to help.

What are some of the ideas that come from neighborhood association meetings?

Adopt a business: businesses or owners can reach out and let them know what their issues are and they have an officer that they have direct contact with that they can reach out to when they are having/seeing the issues.

North Valley street racing what can be done?

A team that addresses racing- air support is involved and they involve the patrol teams. They need the community to call 311 and 242 cops to let them know where the racers are congregating and where they are seen. A couple of weekends that they are doing under cover operations, and they are able to make arrests and giving citations. Unfortunately, it is something that consistently happens.

When was the last time an officer was injured on duty or killed?

Today 8/19 there was an officer injured on duty.

How is the public service aide program funneling those aides to the police academy?

Currently APD employs 75 public service aides. They have more responsibilities now, they are able to write citations with an officer on site. The biggest thing for them is their safety because they do not have the training or equipment a police officer has. They are able to take reports in car accidents.

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What can we do to get another command station?

Downtown just appointed an interim major, Josh Richards. He came from Southeast Area Command and his focus is specifically downtown. Currently already have a team and put more officers at the bid that will work solely downtown, they do not respond to other calls during the weekends only to calls in the downtown area.

The highest call is periodic Watch, can this be done by a PSA?

They appreciate those calls because these proactive calls, and while yes that is the highest call it is a proactive call for service.

**Every 6 months a policy is reviewed to see if there are any changes that need to be made. Prior to the DOJ and the settlement agreement policies were not changed unless someone did something really bad. APD has great training around Use of force policy, and de-escalation calls. The officer involved shootings are what are reported on but the calls that use deescalation and do not end in an officer involved shooting.

Councillor Report

The Aquatic center is coming along. The last 4 million was used to finish the building, the roof is going on and it is included in the price. Still 36 million short to complete the project.

Neighborhood Roundtable

North Domingo Baca: Semi-annual meeting end of September.

Quail Springs: National Night out August 4th, it was a success.

Vista Del Norte: Asphalt trail works start next month. Shade structures are finished. Last meeting with Perry Chapman and Jim Souter.

Heritage East: National night out with Quintessence. They are trying to find people to replace their current board members, but they do not have any new people joining or showing interest in joining the board. They are talking about disbanding in 2027. Meeting in October.

Quintessence: National night out with Heritage East. Looking to get the streets repaved.

Larva issue - Spraying in the area. There is a new breed of larva and mosquito present, the city is going to be spraying them. If you see standing water and the city is not spraying please reach out to Markela Clinton so the city can make sure to spray the area. mclinton@cabq.gov

**Wildflower- Erica Hartwick Brown. Owner of Carver family farm. Vertically integrated Cannabis Micro business. They are open for tours, they are located behind the circle on Alameda and Jefferson. Started in 2021- 13 employees.

Alameda North Valley Association - Speed is a real problem. Continues to support the lawsuits that are ongoing.

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Albuquerque Meadows: still fighting with the private equity group that is trying to overtake their community. 16.3% of homeowners in the state of NM are mobile homes. They were notified that their water is going to turn off from 8am-5pm 8/20.

Academy North- one of the junipers burned, not sure if it was a firework because it was around 7/4. That is getting removed. Annual pizza party on 9/27, the coalition was invited.

Committee Reports

NDB- first private group renting the center in October. No other details are known. Breakfast attendance has dropped because prices have doubled. Lunch over 60 is still a recommended donation of \$2. Price increase for lunches age 50-60. New pump for the fountain is in but it is not going to be placed until the fountain issues are resolved

Officer Reports - No officer reports

New Business - board meeting before the next meeting. The next meeting guest will be the sheriff.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm by Goldilu Stone seconded by Vanessa Stranski.

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Good Morning Ms. Howerton,

I wanted to follow up with information related to the questions raised during yesterday's D4 Coalition meeting.

First, a member inquired about the "Crime Radar" app. APD does not operate or support any external interface that shares dispatch information. The application referenced is a private product that uses AI to scan first responder radio channels and then maps that information within its platform. It is not connected to APD systems.

Second, regarding de-escalation training, below is the upcoming schedule for the listed area commands. A public registration process will be released, and sessions will have attendance limits.

Lastly, attached is information on the AtlasOne app that may be used to make reports. The application also informs the community on issues surrounding our neighborhoods.

Foothills Area Command • September 3, 2026 • First session: 0900 • Second session: 1300 •
Manzano Community Center

Southwest Area Command • September 9, 2026 at 1030 • September 10, 2026 at 1730 • Central &
Unser Public Library

Northwest Area Command • September 25, 2026 • First session: 0900 • Second session: 1300 •
Northwest Area Command Substation ([10401 Cibola Loop NW](#))

If you could assist me in sharing this information with the D4 members.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your meeting.