

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
October 28, 2014

Security Reports

ITEM F.2

Proposal to Change the District Police Uniform Style

Over this past summer there have been several confrontation issues with speeders where the violator did not understand or realize that the officer who just red-lighted and stopped them was an actual police officer.

When the District began its earnest effort to employ POST Certified Police Officers several years ago the concern at that time was how to go about this change without making it seem like the Board is creating a 'police state' in our community.

During the Colonel Bank years, the 'Colonel' would come after you with his gun drawn and it was no joke with him. The Colonel packed a loaded military .45 pistol, knew how to use it and was not afraid to use it.

Many in the community remembered the Colonel when, in 2007, the Board turned its attention to the need for employing police officers for enforcing speed control and traffic safety. Some expressed their reluctance at the thought of bringing in armed police again. So this concern influenced the Board's choice in uniform style.

It was agreed that the uniform would be more of a 'neutral' appearance so the officers did not look like LAPD cops and scare people half to death. The thinking was to tone down the overall impression but still maintain the police presence.

The police officers today are, more often than not, perceived as security guards and it is being recommended that the standard white uniform shirt be changed to a black polo-style shirt with yellow embroidered name and police badge. Many local PD's are going to the polo shirt for the everyday uniform and it is felt that following suit with the Sheriff's Department would help with a positive effect on perception with our police officers.

