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SEARCH

Criminal Justice News and Analysis

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SHERIFF, PROSECUTORS PUSH FOR CONSUMER FRAUD PROJECT

The San Diego Regional CCCJ planning unit gave final approval to its 1972 regional criminal justice plan at its May 12th meeting. The plan now goes to Sacramento for review by the state CCCJ staff and board in preparation for certification so that an estimated $1.4 million of federal funds can be released for special projects in San Diego.

Sheriff John Duffy asked that acknowledgement be made in the plan of the growing local problem of consumer fraud. Duffy and spokesman for the San Diego District Attorney and City Attorney reported a marked increase in such complaints in recent years. They agreed that personnel at their agencies have been assigned to concentrate on consumer fraud cases, but pointed out that they simply don't have sufficient resources to cover the increasing workload. The Board approved the inclusion of a detailed description of the problem in the 1972 plan so that the groundwork can be laid for release of funds next year to support a possible multi-agency, coordinated effort to reduce consumer fraud in San Diego County.

VILLALPANDO APPOINTED TO A.G. ADVISORY COUNCIL

Vic Villalpando, County Mexican American Affairs Officer, has been appointed to Attorney General Eville Younger's Volunteer Advisory Council. The Council was established to consult with Younger on legislation proposed by his office and to recommend bills which might answer the particular needs of local communities.

The process of achieving local community input and support is to be implemented by a system of subcommittees now being organized in each California assembly district. Field Deputy, Ken Morales covers the counties of San Diego, Imperial and Riverside, where he is now developing some seven subcommittees.

Proposals the Attorney General now has in the hopper include several on the topic of criminal justice, environmental protection and consumer protection. Further information can be obtained from Ken Morales at Room 3005, 1350 Front Street, San Diego 92101, phone: 232-4361, ext. 222.

"CRASH" OFFICE MOVES NEAR PAROLEE HOUSE

CRASH, Inc., the community-based rehabilitation program for youthful offenders, has moved from the downtown Robinson Building to 2750 "B" Street, across the street from its residential facility, "Parolee House." The new location houses the CRASH business office, increases the short-term shelter capacity of Parolee House to 25 men, and provides an Offender Hotline phone service. The hotline is manned seven days a week from 7 a.m. to midnight at 235-6441.

EXPANDED USE OF LATERAL ENTRY IN CALIFORNIA

In law enforcement, lateral entry is the practice of allowing peace officers of roughly equivalent rank and pay to "transfer" from one police department or sheriffs office to another. Many authorities around the nation recommend this practice as a way of improving the utilization of varied manpower skills throughout a particular state; as a way to increase promotional opportunities; as a means of better distributing minority police officers, especially those of higher rank; and as a way to facilitate residential mobility for policemen and their families.

In California, according to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, police agencies in 142 communities now make use of the lateral entry principal at some or all ranks and pay grades. The San Diego Police Department does not permit the practice, but has been considering doing so for years. The local Police Officers Associated points out the tremendous disparities between departments in pay rates, fringe benefits, and particularly life and health insurance and pension plans as the major difficulties involved in moving to another department and for these reasons has opposed the practice.

JOB OPENINGS — COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The San Diego County Human Relations Commission has openings in the following positions with a closing date of June 2, 1972:

Deputy Director — salary $1,343 - 1,633/month — assists Director in administrative, supervisory, reporting, research, and other program activities.

Law and Justice Officer — $1,027 - 1,248/month — administers Law and Justice activities of Commission — processes citizen complaints, works with Police and other City, County, State, Federal agencies in developing innovative Law and Justice programs.

Employment/Manpower Officer — $1,027 - 1,248/month — responsible for working on behalf of Commission with government and other agencies in a Fair Employment program.

Health/Education/Welfare Officer — $1,027 - 1,248/month.

Housing/Community Development Officer — $1,027 - 1,248/month.

The Commission prefers candidates with a four year degree, but will consider substitution of appropriate experience on a year for year basis. For application information contact Director Floyd Wilson at 1955 — 4th Avenue, San Diego, telephone 239-7711, ext. 1246.

SEARCH

Special Report

May 30, 1972

COMMUNITY SERVICE INTERN PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

In wandering through the various divisions of the San Diego Police Department nowadays, one might bump into a youth, 18 to 20 years old wearing a tan shirt with black tie and green wash pants. The clothing resembles a police uniform but is obviously not. It is the uniform of a Community Service Intern. You will be looking at one of twenty-four such young people who are in a special training unit under the federal Public Employment Program.

The intern project, earlier known as SCOPE, began with 25 participants, 24 men and one woman. At the outset only four interns expressed a definite interest in law enforcement as a career, but others are beginning to think in these terms as the program progresses, according to Sgt. Bert Wright, Program Coordinator. The others were planning careers in such widely diversified jobs as airline pilot and high school teacher.

The program provides for interns to attend college on a half-time basis while working at the Police Department half-time. Participants are attending eight colleges and universities throughout San Diego County. While on the job they are placed on a rotating basis in the divisions of Community Relations, Traffic, Training, Investigations, Services, and the Northern and Southern field units. In this way they are exposed to most of the varied operations of police work, but in a non-enforcement role.

OBJECTIVES

The program has two main objectives, says Sergeant Wright. The first is to familiarize interns on a first hand basis with police work and the problems of policemen. From this experience it is hoped that they will be able to accurately interpret the function of law enforcement to their peers in the community. The program has been under way only four months and Wright sees indications of this happening already. Interns say they now understand that because of the low ratio of police to city population (1.2 per 1,000) it is often difficult for police to respond quickly to calls. The manpower simply isn't there.

Another example is that interns now tend to avoid participating in demonstrations on campus and elsewhere even as observers. Wright says this shows they don't want to contribute to a potentially dangerous incident and that their presence alone could do just that. They are not expected to report minor law violations they observe to the police. But they are required to assist accident victims until help arrives and to report serious crimes such as armed robbery and attempted rape. However, they must not become directly involved since they are not sworn officers and are not properly trained to respond effectively.

The second objective of the program is to provide education assistance and a basic orientation to police work so that some of the interns might pursue law enforcement as a career at the completion of their service and training. They are paid $2.58 per hour for a forty hour week including both the college classwork and the time on the job. Interns are encouraged to work full time with the Department during the summer months. Three-fourths of the interns are of racial minorities, so if this objective is achieved it could contribute to increasing the ratio of minorities working for the Department in line with City Affirmative Action (minority employment) mandates.

The time on the job with the Police Department is spent in two kinds of activities, formalized training and actual work experience. The training is conducted by sworn police officers and totals some 120 hours. A glance at the training curriculum schedule reveals such courses as Ethics and Professionalization, Public Relations, Tele-Communications, First Aid, Report Writing, Defensive Driving, Race and Ethnic Group Relations, and Courtroom Demeanor.

TYPICAL TASKS

Work placements cover a wide range of police-related tasks including record filing, classification of impounded properties such as bicycles, general clerical work, and community relations assistance. Trainees are rotated every six weeks to new assignments.

One typical intern is Richard Villarreal of Chula Vista. He attends Southwestern College and has recently been working at the Logan Avenue, San Diego storefront office of the Community Relations Division under Sergeant Gilbert Garcia.

Richard's duties include house to house contacts with Spanish speaking residents of the Southeast San Diego area. He talks to the families, gives them brochures in Spanish explaining the functions and services of the Police Department, and offers the help of the office in providing information and specialized services and referrals. For invalids and disabled people he has helped them identify their valuables using the etching tool the Department provides under the "Operation Identification" anti-burglary program. Richard's April report shows 152 families personally contacted and 179 pamphlets left at homes not answering his call.

Judging from the number of calls Sergeant Garcia has received since the inception of Richard's contact work, the program is well received by the families involved. They want help with everything from health problems to employment to emergency crisis intervention. In most cases the Community Relations office refers them to available agencies at the City, County or elsewhere.

For those who will work full time this summer, plans are under way for interns to be camp counselors at the Junior Patrol Camp in Julian, to aid with the Community Relations summer fishing program at Chollas Reservoir, and to assist with the bicycle safety program.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Community Service Interns, as with most PEP projects is funded on a year-to-year basis from Washington. Robert Brocato, City Administrator for PEP says that the intern program, along with all PEP projects will undergo a thorough evaluation as to its responsiveness to community needs this summer. The decision as to whether or not to continue funding, assuming availability of monies from Washington, will be made in late August or early September. In any case the Police Department and most of the interns feel that the community is getting its money's worth.

TO SUBMIT NEWS OR COMMENTS TO SEARCH, CALL JEFF GHELARDI, CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING – 239-7711, EXT. 1200.

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