

# Changing the Guard & Guarding the Change...

by Kat Rowoldt



July has already become one for the books. The citizens with a resounding voice and record turnout on July 2nd voted to remove two incumbents from office. The major race was the one for Police Chief. Just a few days later, July 7th, sniper bullets terrorized Dallas and struck fourteen, twelve being targeted at police officers, killing five. It was a nightmare like we'd never seen before.

Pastor Ralph Dawkins, Christian House of Prayer, quickly organized a Prayer Vigil for the next day at the San Angelo Police Department. People from around town, various churches, all races, rich and poor, old and young, gathered together to pray for our officers, our community and our country. It truly was a glimpse of heaven to come.



Over two hundred people changed their schedules to be at the police station to corporately pray. It was announced that evening that it appeared that there was a desire to continue this PRAYER MOVEMENT. So be it.



Photos from  
Prayer Vigil,  
Courtesy of  
*Faith in a  
Flash  
Photography*

Four days later, July 12th, Lane Carter was sworn-in to serve as the Councilman for SMD 5 for a three year term. Lt. Frank Carter was then sworn-in to serve four years as the Chief of Police. Both men gave credit to God, and Chief Carter said to mark July 12th as a new day for San Angelo.

Thursday, July 14th, news breaks from Nice, France, reminding us of the horrors last month in Orlando. Reality of a vastly troubled world, troubled nation, hangs heavily. People are slowly awakening. Society, life, is uneasy now.



Before the horror of Nice had occurred that day, a core group of people were meeting in San Angelo discussing how to carry on the prayer vigils, to keep our community, our first responders, our citizens, covered in prayer. It was decided that we would bring the praying community together again monthly to pray. We chose the first Thursday of each month at 7pm. The location would change each month, moving throughout our city. So save the date, August 4th, 7pm now. More details to be announced.



July 15th, Chief Frank Carter completed the changing of the guard. In an official ceremony, Carter swore in his Assistant Chiefs. Lt. Tracy Fincher, Lt. David Howard, and Robert Martinez (re-sworn) were sworn-in as Asst. Chiefs. The standing room only crowd, was celebratory. It was truly a new day for the San Angelo Police Department after twelve years under Chief Vasquez.

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Lt. Mike Hernandez commented to me 'that the "vibe" among the officers was tremendously uplifted. The officers felt like the city had their back by voting in their choice for Chief, that their concerns and voice had been heard.' Everyone seemed to be all smiles and looking forward to the days ahead.



July 17th, Sunday morning brings news of another ambush assassination of police officers out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. My how the world has changed, and changed so quickly. Prayer is needed like never before.



Interesting how the Lord brings things together for times such as these. With the changing of the guard, He has also brought together those who will guard the change by covering it with prayer. Also being organized is an Adopt-a-Cop & Leaders. San Angeloans are serious about their community and trouble is not welcomed here.

Until next time....

*Kat Rowoldt*

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