Chief opens discussion on armed police

Not only are there questions as to whether or not to arm officers, and if so which ones, but also the question of what to arm them with. The types of firearms that they would carry and have available to them, if Ohlone officials decide that is the path they wish to take, is something that would need to be decided.

Among the council, there was discussion of whether or not arming any officers was the correct move. It was concluded that the council wanted more information about crime statistics, what other community college security forces are like, public opinion, and other details before moving forward.

The council also wanted to hear from Ohlone’s officers as to whether carrying firearms would better enable them to do their jobs.

The debate of whether or not to arm campus police is not new—the issue has been raised at least as far back as 1976, and it has come up since then.

In 2005, then-Chief Steve Fajardo requested that Ohlone’s ‘one sworn officer be authorized to carry firearms.’ This request sparked debate among students, faculty and community members. Then-college President Doug Treadway ultimately decided against allowing officers to carry firearms because “the security officers currently on our staff are now doing and will continue to do an excellent job. They are keeping us safe and secure (without firearms).”

College Council meetings are open to everyone and public comments are welcome. The meeting schedule is available online at www.ohlone.edu/org/council/.

Have any thoughts or comments on this issue? We would like to hear them. Email us at monitor@ohlone.edu.

The Ohlone College police emblem is emblazoned onto the side of an emergency vehicle.

3 concerts coming to Smith Center this fall

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Tony Clements conducts the Ohlone Community Band during a performance in May at the Central Park Pavilion in Fremont.