



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Inter-Office Communication

To: Public Safety Committee Members Date: February 26, 2014

From: Tony Jones
Chief of Police

Subject: Update On Strategic Initiative 3.6
Address Need For Violence Prevention
And Mental Health Service

On January 31, 2014 Lieutenant Will Halvosa and Captain Lonnie Scott met with Ms. Maggie Labarta, Director at Meridian Health. Also in attendance were Ms. Sherry Huston and Dr. Munson who serves as the primary trainer for Mental Health First Aide.

Captain Scott advised Ms. Labarta that GPD is ready to initiate the Mental Health First Aide Training and that we wanted to work out the particulars to move forward. The conversation was very productive. Ms. Labarta and staff related that the training is an 8 hour block excluding breaks. With breaks the class is over 9 hours. They suggested that we divide the class into two 4.5 hour sections. Ms. Labarta identified Ms. Houston as the person that would assist us with scheduling the classes.

Lieutenant Dave Rowe of GPD's Training Unit has been tasked with coordinating the training with Ms. Houston. The decision was made to complete Operations personnel training first. We believe that it would be easier to complete this training prior to switching to the upcoming 12 hours shifts in order for us to take advantage of the current shift overlap. The following is the schedule we have submitted to Ms. Houston for her approval.

The tentative schedule would be:

March 6, 13, 20 and 27—Evening and Midnight shift from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

April 3, 10, 17, and 24—Dayshift from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

We would send the same group on the first two Thursdays and the next group on the last two Thursdays to maintain consistency since we cannot accommodate a straight 8 hour class, and maintain enough coverage of police officers on the road. We are also trying to ensure there would be at least 10 students in each session to make it work. I don't foresee having over 24 students in a session either.