



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Pasco Community Listening Session

Friday, March 27th

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Gjerde Center – Building H
Columbia Basin College

Meeting called to order at 6:06pm

Roll Call:

Commissioner Present: Frank Lemos, Anita Ahumada, Daniel Villao, Raquel Ferrell-Crowley, Manuel Reta, David Morales, Andres Mantilla, (Nora Coronado)

Commissioners Absent: EJ Juarez

Staff/Interns Present: Uriel Iniguez, Jessica Babcock, Paul Quinonez, Angela Vera-Webster

Introductions:

Commission Chair Gloria Ochoa welcomes everyone to the Listening Forum. She goes over the agenda and what to expect for the evening and the ground rules to have a meaningful discussion. First, we'll be having Mr. Knight Sor, who is here from the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service, will provide information about what services his department provides and the process we can expect moving forward. Then we'll have Sandy Mullins who is here from the Governor's Office, she's the Chief Policy Advisor on Public Safety and will be addressing the response from the Governor regarding requests that were made for the Governor to intervene on the charging decision with the Attorney General's Office. And then we'll be opening it up to local advocacy groups who are here this evening. We have the ACLU, Consejo Latino, Latino Civic Alliance, Latino Community Fund, Latina/o Bar Association of Washington, One America, the Northwest Immigrant's Rights Project, and YES (Youth Empowered Solutions), Benton City Pilot Project. They will be giving very brief, two minutes, presentations about what their organization's mission is and also they will be able to give an account of the resources they provide to the community. There are interpreters available.

Commission Vice Chair Andres Mantilla mentions that interpretation equipment is available. Si usted quieren un transmite en español hay una sistema disponible. Atrás allí, puedes hablar con...en la esquina, este señor tiene el equipo.

The people of the State of Washington have tasked the Commission on Hispanic Affairs with advising the Governor, the Legislature, and state and local agencies on issues that affect the Hispanic community of the State.

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Chair Gloria Ochoa continues to go over the second part of the agenda...where Franklin Prosecuting Attorney Shawn Sant will give a status update on the Antonio Zambrano-Montes matter. There will also be an opportunity for questions and comments during the time frame allotted to his presentation. Then we'll have a brief break. When we come back we will open it up for public comment. We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to make their statement or ask their questions. We asked that you address all your comments/questions to the Commission. Everyone will be limited to 3 minutes per testimony that will be 3 minutes per person. We really want to emphasize the importance of giving everyone a chance to speak and have their voice be heard. We are going to be very strict on the 3 minute time limit. We had a sign-in sheet at the front when you walked in where you were able to sign in and state whether you would like to make a comment or not. If you have not had an opportunity to write down your name please fill that in and give it Jessica up front. We will be calling people in the order in which they signed in and indicated they wish to make public comment. At this time we'd like to call Mr. Knight Sor to please approach the podium.

Knight Sor – Conciliation Specialist

Thank you so much Commissioners. I will speak a little bit slowly since we have interpreter in the room. To introduce my agency, the Community Relations Services is within the Department of Justice and we came into existence under Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Our mandate is to assist the community and persons therein in resolving conflict relating to race, color, and national origin. With the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (2000) we can also provide assistance to those under the new jurisdiction categories, which means we are now able to assist, respond to, and prevent the allegation of violent hate crimes committed based upon actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, gender-identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. The Community Relations Service is a neutral and impartial agency. We do not advocate, investigate, or prosecute although there are components within the U.S. Department of Justice that performs these functions. We have been America's peacemakers for the past 50 years and we work in confidence with our clients. Working in confidence does not mean working in secrecy. It means we do not share any information as the process goes on until the final product or results. I hope this town will raise its voices this evening so I can hear the issues and concerns so that I may include you into this particular process. My three major objectives here for the town of Pasco are to (1) build trust, (2) to renew professional relationships, and (3) to encourage cooperation because this is an amazing town and I hope you will work with us and I hope you will share your issues and concerns so that we could be on the same page. If you have any solution regardless of how far fetch it seems please tell us because your voice is important to us as we begin this process. Thank you so much Commissioners.

[CHA Official Business]

Chair Gloria Ochoa asks Commissioners if they have had an opportunity to review the meeting minutes from their last meeting on January 25th in Olympia, WA.

Commissioner Andres Mantilla motions to approve the minutes. Commissioner Manuel Reta seconds the motion. No discussed. All approved.

Chair Gloria Ochoa

We also wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the local authorities that are here to listen to your concerns. They have expressed a desire to hear more directly from the community and not only about the Zambrano case but also about any other concerns you may have in regards to city management, public safety, or just living here in the community. They want to hear from you and they are here for that purpose. Since there is an active civil case pending right now they are not be able to answer specific questions about the investigation but they are here in a listening capacity. Tomorrow there is a work session between 9am-12pm where they will also be making themselves available to discuss a lot of the other issues that may come out of this evening's forum along with Mr. Knight Sor who will help facilitating that discussion. *She introduces the following individuals, in order they were mentioned, who were present from the local authorities:*

City Manager Dave Zabell
City Councilman Al Yenney
City Councilman Tom Larsen
City Councilman Bob Hoffman
City Councilman Saul Martinez
Police Chief Bob Metzger
Sheriff Jay Raymond
Governor's Chief Policy Advisor on Public Safety – Sandy Mullins
Deputy Mayor Rebecca Francik
Governor's Eastern WA Representative/Liaison – Melissa Carpenter

Sandy Mullins – Governor's Chief Policy Advisor on Public Safety

Thank you Chair and thank you Commission for having this opportunity for the community, myself, and local leaders to come together and do what it is often a very painful process of some deep listening, hearing people's pain and their ideas. I am humbled by such a great turn out and thankful to be here tonight. As Gloria stated, I am Governor Inslee's Senior Policy advisor on Public Safety and Government Operations. From the moment we heard of this tragic event we have been following very closely and watching as the process has continued to unfold. We have received request from Consejo Latino, along with other organizations, that the Governor appoint a special prosecutor and have the Attorney General come in. At this time we have declined to have that process take place but we are watching and always have that option. At this time we feel it is best to have the local process continue and stay engaged with local leadership and the local community and use the Commission on Hispanic Affairs to see how that all happens. I'm here to listen to night but please come to me afterwards and talk to me.

Advocacy Organization Presentations:

Chair Gloria Ochoa explains that each organization has 2-3 minutes to state the mission of the organization, the resources they can provide, and how they work with the local community.

Commissioner Daniel Villao reminds everyone that comments should be restricted to 2-3 minute timeline in order to give everyone the opportunity to speak.

Jennifer Shaw – ACLU-WA

Thank you. Good evening. I'm Jennifer Shaw, the Deputy Director of the ACLU-WA. I am pleased to be here though sad about the circumstances that brought us together. The ACLU of WA is the largest civil liberties organization in the State of Washington and we are affiliated with the national organization that has its mission in protecting civil liberties and civil rights for all people across the country. The issue of police practices and police accountability is key to that and to our democracy. Our police department and our police officers are there, in our communities, to serve us, protect us, and be a resource. We firmly believe that in order to have a safe and just democracy we also have to have an accountable and responsible police department. The ACLU-WA has been involved in police reforms efforts throughout the state particularly in Western, WA. I am involved in the Community Police Commission with the Seattle Police Department; I've been on numerous panels for the County Sheriff's office. I have consulted with the Tacoma Police Dept. and advocates looking to reform the Tacoma Police Department as well as in Spokane and most recently here in Pasco. We've talked community groups and advocates about ways to find solutions to make the Pasco Police Dept., and all the police departments in this area, more responsible and accountable to the communities that they serve. I hope to continue to be involved but clearly this is an effort that should be led by, first and foremost, all of you that live here. So whatever assistance you need in terms of our experience working on these issues throughout the state, I'm happy to be here and happy to help.

Felix Vargas – Consejo Latino

Madam chair and members of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Welcome to Pasco and thank you very much for convening this session. It's very important for this community. Since the shooting of Antonio Zambrano-Montes by 3 members of the Pasco Police Department shortly after 5pm on the 10th of February, Consejo Latino has been at the forefront in calling for answers and justice for the victim's family. Consejo Latino is a community organization which champions economic development and growth for Hispanic-owned businesses, promotes cross-cultural communication and understanding, advocates on issues of social welfare and civic concern to the Latino population and provides capacity-building assistance to Latinos to advance opportunities for all. Consejo Latino thus serves as both a bridge and catalyst in promoting a more harmonious community which appreciates the values and strengths of its multi-cultural constituencies. It is based here in Pasco. Our mission statement is to advance the economic standing, social welfare, civic engagement, civil rights, educational achievement and health of all Latinos in America. Resources: We are made up of prominent members of our community, businessmen, attorneys, educators, government officials (some are retired but most of us are very much engaged in our professions). Resources we pledge are our generous time, considerable expertise, valuable experience and our full commitment to making our community better. We work with the local community in a variety of ways: By, for example, visiting our downtown business owners to get a sense of what is important to them and to try to develop with them a business growth plan which will serve the community well; Secondly, by working with the city's Downtown Pasco Development Authority to outline ways that we can revitalize the very much

neglected downtown area; Thirdly, by meeting with the new city manager who is showing himself to be interested and accessible to finding solutions to problems affecting the Latino community which accounts for about 65% of the city's population. One of the issues, I might add, is the issue of security and law enforcement. It is ironic that we met with the city manager and 4 members of the police force, including the police chief, on the 27th of January of this year, just two weeks before Antonio Zambrano was gunned down. In the aftermath of Ferguson and New York, Consejo Latino requested the meeting to receive assurances that we had a professionally trained police force equipped with the right protocols, practices, procedures and policies so as to give us the confidence in the community that such things as excessive use of force by the police against unarmed members of our community would never happen here... *Commissioner Daniel Villao calls time... who operate in an open and transparent manner...*

Gilberto Mendoza – Latino Civic Alliance

Madam Chair, Hispanic commission thank you for being here. My name is Gilbert Mendoza and I represent Latino Civic Alliance here in Pasco, WA. I've been a resident of Pasco since 1983 and I have to share it is a great community to grow up in, I have children here and I have really great experiences being in this community. LCA promotes civic participation in the State of Washington. LCA, every year we take busloads of people throughout the Latino community in WA to Olympia to meet with legislators, the Governor and the Attorney General, many for the first time in their lives. We advocate for a couple issues, i.e. healthcare: mental health, farm worker rights, economic development, and we're also inclusive. We're bi-partisan, not one party or the other. We're a statewide organization that works with Consejo Latino which I'm a proud board member of as well.

Gabriel Portugal – Latino Civic Alliance

Pasco in the past, 70's, 80's and 90's had a lot of crime and a lot of violent behavior based on the east side in central, old Pasco, everyone in Pasco. Pasco was the *ugly duckling* but we have made a lot of changes based on the Commission, educating ourselves to see what the community is all about. The police department has been very active in helping us and we have been very active as well in sharing the Commission on the areas where we see more crime. We've made a lot of gains in 2013 and 2014 where we have a better crime index than the rest of the state. That tells you that things are going well. This incident that happened with Mr. Zambrano sets up back 10-20 years into the past but we're not gonna let that happen. We're a strong community and we know how to march and rally and we will get through this. Everyone here can help and I'm here to support the community on behalf of LCA. Thank you very much.

Felipe Rodriguez-Flores – Latino Community Fund

Good afternoon everybody, buenas tardes. Good afternoon Commission members and everyone here. My name is Felipe Rodriguez-Flores; I'm the Associate Director with the Latino Community Fund (LCF) of Washington State. I'm glad to be here in Pasco again, although it's under difficult circumstances. First and foremost, I want to say that I am here to learn from the community and find ways that LCF may support members of this community with the resources we have available. LCF is a community foundation that provides leader's training, capacity

building and direct grants. We just finished our first Latino Non-profit Leadership Academy with non-profit leaders in the Latino community in four different counties in Western WA. We are hoping to conduct a second Latino Non-profit Leadership Academy with leaders in Central and Eastern WA. We are also conducting a leadership program with youth on environmental justice and health issues in King County and Western WA counties. And we're currently developing programs on voter engagement and also on environmental justice working with a statewide coalition called *Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy* to help reduce health hazards in our communities and create renewable energy and green jobs in our community. I looked forward to speaking with some of you and learning from the community. I encourage you to approach me if there's anything you want to talk about or anything you think we might be able to collaborate on.

Chach Duarte – Latina/o Bar Association of WA (LBAW)

Good evening, buenas noches. Thank you, the Commission, for inviting us here today. The Latina/o Bar Association of WA (LBAW) is the association of Latina/o attorneys here in WA. Essentially we represent the concerns and goals of Latina/o attorneys and the Latino community. One of the main things we do is we put on clinics for the local community; Seattle, Granger, and more of the Eastern side of WA. We also help law students and try to get more Latino students to become attorneys. We're here tonight – we love Pasco, thanks for having us – unfortunately we're here on tough circumstances. First and foremost, our deepest sympathy to the family, we're so sorry. We are here to support the Latino population and listen and help where we can. We were also one the groups who asked for an independent investigation from the Governor that was alluded to before. We would like to see the locally lead process so that the issues here in Pasco can be resolved; however, we are compelled to ensure a thorough, accurate, and independent investigate. We will continue to monitor the situation and although the Governor has decided not to invoke his ability to ask for an independent investigation, we will continue to monitor and make sure we're here representing the Latino community. I encourage you speak up tonight. And if we can do anything to help, please let me know and feel free to talk to me afterwards if you'd like. Thank you so much.

Fe Lopez – OneAmerica

Hi, my name is Fe Lopez. I represent One America, a statewide civil rights organization dedicated to immigrant and refugee communities particularly some of the work OneAmerica has done statewide is on immigration education and police accountability. OneAmerica did join the Latino/a Bar Association of Washington in asking the Governor for an independent investigation. As it were, I was also the previous director of LBAW so I call myself a recovery lawyer. I'm here this evening with Mary Lopez, a local organizer here in the area, and Fernando Mejia, our organizing director, and I am the Board President. I'm actually from the lower Yakima Valley, from Grandview. I graduated from WA-Tri Cities. I was a Peace Manager for Columbia Basin Domestic Violence Services prior to going to law school on the other side of the state. Now, my family still lives here, but I'm actually the Executive Director of a Community Peace Commission. It's a unique commission created out of the consent decree in Seattle that actually institutionalizes the community's voice in the police reform process. It's a very unique situation and has been pretty amazing. We've worked on the use of force policy in Seattle and the training among other things. OneAmerica can help with organizing, connecting with

resources and expertise, basically whatever this community wants and needs. Whatever your needs are OneAmerica can be supportive of that.

Mary Lopez – OneAmerica

Thank you Fe. My name is Mary Lopez and I would like to do it in Spanish. I am one of the co-organizers in Yakima. Mi nombre es Mary Lopez y soy una organizadora de OneAmerica del estado de Washington enfocando en todo Yakima. Nosotros somos de OneAmerica y somos en la comunidad que hacemos de luchar nuestros derechos civiles y derechos humanos de nuestra comunidad, los inmigrantes y los refugiados. Nos enfocamos a hacer...a nuestra comunidad. Si tiene alguna pregunta puede comunicar con Fe o Fernando, mi director de organizar comunitario. Thank you very much; this is an honor for me to be here.

Northwest Immigrants' Rights Project (NWIRP) – No show

Mr. Claude Oliver – Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!), Benton City Pilot Project

When we get done discussing the issues that surround mental issues and community options or lack therein, we want to build solutions and one of the things we're doing with the folks up in Benton City is building solutions that address every aspect where communities are not connected today. I'd like to introduce to you Mr. Randy Ruthers who's the Benton City Economic Development Chair. 6 months ago we created this program to give kids an opportunity to access mental health resources and counseling. We have over 100 kids a year...there are a lot of resources in the community...one organization isn't a magical one. We all need to talk to each other.

Chair Gloria Ochoa thanks all the advocacy organizations for their time and ability to attend today's meeting from far distances to share their expertise, resources and make themselves available to the community. She reminds everyone if they wish to continue this dialogue they can attend tomorrow between 9am-12pm where there will be a facilitated discussion with advocacy groups on how to move forward as a community. The next portion of our agenda we want to make sure we have an opportunity to have Shawn Sant be able to provide you an update on the case. He has been given 20 minutes to provide an update and the remainder of the time he has made himself available for any questions or comments you may have regarding that process. What that's going to look like is the following: to make sure we continue to have a respectful dialogue we are going to limit comments/questions to 3 minute rule we have implemented. We'd ask that you restrain from outside comments and maintain our respectful dialogue as we continue.

Shawn Sant – Franklin County Elected Prosecuting Attorney

Thank you Madam Chair and Commissioners, I think it's important to have these dialogues in our community. I welcomed the Commission's last visit when we were talking about some issues then, back in 2012. I also welcome all of you, thank you for coming. I recognize this a challenging time and I appreciate the different interests that we have with the respective groups. And even if you're not a part of those groups I really encourage you to reach out to people and to

contact us or others around the state. I hope this is not just a one night event and I look forward to being at one of many opportunities that we can come together within our community especially at a very difficult time. One of my goals when I took office as Prosecutor in January 2011 was to make sure that we had inclusion in our community. Coming from a military background serving in many different parts in the world, I've live in areas where I've had division within many groups for example in Yugoslavia. It's important that we come together. I think all of us, from our various backgrounds, serve an important part in that process.

Just a little bit about myself so you can understand where I'm coming from and my approach, it has been mentioned that part of my resume includes times when I was a police officer for 2½ years. That certainly is not all of my resume. I was on active duty in the air force and I also started off my legal career at the prosecuting office here in Franklin County. I chose to live here because it was important to me to be part of this community and to serve the people I represent. When I left the prosecutor's office after two years, to start a private practice, I worked with the Mendoza Law Firm. I'm sure that all of you are aware that Salvador Mendoza Jr. was the first appointed Latino to the Federal bench in Eastern Washington. This is something that I really appreciated about that experience working in private practice with Sal Mendoza. It was a great opportunity to work with individuals in the Latino community and it gave me the opportunity to continue to serve you. One of the reasons why I chose to run for office was to make sure we have an open and transparent process for justice. Many of you have come to my office to speak to me about your concerns. I have a motto on my wall and it says, "Justice is not about winning, it's about getting it right." So whether we take a case or trial and we lose that case/trial, I don't find that a loss. To me justice is the process of having a jury be able to hear the problem/case and let them decide. I think that's an important part of the process especially as a prosecutor. For most that I talk to they want to see that that justice take place. Our goal is not simply to make sure we get a conviction, our process is to make sure we thoroughly get the information.

My wife as well is an immigrant and she got her citizenship back in 2002. I think that is an important part of the appreciation that I have for those in our community, those who have recently become citizens or those who are working towards becoming a citizen. I think that is a very important process. Something that I've reached out and worked towards are groups like NWIRP with helping out with the U-visa process. One of the things we try to do is involved people who have been the victim of crime and who have developed resistance in reporting that crime 'cause they have feared deportation. It is not the goal of my office; it is not the goal of the law enforcement agencies in our community to report to the immigration office. What we're looking for are those who are victims of crime. We've done this in previous cases and have worked with the Mexican Consulate and other agencies to try to warn people about the process. If you're a victim is doesn't matter what your immigration status. What matters is that you're able to find justice in the end and that's certainly what the goal is of this case.

Going forward as we get into to this case, I told Ms. Ochoa, she basically left it up to me. She understood the difficulties in talking about a current case and the challenges but I told her I would like to address some of the concerns that have been brought forward 'cause I think that's part of the transparency. I have not received the reports of the case yet. One of the things I want to emphasize this current case with Mr. Zambrano is a homicide case and that is different from a murder case. In a murder case there is a crime committed and we don't know that yet. One of the

things I have learned as a criminal defense attorney is that there is always another side to a story. It is extremely important, not only in this case but in all cases that we have a full picture, that we wait until we receive the complete reports and then we begin our thorough analysis of that process. And only when we have all that information do we make an informed decision. One of the other issues that have come forward is that we're treating this issue differently because their law enforcement officers involved. An unfortunate incident occurred a year ago prior to this case, last February, Valentine's Day in fact. A homeowner had shot an unauthorized individual who forced his way into his home. That person turned out to be an unarmed individual. Some might think we should go in right away and arrest that individual based on the circumstances. But the initial investigation said there was more to that story. We had to wait until all the investigations were completed and the evidence was evaluated. It was extremely difficult as someone loss a life and no loss of life gets taken lightly. Something I expect is that all of you who are residents of Franklin County, you are my boss. I was elected by you to represent all of you and I think that's the expectation. I don't take things lightly. I don't take the easy trail.

Another issue that has been raised is reaching out and asking for a conflict counsel or having the attorney general's office or the governor to appoint a different counsel. I want to address the different between having actual conflict and having a situation where it is simply a difficult case. Obviously this case is extremely difficult and we have to make tough decisions every day as we review civil or criminal cases. This case is no different. In fact, one of the differences between my officers and other prosecutors in the state is that we actually do not represent police officers. That's a misnomer. That is not our role. Our role is to find out what happened and hear from the witnesses. One of the issues is that the same issues for having a conflict would also apply to the Attorney General's office if they were to take on the case. RCW 43.10.040, it's the attorney role that they shall represent the state and all officials, departments, boards, commissions and agencies. The Washington State Patrol is a member of the SIU unit. The Attorney General's office by statute is tasked with representing the WSP. The Governor's office gets to select the Chief of the WSP and gets to determine what salary he gets appointed. It's a consideration that we as elected officials. It's important to understand there's a different between a conflict and a difficult situation. Within our state we have a different process where the elected coroner can request an inquest which offers and opportunity for people to see that information and I'm here to honor that decision. I've also been able to further evaluate information on this case through media request which will be public information just like anything else. My goal is to be as transparent as possible. Once our office receives the reports of the SIU investigation; any other videos, copies of 911 phone call, any tests done the WSP crime lab, etc. will all become public information. We've discussed this with the various media sources and they understand that that will further inform the situation and the decision. I did share previously that there was some concern about information going out there before the inquest because that could potentially influence [decisions] one way or another. Our evaluation is that this is a public record and will be available for anyone that makes that request. We're not making any decisions that will affect the public's ability to make that request.

Shawn continues to explain the difference between a coroner's inquest and a grand jury. Coroner's inquest is a public proceeding that takes place, similar to a trial, but the prosecutor's role is to simply asks questions of the witness and let them make a presentation of any information they have to the coroner. The coroner can present information as to the process.

There is a jury selected and the jurors can make an inquiry as well. It is a public setting, unlike a grand jury, and people will be able to see the evidence and hear those evaluations.

Special investigations unit...no matter what process always room for improvement. One of the things that brought about by...

Criticisms – police officers investigating police officers...difficulties of health care...SIU – removes the involved agency out of the process...I recognize this isn't going to be a perfect environment but that's not...so as the SIU compiles the report...as far as the update we're about 3-4 weeks about in. the videos are important evidence to review. There are a lot of witnesses and lots of statements that need to be taken...it does take some time. The coroner has picked out a tentative date in May. I want to inform the community, as soon as we get that information we want to let the community know and it will trigger a 30 day process to make all those documents available for public process.

Chair Gloria Ochoa reminds everyone to be respectful as a woman in the crowd shouts, "This is ridiculous! We're being lectured to!"

Shawn Sant

Not everyone has had an opportunity to be informed about the process. Our role... I've certainly made myself available about the process...if I don't have answer for you tonight then...

Q&A: Shawn Sant – Franklin County Elected Prosecuting Attorney

Chair Gloria Ochoa stresses the need to limit outbursts and be respectful as the public become a bit uneasy.

Antonio Valero

Limited to 3 minutes and one questions...you should schedule a whole day...No one would complain about being here all day to voice our concerns. Individual who witnessed this shooting and could not believe what they saw...they were interviewed by the police for ten minutes only...a key witness was right there and see a man get shot. And the cops just turn around and got shot in the back and why only a 10 minute interview for one witness.

Shawn Sant

The concern you raise is concerning. Many times even though we receive a report that a witness had, that is a key witness and we send that information to the SIU. We've had to send back numerous requests back to the department...if we believe a crime had taken place...we send that request back and make sure to follow up. That witness...witness stands up. If you sir are a witness...I would like to follow up with you. Once we get the coroner's...don't think that cause the law enforcement...we have a way as well with following up. There's always there.

Ben Patrick

Resident of Pasco. My wife and I were in the store. I do support my local police, we need our police. But what my family and wife witnessed was wrong in so many ways and I was there. That night I was threatened, they threw me in jail and all I wanted was the truth to get out there. Do I agree with his actions? No but I...I don't agree that the prosecutor does work with police on a daily basis. How are they going to investigate each other? I am asking for the DOJ to provide a FAIR trial. I was threatened that CPS would come to my house...I was key witness to this and I was threatened this entire time. It's not fair that a police offer to investigate a police department. This is a hurt and this isn't justice. It's just a block, they tell him to freeze and don't shoot and he was inches from another car. It was amazing that no one else was injured.

Chair Gloria Ochoa asks him to address the commission.

BP - [I'm concerned that this is happening in my community.]

Ricardo Cuevas

Todavía...more than anything there's a lot to say. But what stands out is the case with Antonio Zambrano. It's a shame and I see that the police officers in charge could be so incapable. There's a video by his family and even the most remote town in Mexico has heard of this. I don't know if Pasco doesn't no have resources to get in through the internet and the media. Because an 8 or 9 year can surf through the web just fine. Thousands of people of Americans or Mexicans have seen the case. No one is asking to clarify the case, that's already been done through the media. I think all the people around her in Pasco are not asking to clarify the case, since I saw this video is was on a Sunday the following the day. I don't have a question or see the legality of the officers. I've been a commander in my town and we had a little bit of preparation with working with decent people and crazy people. Antonio was very clear that when you see him lifting his hands, he didn't assault anyone. I have nothing against the police but the case is terribly.

Santos

Done my share of community service...question. Whether or not they lead with control and the others follow suite. The other thing is whether or not the hiring factors and specific level of education. Common sense. There don't have a lot of life situations...the other factor I want to consider is...lost train of thought. Group think philosophy of the officers and that needs to be looked into. Whether or not, first contact and secondary contact.

Shawn Sant

Difficulty. What it is that we look at and that's certainly all the things that we look at.

P. Vance

Pasco since 1969. Love Pasco...goes into life here. Unhappy to see things that are happening now...drugs, violence, gangs...Pasco is no longer my Pasco or my Pasco or community. Don't

you want to have a safe community that we have....children need to be there to...we need to stop demonizing the police.

Chair Gloria Ochoa real briefly Michael Ormsby is here listening to your concerns and will also be here tomorrow. He is also...the event that a civil case is taken up he will sit in.

[Public Comment]

Community Member

Consejo Latino was gonna ask a question...inundated with press questions. I've been to all three of the SIU...ss. really isn't able to answer any questions. Perception is reality. The only people being treated like criminals are the witnesses and Antonio Zambrano. The question that is always close to me. How do the police expect the investigating of their own department to be fair? We back our police 100%...we've had problems in the past. He's been a meth addict, he's been in jail, and he had mental health problems. We need to know what those police officers were doing two hours two weeks or two days before the police shooting. The attack on the public have never been more...what we're asking for is that the perception...how can you trust the police to say 'we can...

Randy Sulvich – Richland

Police violence affects all the tri-cities. In less than a year the Pasco police killed 4 people in the last year. 1-17000 residents there have not been another statistics. The Pasco police got three justified. What is going to happen if they get another pass?

Maria Cuevas

I've been in WA since 1974. I've lived in Wapato. I have a son who's an officer. I'm someone who's very active in the community. I just want to say a little bit, we are not against the police force. We're against injustice. And this nation is a power. We have to show the world that there is justice here. Because in this particular case it's one of the most difficult things in the world. When I speak to my son, I always tell him. Be very responsible with your work, so your work has a lot of responsibility to it and we're watching with it and if they lock him up in jail. I think the city is going to rise up. And we don't right that right. And one is justice. And we're going to watching everything that happens. Thank you for your time.

Bertha Glatt

(Comment) Happy to see all the officials here to today. I went and emailed city council members...my number one concern was cultural and reflecting the community would help the matter. Berta responded to the inquiry. For the tri-cities we are doing demographically fine. I'm talking about Pasco. If I did anything wrong as a social worker I would sued...I work for the community. I wish to have a conversation with those officials to see...

Bertha Trejo

My concern is about the training they give to the police officers. I don't think that I'm the only one that has that concerns...mothers, fathers, children, women are suffering from DV. Maybe there's afraid of not calling the police 'cause they don't want that to happen to them. What I want is there to be a just investigation and to be determined if there has not been adequate training for the police officers.

Translation was not correct – she wishes that the police officers who are placed back into service that they receive adequate training otherwise they are threat.

Ana Ruiz Peralta

How proud I am of this community and of Pasco...testament to how great this community is...local institutions, the school. As a young man...in the 80s it was a lot higher than it is now. I was a young person then...what I'm trying to say is this community already has...I'm hoping that regardless of what we all accomplish we will be better and stronger and I want everyone to understand this is an excellent community. I always talk and brag about Pasco and this community.

Martin N. – EWU Mecha

This is a nation issue now. I am an undocumented immigrant and it's time to stand up. WUA – largest immigrant led youth and rally on April 11th. We will not be shut out and down anymore. I respect them to respect us and as a student and member of this community and I demand that they would like for the three police officers to be indicted. We would like to have a federal investigation. It is not fair that the police....fluent English? These kinds of issues have caused fear and issues and if we don't speak up we will never be heard. Thank you.

Community Member

I heard the sirens and turned on the internet and it was terrible. But the first thing the Pasco police did was to discredit him as an undocumented immigrant and a meth addict and no one knew that. They said he had mental health issues. ADA and not being shot. Mr. Sant said the police work separately. Tells a story of a woman who had a knife and all police there for three hours. That needs training. I could do it in 15 mins. They have been intimidating and harassing potential witnesses.

Community Member

I'm very worried about something with the Pasco police. I was a witness before. I've seen border patrol officers with ...I feel like there are criminals who've been treated better for a simple infraction. And there's something else I would like to mention, I think this investigation is a complete lie and complete farce. I don't think they are doing their job like they should be. I don't think they are doing their investigation properly and I would like to see a federal investigation. There's nothing we need to investigate. There is a video that speaks for itself. How Antonio was

executed. Why all of this protection we have for the criminals in the police? That puts the entire community at risk. I'm a frequent client who goes to Vera's bakery. I've gone with my wife and children. I almost always go there at the same time that this accident happened. I leave my son to go inside the bakery...

Jeremy Peterson

Tri – city community solutions. We've been out there every single day at city hall for this community. There were about a thousand people out in the streets. There are many people who are not here in this meeting. Joining MECHA on the 11th. Unity walk in 14th on a Tuesday. Asking for extra community. Come together and bring about real community solutions. Building a community safety net. No es gusto.

Jacklyn Ochoa

Thank the board with dealing with this as it's not an easy case. If people could understand that this is the first time that something like this has happened. It is a bad thing. As soon as we can get past this...stop persecuting the police for using their judgment as they were trained. Notes other things that are more important. I think those things can better our community than...

Community Member

This is a problem that goes beyond Pasco. Addressing the police killing across the nation. You see most of the ones being killed are poor, have mental problems, are homeless...we don't want a Ferguson situation here. We want you to look at how the rep. of those are governed are in your seats. There's this different and those who are already here...we are probably worse than Ferguson in some situations. This country is of dreams and probable that the police officers are going free 'cause they follow the law. We don't want that law then. We don't want that kind of police, city or country. We don't want that kind of...they call the person with the mental training of...don't kill the people. The three police officers are going to go through trainings....we don't know ...

Andres – people did sign up specifically for public comment. I have a list in front of me. I'd like to go through that list. If you've already spoken and used your time...

Cecilia Lopez

Thank you to the commission for facilitating this forum. My comment is an invitation...we need to unite. The message cannot be any clearer. I am very sudden to see Pasco feeling the pains of the big city. Militarizing of the police force...that is very scary. Police officer who responds to a man with a rock. I would rather be hit with a rock than once with a bullet. That is appalling. I am very emotional about this. I come from a country with a lot of violence. I grew up during a civil war and the response of the police and the actions of the police completely remind me of a police state and the people are afraid of a police state. I don't know how they are going to react. If I will be killed or another person will be killed. Apologies. I do suffer from PTSD in growing up from a civil war...and the scenes a lot and the war that has been very oppressive in the past. This is

what fuels my presence here and makes me stand up and say this is not acceptable. This is the place where we go for peace and where we look for finding that place we are safe.

Antonio Valero

Regarding the 4 officer related killings the past few months...including the shooting of COOPS citizens opposing police shootings. I did have a ten minute presentation. The community is not safe. The police is not safe and she post on...3-day or one everyday...you wonder why we feel terrorized by the police. COPS is emphatic that this is the a human rights issues but it's getting a race issues...I guess when exoneration is ...damn...is this justice... is the goal you got to make sure the T's are dotted and the I's are crossed. Not enough time.

Felix Vargas

We want to make change and we'd like to honor that. I've seen the worst of what war is and what it does. We are trouble by a lack of recognition that this is a problem. There are some here to tonight but you have to go to the Monday meeting and let them know. This should be an institutionalized agenda item. You also should know the police chief doesn't care about the incident. We're gonna have to do dialogue in the community, English and Spanish, training, new police culture. Some thought given to the selection about the police force in the community so they can feel safe again. We do it for our children and grandchildren. I hope we will see a favorable disposition of those in office. I thank you for this time.

Gabriel Portugal

I was trying to say that Pasco is going through a lot right now. crisis. There are some that are well informed and some that are misinformed. I've been working on a volunteer basis on the police force. Chief Austin. In every organization, you always have a bad apple. I think the officers in the video may be the bad apples but that doesn't mean the whole department is bad. We've reduced crime a lot. So to now think that the dept. is bad is not true. If there are changes that need to be done then they will be done. One member of race...is not accurate. I would like to help you let you know if you would like to know about the 70s and 80s about the violence there. The officers are here to serve us.

Mauricio Marin

I'm the owner of the bakery where the accident occurred. I just wanted to thank everyone, chief of police for the help that's being giving. people just don't feel comfortable going back to the bakery. I just want to know what to do and I think I've been one of the person most affected by this and I just want people to feel safer and go back to the baker. I'm here to be help to the police and the whole community. I would like things to be like before, people being happy and things being right like before. Thank you.

Eddie E. – We are, as a community, your boss. We are asking you to take a step back from this case and please as your bosses we're asking you.

Jeremy Peterson

Already spoke but just wanted to make a comment to bad apples. I think we all have to take a hard look at law enforcement across the country. There are laws and policies and inability to de-escalate a situation. It's because our system is set up wrong. There was a police chief in Madison. We can't even have accountability until we have a conversation about those systemic issues.

Rick Rios

Perception is reality. One of the problems is that there is only a perceived racial bias in the hiring practices of the police department. In January police chief Metzger had a meeting with ...and there were statements made...the problem they had exists with hiring Hispanics. There more qualified officers go elsewhere and we're...Metzger and John Wagner on News5 in Seattle. He knew that they weren't doing right but he didn't have...his comments that he were not simple going to hire policeman who were Hispanic or spoke Spanish 'cause that would be a disservice to the community...so they have to take what's left is a slap in the face of all the police department. 'cause what he's saying is, 'the public cares about us and there's not a problem and they don't want us'. He's not saying there's a problem with the white officers; he was saying it about the Hispanic officers. If you don't think the Hispanic officers are qualified then how can you....?

Fernando Cuevas

I'm very happy to see the authorities or the city and church are here tonight. If Pasco has big problem I'm happy to hear that the important players are here and listening to us. Ever since this case occurred the important thing I've seen was that person that was able to film what happened and upload it to the media. And I ask the authorities to recognize who these important people are even if they don't have money. Don't just look at the class of a person look at their actions. Also, I would like to speak a little bit about that the people that committed the murder are the notion that they were four hearts of the police at the time of the attack in the back, the three discharge their arms at him. There have been a lot of charges that he had a rock. Use up a little time. Before he was fired at and assaulted he looks and turns with his two hands towards the police. That case has no merit. I don't need any explanations. I don't want to know or see that those people are working in the police. Must not fall into the very corrupt way so the Mexican govt. now. that the most power officials are sitting with the police...

Andres – continues to ask for comment...

Ana Ruiz Peralta

Thank you and thank you commission. Welcome to Pasco. When I got married we moved away from here. Where's the best place to raise our three kids? We have invested a lot, not just time. We know that our kids can be successful. We are now majority and we have pride. Are we

perfect? No as I said to Chief Metzger. I'd like to encourage everyone to work together we can accomplish great things. If we can show the world how Pasco can come out of great problems that would be a wonderful things.

Community Member

Thanks council for holding the session. Question: asked Mr. Sant this question earlier and he answered to the best of his ability. Wanted to bring up again. Cases involving police shootings are unique and different and you can't lump them all together. The DOJ wants to do an investigation of the actual shooting of the officer and the depart as a whole. The officer was exonerated but the department as a whole returned a whole mess of problems...I'm getting a sense of a lot of anger, frustration and fear, I can only assume that if the DOJ were to do an investigation that it might do a great deal agrees in the concerns of the community. And

Gloria – Mr. Ormsby is again. Resources available.

Mr. Ormsby – US Attorney, Eastern Washington

Chief federal law enforcement available. The dept. has "pattern –practice investigation" we're not there yet. The community...they are in touch with chief Metzger. We certainly want to be available and help. The city of Spokane, cops program, two years. The other programs are through the office of justice programs including assessments...potentially available. At this point the dept. has not done any other investigation. We are available to the city and offered assessments. I'll be tomorrow as well if people have addition questions and comments to provide to the DOJ.

Ben Patrick

I appreciate you guys coming here. These are very real concerns. I want to plead to the DOJ and ATG's office and there are things that need to be looked into. If they don't want it to be a Ferguson they need to come and fix it beforehand. It needs to be addressed now before it gets bigger.

Chris and Dan Jensen

I've worked for ten years as county commissioners trying to get corrections to address community health things...numerous routes around the prosecuting board. A lot of good people there and a lot of good intentions. No money for mental health issues. Then a ballot for Benton county. Only 1/3 for criminal justice and the other 1/3 for mental justice. 100% of 93 million is going to mental health in Benton county. Not one dime going to mental health. Mr. Z was unfortunate as he was recently homeless...criminal justice money. They aren't really thinking about our issues and that can be addressed by the commission.

Miguel Peralta

Stigma that Pasco has...Pasco is a very safe place to live in. there was a period of time where it was pretty tough out there. The only thing I wanted to say was, I'm the owner of baker...we need to help out our community member. His business has gone down. Currently he is getting support form...the rest of the community need to go down there and support him. I don't know what time he close tonight...maybe some chocolate or pan dulce.

Christine Tucker

Moved from Texas 5 years old. These streets have nurtured me. I have twin boys who are 5 years old. They wanted to be police officers and now they don't want to 'cause they don't want to kill anyone. That scares me and they are scared. I hope one day they feel that passion for that town for Pasco. I have moved away and come back and there's no other place like Pasco. And we need to keep it that way and our community safe.

Dave Zabell – Pasco City Manager

I'm not here to talk tonight. None of the officials can answer. All are here. We have been listening and we have heard folks. We are taking the comments to heart. While we can't answer them tonight. We will be here tomorrow and we will see the process through. Our elected officials will be here tonight.

Community Member

Two children in Pasco...2 granddaughters. As Mr. Portugal said earlier, Pasco has come a long way. For the most part a lot of them haven't been here as members of the community as long. I do appreciate their work trying to make the community better. It's unfortunate that it took a loss of life to bring us here as a community but it is time. I have always felt safe here. But after the incident and I felt the need to have the conversation with her as she just started driving...that is not to say that my expectation that everyone who gets stopped by police will get shot but it has made me aware of the need to have that conversation...I am hopeful and with open conversation and input from community members of Pasco, it will be better, as long as we keep our dialogue, respectful open and honest.

Community Member

Prosecutor submitting evidence as video? Police brutality, training in communication and de-escalating a situation. Which do you think will choose? 4 people in Pasco more than the entire UK. And that's just half being reported. 10,000 in 10 years. Not Pasco, not tri-cities, not Ferguson. That's America. Look at the distain on the chief's face. That's oppression.

Benton city, Yes network. speak to issues of process and broader systemic issues. First questions of the session and by hearing the witness speak. In order for our justice system to be just we have to justice for all. To not investigate swiftly and fairly does justice nobody. There needs to be qualified training. The human mind is a wonderful and complex thing when we witness violence.

Lorenzo Cuevas

One thing that really bothers me a lot. That's the legalization of marijuana. Everybody because of this is the police are acting badly and everyone. First of all we have a lot of problems with alcohol and now this. It's too much. And that's why I think things are going the way they are....and getting worse. I think that they are going to pass a long with the country at majority.

Andres – concludes public comment.

Thanks and Acknowledgements: Next Steps

Chair Gloria Ochoa

I'd like to thank all the comment and those who've attending...talks about being from Pasco and her niece talking about public comment. Moved away 6 years ago. I practiced as a criminal defense lawyer and prosecuting attorney. Tonight we've heard that...there is a perception in this community that has been reiterated tonight. Distrust of public authorities and safety. Thanks Zabell and moving forward and supporting the community. I'd like to invite all of you to come tomorrow. I'd like to reiterate the statutory authority...our mandate is to advise the governor's office and assist and facilitate processes such as this to have this critical discussion and move forward. DOJ – Knight Sor there has been a process that has been initiated here...opportunity for community members to come to the table and open up dialogue and start those conversations... we'll be talking about that tomorrow with Knight. Providing a forum for community members to come forward and share their concerns...tomorrow 9-10 concurrent sessions with community organizations as well as the local authorities to continue that conversation and work on what are the next steps in action plan mind. We thank you for coming.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:59pm