

**LANCASTER SHERIFF'S STATION
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



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Introduction

The Lancaster Sheriff's Station Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was established in 2011 to promote a better understanding between the public and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD). It was created to be a bridge to building trust and promoting dialogue between local law enforcement and the community. The CAC functions to bring concerns and issues from the community to the Sheriff's Department and to address those concerns, establishing a partnership with the local community in the process. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department benefits from this two-way dialogue by gaining a greater understanding of the issues of concern in the communities they serve.

The CAC is composed of community members who volunteer their time to act as representatives of various constituencies. Committee members are not employed by the Sheriff's Department and do not receive any compensation for their time. As per the terms of the Antelope Valley (AV) Settlement Agreement (2015), the CAC produces regular reports. This annual report, produced by the CAC, covers their work from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

CAC Members

Christian Aligwekwe – Student, Antelope Valley College
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Allison Blaylock – OUTreach Center
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Brian Johnson – Pastor, True Life Community Church
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Cynthia Lehman – Professor, Antelope Valley College
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Manuel Magana - Retired (Active LASD Volunteers On Patrol), Lake Los Angeles Latino's in Action – no email address

Dave Mashore – CEO, Catalyst Foundation
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Tae'lor Moore - Student, Antelope Valley College
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Liza Rodriguez – Director, S.A.R.S./Valley Oasis
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Shunnon Thomas – President, NAACP (AV Chapter)
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Lynde Williams - Community Activist/Neighborhood Watch Captain
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Committee Structure

The Lancaster CAC formally established an administrative structure to more efficiently assist the Sheriff's Department in their collaboration and dialogue with our local communities.

Chairperson: Miguel Coronado

Vice Chairperson: Tae'lor Moore

Secretary: Cynthia Lehman

Station Liaison: Manny Magana

Activities Chairperson: Shunnon Thomas, Liza Rodriguez

Safety Chairperson: Christian Aligwekwe

Sergeant at Arms: Allison Blaylock

Duties of Officers

Chairperson

The Chairperson acts as the committee's leader and ensures that they function as a team. The Chairperson does not run the committee but spends time considering all assignments to make sure that all of the work of the committee is effectively delegated for completion. The Chairperson conducts the monthly meeting.

Vice Chairperson

The Vice Chairperson assists the Chairperson in executing the committee's mission and takes over the functions of the Chairperson when absent, in addition to other functions and duties required by the committee.

Secretary

The Secretary records the minutes of the committee and maintains all

correspondence, both internally and with public organizations, as required. The secretary attends to all correspondence of the organization. Additional duties may include issuing notices of meetings, preparing the agenda and other documents for the committee.

Station Liaison

The Station Liaison coordinates all dissemination of committee information to public venues, including publicity for upcoming Town Halls and public meetings. The Station Liaison may also respond to questions and concerns from the community that are directed to the Committee.

Activities Chairperson

The Activities Chairperson informs the committee about current and potential opportunities for the CAC to engage with the community, such as with Days of Dialogue, Open House, and other community events.

Safety Chairperson

The Safety Chairperson informs the committee of potential safety issues related to the community such as during holidays, special events, and weather-related incidents.

Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms ensures that the meetings begin and end on time.

Administrative Appointment Terms

All positions will be evaluated every six months and the committee can determine any additional offices and/or reappointments by majority consensus.

Quorum

A quorum will be established with the presence of half the committee plus one in attendance.

Voting

Majority consensus will determine the decisions made by the committee.

CAC Monthly Meetings

The CAC meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 pm. On occasion meetings are rescheduled due to time conflicts.

Monthly meetings in this reporting period include:

- 07/10/2018: Joint training session with Palmdale CAC and Department Of Justice Compliance Team
- 08/07/2018: CAC participation in National Night Out events
- 09/04/2018: Held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station
- 10/02/2018: CAC/Lancaster Station/California Highway Patrol (CHP) participation at Antelope Valley College screening of "Walking While Black"
- 11/20/2018: Held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station
- 12/04/2018: Held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station
- 01/01/2019: No meeting was scheduled in January
- 02/05/2019: Held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station
- 03/05/2019: Held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station
- 04/02/2019: CAC participation at Antelope Valley Union High School District meeting on school safety
- 05/14/2019: Several CAC members participated at the Community Academy (Spanish) role-playing and graduation. Other members attended a public meeting on schools.
- 06/04/2019: Quarterly public meeting at Gifford C. Cole Middle School

Concerns and Follow-up Addressed at Monthly Meetings

Minutes of all monthly CAC meetings are attached in the Appendix. The CAC works with Lancaster Station to make recommendations to address concerns brought forward by the public. The minutes detail the issues that were discussed and also elaborate on the follow-up provided by the CAC and Lancaster Station.

During the reporting period July 2018 - June 2019, there were some concerns from residents brought forward to the CAC in regards to long wait times on calls for service. As a committee, we have had discussions at our meetings about staffing issues and the large call volume received at the Lancaster Station. Residents have also raised these concerns at Town Hall meetings. Station leadership and the CAC have addressed these concerns with the public. The Station receives about 80,000 calls for service annually and all calls are answered in priority of greatest need. Station personnel have discussed with the public at our quarterly meetings that the Station's service area is quite large and it is to be expected that calls be answered first that require a more urgent response. It is anticipated, now that the Station is at full staffing capacity, that the community may see a slight decrease in wait times on calls for service.

CAC member Lynde Williams had one somewhat unfavorable incident with Station personnel during this report period. Following the death of a motorist near her home, a four-day vigil was held. During that time large crowds of mourners gathered in the residential street to pay respects to their lost friend. However, in mourning their friend, they were not so courteous to the surrounding homes and families, some with small children. Several residents, including her, called the Station to advise of the noise and sometimes reckless driving behavior on the "bikers" paying tribute. Deputies responded several times and mourners were warned. Eventually, a supervisor was assigned to monitor the event to ensure the safety of all persons. Ms. Williams commended the deputies for not over reacting to the mourners and adding fuel to an already emotional situation; however, she felt maybe something more could have been done to protect the interests of the residents when these types of situations occur. Although her concerns did not rise to the level of a formal complaint, she felt as though this

should be a topic for future community discussion. What are our community expectations for situations such as these? When there is a vigil or similar events, safety concerns must be addressed. The CAC would like to work with the Station on creating a plan for future events, such as this, that will take all of the above concerns into account.

CAC member Allison Blaylock (OUTreach Center) provided LGBTQ¹ education to deputies during patrol briefings between August and December 2018. In these briefings, she was able to share situations, discuss safety concerns, and bring up potential opportunities for better interactions between the Sheriff's Department and the LGBTQ community, mainly focusing on transgender issues. Station leadership, as well as deputies, attended these patrol briefings.

Deputies receive training on the Sheriff's Department's Policy on Equality during their time at the Academy. Additionally, they are provided in-service training (short trainings during briefings), when there are changes in the law. After speaking with station personnel, the CAC understands that the younger generation of today is generally more open to issues of gender identity and awareness. Lancaster Station has several sworn members who are part of the LGBTQ community whom provide insight and education, as well on issues of concern within the LGBTQ community. We do not have any specific concerns or issues that were brought forward by the public in regards to the Station and the LGBTQ community. Ms. Blaylock feels that the deputies have been given the education and tools to help them better service the LGBTQ community and possibly others outside of the LGBTQ community. The deputies have engaged in the conversations, to include asking questions and accepting feedback. Ms. Blaylock intends to continue to provide briefings to deputies at Lancaster Station in order to maintain open lines of communication. The CAC encourages station personnel to attend events and trainings, which will increase their knowledge and participation with the LGBTQ community.

The CAC also inquired of the Station in November 2018 of the possibility of members receiving the same bias-free policing training that is required of all deputies. Sergeant Theresa A. Dawson and Sergeant Andrew S. Nagel requested that this training be made available to both Lancaster Station and Palmdale Station CACs. The training took place on March 28, 2019 at Palmdale Station. The bias-free policing training was offered to the CACs as part of an on-going series of trainings. Other topics presented during CAC training sessions this past year include: LASD Policy of Equality, community policing, the complaint filing process, use of force guidelines, investigation process in deputy involved shootings, and mental health evaluation/psychological services.

CAC Quarterly Public Meetings

Quarterly public meetings in this reporting period were held on the following dates:

- 09/18/2018: at Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH),
44226 10th Street W., Lancaster
- 11/27/2018: at the Lake Los Angeles Rural Town Council meeting,
16801 E. Avenue P., Lake Los Angeles
- 02/21/2019: at Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH),
44226 10th Street W., Lancaster
- 06/04/2019: at Gifford C. Cole Middle School,
3126 E. Avenue I, Lancaster

On September 18, 2018 the CAC hosted a Town Hall at AVPH in Lancaster. About 80 community members and 12 deputies were in attendance at this event. The Town Hall was conducted as a panel discussion for about an hour and afterwards was opened to discussion from the community. Two of the Monitors were on hand to clarify the Monitoring Team (MT) report and answer questions as well. Each section of the AV Settlement Agreement (SA) was briefly summarized and any deficiencies and/or recommendations for improvement from the MT were presented so that the community could be made

aware of both the terms of the SA and the status of compliance with required reforms.

After the panel presentation, community members were encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback to the Sheriff's Department. Lancaster Station Captain Todd P. Weber spoke briefly on Constitutional Policing Training. He mentioned that all full-time deputies have received the training and the Sheriff's Department is in process of having all reserve deputies trained as well. The training is required to ensure that officers work within the parameters of the Constitution. This training, as Captain Weber stated, will make all LASD deputies better police officers and help restore trust within the community.

Community members asked questions about how to file complaints/commendations, diversion programs for youth, a recent hit and run incident on the Boulevard, and mail theft issues in Quartz Hill and Lancaster. Sergeant Dawson explained that community members can file complaints or commendations in person, by phone, online at www.LASD.org, or by mail. Forms are also available at each Antelope Valley Station.

Several CAC members and Sergeant Dawson replied to the questions about diversion programs for youth. LASD currently offers the Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives (VIDA) program and the schools participate in Youth Court. Both programs were created to keep children out of the criminal justice system. Lancaster Station also participates in a community collaborative program, Making Appropriate Choices "MAC" at Gifford C. Cole Middle School.

Every school in the District has a school resource deputy assigned from Sheriff's Department. In addition, the LASD actively reaches out to the youth in the area to build trust and healthy relationships. LASD is also working with the schools as they develop their own restorative justice programs.

The Lake Los Angeles (LLA) Rural Town Council requested the CAC and Lancaster Station to attend one of their meetings in the past year. On November 27, 2018, the CAC presented the June 2018 MT Report at the LLA Rural Town Council meeting. A 15-minute summary of the most recent report was provided and afterwards the Town Hall was opened for questions from the community.

We had about 40 residents and 7 deputies in attendance and the questioning and answering (Q/A) session lasted approximately 45 minutes.

Some of the concerns expressed by residents of Lake Los Angeles were illegal dumping and long response times on calls. Sergeant Dawson explained why sometimes there is a delay in responding to non-emergent calls and explained to residents how calls are prioritized into three categories: routine, priority, and emergent.

Sergeant Dawson also explained the process for filing complaints and commendations when station personnel failed or exceeded community member's expectations. She informed community members they can file complaints in person, by phone, online, or by mail. Forms are available at both Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff's Stations, the Lake Los Angeles Sub Station, and AV community libraries. In addition, she mentioned that the Station desires to work with the community to address their crime concerns. She asked that community members reach out to the Sheriff's Department and invite personnel to their neighborhood watch meetings and community events.

On February 21, 2019, the CAC presented the most recent MT Report at AVHP. A brief 15-minute presentation of the MT Report was given, along with a discussion of the principles of Community Policing. Approximately 80 residents and 10 deputies attended the meeting. The Q/A session lasted for over an hour and community members raised questions in regards to the two recent deputy involved shootings in Lancaster. Captain Weber provided details of how officer involved shootings are investigated by the Sheriff's Department. He discussed the information that was available for release to the public pending a formal investigation. Audience member questions were also answered in regards to the psychological services made available to deputies after a critical incident.

Community members raised questions regarding identity and mail theft, Sheriff's Department policy on interactions with the homeless population, and mental health training provided to deputies. There was a lot of dialogue between community members and deputies in the Q/A session. Deputies shared information with the public on how not to become a victim of identity theft.

Sergeant Dawson, a Commissioner on the Homeless Impact Commission, spoke about the assistance provided by the city, county, and nonprofit agencies to help individuals who are homeless. Captain Weber addressed the question regarding mental health training all deputies receive on mental health topics. He also noted that policing in today's society is more complex because of the mental health crisis we have in this country. To address that situation, the Sheriff's Department created a specialized unit (Mental Evaluation Team) that is extensively trained to deal with community members who have mental illness. This is another resource local deputies can call upon if needed.

The last quarterly public meeting in this reporting period occurred on June 4, 2019, at Gifford C. Cole Middle School. About 25 community members and 10 deputies attended the meeting. A brief summary of the MT report was presented, along with a discussion on community policing. Topics discussed in the Q/A session were illegal fireworks in Lancaster, the city's consideration of a city police force to handle non-criminal calls, and the recent Community Academy (Spanish). One of our residents had a concern about illegal fireworks in his neighborhood and wanted to know what the Station does to investigate these incidents. He was extremely frustrated because his neighborhood looked like a war zone. However, by the time deputies arrived there was no one in sight and the deputies were unable to apprehend the person who was setting off the fireworks to cite them.

The resident cited his location and one of the deputies in attendance was the patrol deputy assigned to that same neighborhood. The deputy was able to explain how the Station handles calls about fireworks and stated that extra patrol would be provided on the Fourth of July, along with additional help from the Fire Department, since the illegal fireworks are a citywide problem and not just isolated to certain neighborhoods. The patrol deputy was able to obtain a precise location from the resident with the complaint and promised the resident that he would be more effective on patrol knowing the exact address of the source of the illegal fireworks. Deputies also encouraged all residents to report such problems to the Station's fireworks complaint hotline. Residents were

encouraged to take photos of the source of the fireworks to use in filing formal citizen's complaints.

A community member asked about the City Council's decision to possibly create a city police force to assist the Sheriff's Department in dealing with quality of life issues in Lancaster. The resident said it was their understanding the city hoped to determine if a city police force could deal with the non-criminal issues and free up valuable resources for the Sheriff's Department to focus on crime prevention and criminal investigations. Lieutenant Joseph F. Fender responded to the question and told the audience that the City Council was discussing the added police force and the idea did not come from the Sheriff's Department. He added that the Sheriff's Department does not have any information on how this police force will be staffed and what their services will be within the city. He referred all questions regarding the new city police force to the City of Lancaster.

Several recent graduates of the Spanish Community Academy attended the quarterly public meeting. They were introduced to the audience and Sergeant Dawson briefly explained the program. The Community Academy is an eight-week program designed to educate residents about law enforcement. Participants learn about LASD policy and crime prevention topics. They also engage in role-playing exercises and a ride-along to learn what police officers experience on patrol.

Lancaster Station hosted the first-ever all Spanish, Community Academy in Spring 2019. The Academy was not held at the Station, so as to make attendees feel more comfortable. In addition, Lancaster Station provided childcare to the participants. CAC members were invited to attend weekly Academy meetings and the final class meeting/graduation held on May 14, 2019. The Community Academy was very successful in reaching out to the Latino community. This is another avenue for the Station to build and strengthen a partnership with Spanish-speaking residents in Lancaster. The Station plans to conduct another Spanish Community Academy in 2020, possibly in a two-day format to allow for larger attendance.

Advertising of Quarterly Public Meetings

For all Station events (including the CAC public quarterly meetings), the Lancaster Station Community Relations staff generates a press release with all the details and purpose of the event/meeting/dialogue. This press release is sent to both English and Spanish speaking press and radio stations that have registered with the LASD, as well as with the Sheriff's Department's Headquarters Media Unit. Additionally, Lancaster Station staff posts the event on all social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Nixle). Approximately 1000 flyers are printed and distributed by patrol deputies, school resource deputies, CAC members, and station volunteers. The flyers are posted in areas throughout the city where residents may not receive traditional and/or multimedia information sources. Targeted outreach is also done by CAC members and Sergeant Dawson, who notify special interest groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Community Action League (T-CAL), and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). These groups have a vested interest in community development.

The CAC maintains its own Facebook page in which the committee has the freedom (within reason) to post any information they feel would be of interest to the community. All Lancaster Station community events and dialogues are posted on the CAC's group page as well as through the NAACP's newsletter and individual CAC member contact lists.

Concerns and Follow-up from Quarterly Public Meetings

Lancaster Station conducted surveys following all the quarterly public meetings in this reporting period. The surveys asked participants to evaluate the public meetings and for their input on crime and quality of life concerns.

Lancaster Station uses these surveys to collect information so they can provide

better use of their resources in the community. Each neighborhood has unique concerns and this is why the Station schedules public meetings at different locations throughout the year. The CAC assists the Station in creating the survey and in gathering feedback from residents at all public meetings. All completed surveys were reviewed and discussed with the CAC at the monthly meetings.

Community members have brought forth their crime and quality of life concerns at quarterly public meetings. The CAC and Station are working on ways to address those crime and quality of life issues. We as a committee would like to see crime prevention topics continued to be discussed at every quarterly public meeting. The participation of our residents is vital in the process of having an effective Community Policing Model in Lancaster. However, obtaining community buy-in and participation has been difficult. Having residents complete the survey at public meetings has been a challenge. The return rate on the surveys is less than half the attendance and often the responses are either vague or contain allegations/complaints that can't be verified. Sometimes comments are made at public meetings that also contain allegations that can't be substantiated.

The CAC realizes that the Station is reaching out to the community for feedback and is making itself available to all residents who wish to engage with law enforcement. The CAC and Lancaster Station have discussed the issue of reaching out to communities that have a history of distrust of the police. The CAC understands that this endeavor will continue to be a challenge and will strive to work with the Station to find creative ways to engage these populations who may not want to attend a public meeting with the Sheriff's Department.

Station leadership and deputies have successfully discussed community policing with residents at Town Halls in this reporting period. The community was encouraged to become active participants in keeping their neighborhoods safe and was provided education on ways to not become a victim of crime. The Station welcomes feedback from residents on ideas and priorities to effectively deploy their resources.

At the Town Halls that were presented in this reporting period the public was provided with a summary of the most recent MT's Six-Month Report. The feedback the CAC has received from the community on the MT Report is that it was very difficult to read and understand. The CAC is aware of discussions with the MT and DOJ in regards to the language used in the Six-Month Reports. The CAC believes the wording of the reports is difficult to understand for the average person because the reports are written for the legal teams involved in monitoring compliance with the SA. The CAC is concerned that the reports are not written in a way that the public can understand exactly how much progress has been made by the Sheriff's Department since the implementation of the SA. The CAC would like to know from the MT's perspective where Lancaster Station is in regards to fulfillment of the terms of the SA in language that can be easily understood by the average person.

Over 200 reforms were made by the Sheriff's Department when the SA was reached. The CAC and the public deserve to know what those reforms were and how they were implemented by the Sheriff's Department. The CAC requests that the MT and DOJ provide a detailed list of all the reforms in order to show the progress that Lancaster Station has already made. The reports that have been written to this point do not reflect on the reforms and successes made by the Sheriff's Department. In some instances, allegations are made in those MT reports that aren't substantiated with any evidence. The CAC would like to see all future reports presented in a more balanced manner. The committee wishes to see the MT acknowledge the positive achievements and strengths of Lancaster Station in terms of fulfilling the requirements of the SA.

The CAC also believes that the MT's Six-Month Reports should be provided in Spanish. The Sheriff's Department provides all their written materials in English and Spanish and the CAC feels that the MT should also provide their material in Spanish for our Spanish-speaking residents in the Antelope Valley. The CAC has had conversations with the MT in regards to obtain a Spanish translation of their reports. Lack of funding was cited as the reason why the report is not available in Spanish. Lancaster Station does a significant amount of

outreach to the Latino community and with the recent success of the Spanish Community Academy; the CAC believes that they have a legitimate reason for requesting the Spanish translation of the MT Reports.

Community Engagement Review

Lancaster Station produces an annual report of all their community engagement efforts. This report is posted on the Lancaster Station's website and the CAC's Facebook page. Community engagement activities include presentations/discussions with children at local schools, attendance at community events, and participation at civic and community meetings. CAC members also regularly attend community events with Lancaster Station. Examples of Lancaster Station's community engagement efforts include: attendance at Black History Month celebrations, sponsorship and attendance at Antelope Valley College's Black History Quiz Bowl competition, participation at the Cinco de Mayo celebrations in Lake Los Angeles, *Boo!vd* Trick or Treating with children, a variety of school presentations throughout the year, mentorship in the MAC Program (anti-drug program) at Gifford C. Cole Middle School, homeless outreach, collaboration with the OUTreach Center (LGBTQ community), Christmas toy drives for area children, and participation/sponsorship in fundraisers that benefit local nonprofits. Lancaster Station personnel also regularly attend civic and community meetings; such as NAACP, City Council, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Homeless Impact Commission, Neighborhood Watch meetings, Chamber of Commerce, and the OUTreach Center. Lancaster Station has an extensive community engagement calendar and these types of interactions allow for open dialogue between all residents of the Antelope Valley and the Sheriff's Department. The CAC believes that these opportunities for dialogue will continue to build trust within our community and hopefully encourage the public to become more actively involved with the Station's Community Policing Plan.

The following section will highlight some of the specific events that CAC

members participated in with Lancaster Station during the report period July 2018 – June 2019:

***Walking While Black* film screening and panel discussion at Antelope Valley College (AVC)**

The film “Walking While Black” was screened at AVC on 10/02/18. This event afforded an opportunity to discuss the current state of relations between the public and the police in the U.S., while also giving our residents a chance to ask questions related to quality of life and crime concerns in the Antelope Valley.

During the Q & A session, audience questions covered topics related to the training of LASD deputies, LASD relations with communities of color, and school safety. Captain Weber explained that all deputies receive the best possible training on Constitutional and Biased-Free Policing and they are held accountable for their actions. Station personnel participate in community events not related to law enforcement efforts in an attempt to engage the community on a more intimate and friendly level. The Sheriff’s Department has high standards in regards to the actions and behavior of all personnel and everyone is equally held accountable for living up to those standards. Discussion followed this question and the audience was reminded by the facilitators that we all as a community need to work together to treat one another with support and respect in order to create the safe community we want to live in.

Another audience question was, “Do the police disregard the Black and Brown communities? What is being done by law enforcement to make the police more involved in our community?” In 2012, Sergeant Dawson reached out to local African American churches to begin a dialogue on issues of concern regards to negative interactions with the police. This first dialogue opened the door to several other meetings and dialogues within the African-American community. Deputies are now attending community meetings and regularly meet with African American community leaders and pastors to discuss issues and concerns as they arise. Sergeant Dawson mentioned that on-going training on implicit bias and Constitutional Policing is mandatory at both AV stations. Police

must have a reason for stopping someone and each incident is documented. Supervisors are also held accountable for evaluating the logs of their deputies. All stops data is collected, coded, and trackable by Station supervisors and the DOJ. Every stop and search is logged by each deputy and the data is trackable to ensure public safety and trust.

Additionally, Captain Broneer discussed the CHP's Public Trust Initiative. The CHP also works to reach out to the community and build trust with law enforcement. Most of their contacts with the public are traffic stops and they make it a priority to at least discuss one positive comment with drivers when they come into contact with them. The CHP has a proven record of assisting people in need and they also give back to the community through a variety of programs.

Coffee With a Deputy

"Coffee With a Deputy" is a monthly program hosted by Lancaster Station at Crazy Otto's restaurant. Monthly coffees allow the public to interact with deputies and to learn crime prevention strategies. In addition to the monthly meetings, AVC hosted a special edition "Coffee With a Deputy" in the college cafeteria. Lancaster Station and AVC faculty work together to provide opportunities for dialogue between students and deputies. On October 16, 2018, 120 students from the college and about 15 deputies attended the event, which was held as an open discussion in small groups.

Most of the students who participated expressed their gratitude to the deputies who attended the event. Examples of student feedback include:

"I thought this was a good chance to talk and get some understanding of how they work and I think we should do more."

"The event was pretty cool. The deputies were really nice and down to earth."

"I really enjoyed the coffee with a deputy event because it gave me a chance to sit down and just talk with a sheriff. The event gave me a chance to see what they see and gave me a lot of insight into how they feel and their point

of view of the job. Many of them went to AVC and had some of the same teachers as I did. So I got a new level of respect for deputies.”

“I found the event to be very refreshing. It was nice to meet with law enforcement in a non-threatening environment. I really enjoyed seeing them and talking to them in a human to human situation. Deputy Telles was especially nice as she answered my questions and concerns. She gave me a different perspective on law enforcement.”

“I highly enjoyed coffee with a deputy. I liked how direct I could be with the officer I spoke with. We may not have had the same opinions throughout but we both found common ground and always remained respectful. The officer I spoke with was very open to hearing my opinions and I know he took some of what I said and may apply it to reality one day. Gave me good insight into his life and concerns.”

“The event was a nice way for a meet and greet. It’s a wonderful idea to have often based on the constant social encounters of regular civilians and law enforcement. It opens a platform for discussions and concerns of individuals.”

“I thought it was very informative, it gave me a better sense of what is going through a cop’s mind when they pull you over. Even though our head may be saying start looking for your licenses, registration and all that. It’s better to wait and keep your hands on the wheel, until you are indicated to do so.”

“I think it would be good to have more events like this in future where I’d get the chance to speak with more than one deputy.”

“Talking with the deputy was very calming because before I would get scared if I was ever confronted by a police officer. I didn’t know what to expect and when I talked to the deputy, she made it clear that officers are people too. And they also get scared and its very reassuring knowing that they feel the same way we do.”

“The female deputy that I spoke with was very knowledgeable and understanding. One thing I learned was that most people don’t understand how complicated and emotional being a deputy can be. I’ve gained a lot more respect for them.”

The Station and the college have been working together to host events for the past several years. This outreach is also an important component of the Station's youth outreach efforts.

“Boold” Trick or Treating

Lancaster Station participates annually in the Trick or Treating event on the Boulevard in Lancaster. This is a great family-friendly event, where the community is given a chance to meet and talk with deputies in a positive non-enforcement capacity. Station personnel attended the event throughout the day to give out candy to children, pose for pictures with families, and to talk with local residents. The event is a wonderful program aimed at building bridges with the community and showing the human side of law enforcement. “Boold” is one of the most popular annual events in our community. Lancaster Station's participation at this event will hopefully encourage the public to see the value in working in partnership with law enforcement to ensure a high quality of life for area residents.

Tip-a-Cop at Crazy Otto's - Special Olympics fundraiser

Lancaster Station raises money throughout the year for Special Olympics. The Tip-a-Cop fundraiser is one of the more successful events that contribute to this great cause. At this event, deputies served as waiters and waitresses and were able to chat with customers at the restaurant in a relaxed environment. Patrons of the restaurant could leave tips that were then donated to Special Olympics. The casual atmosphere encourages communication. Again, the public gets to see law enforcement in a positive and more human perspective. Events such as this will promote the idea of community partnership. These types of interactions can only serve to strengthen the bonds between our community and the Sheriff's Department.

Recommendations

The CAC minutes of February 2019 reflect a discussion the committee brought forward regards the use of bike and foot patrols in Lancaster. Some of our residents suggested the added patrols at our Town Halls.

Since the February CAC meeting Lancaster Station has reinstated the use of bike and foot patrols on Lancaster Blvd. The Blvd attracts a lot of foot traffic and allows the deputies the ability to interact with the community on a more intimate level while still being in close proximity to the Station. The CAC and Lancaster Station have discussed the feasibility of adding bike and foot patrols and the CAC recognizes the difficulty and challenges in doing so. Due to the distance from the Station and other considerations, such as call volume, having regular bike and foot patrols in the residential neighborhoods would not be a wise use of resources at this time.

The CAC believes that Lancaster Station does an incredible job reaching out to the public and making itself available for feedback. Deputies attend a wide variety of community events and they are always accessible for dialogue with residents. Captain Weber also participates frequently at community and civic meetings, along with additional Station leadership. The public is able to comment, ask questions, and receive immediate feedback to any issues or concerns they may have at these meetings. Our CAC strongly believes that Lancaster Station places a high priority on building and maintaining open lines of communication with the public. The Community Relations Unit at the Station is always seeking to build new programs and increase outreach to our community. The CAC will continue to work with Lancaster Station to build and maintain those community partnerships already in place and to recommend creative ways to reach out to communities that may still distrust the police.

APPENDIX

Lancaster Sheriff's Station
Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2018

1. Call to Order

Shunnon Thomas called the meeting to order at 1838 hrs on September 4, 2018 at Lancaster Sheriff's Station.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Dawson, Sgt. Molidor, Lynde Williams, Cynthia Lehman, Miguel Coronado, Tae'lor Ross (Moore), Christian Aligwekwe, Shunnon Thomas, Brian Johnson, Liza Rodriguez, Allison Blaylock

3. Captain's Report

Capt. Weber discussed the National Night Out events in August. This year Lancaster Station hosted two separate events. Sheriff McDonnell attended the National Night Out in Lancaster on August 2, 2018. He was in attendance for over two hours, which was a significant statement on his part since the demands on his time are overwhelming. The public seemed especially grateful that the Sheriff was so approachable and interacted during the event with the community.

Capt. Weber also discussed the Station's participation at the AV Fair this year. The Station provides security at the Fair every year. Full time deputies, reserve deputies, and volunteers work alongside AV Fair security. The Station also coordinates with probation and parole to provide additional support. Sgt. Dawson and Dep. Klein are in charge of the event and stay at the fairgrounds all ten days of the fair, also assisting with setting up and breaking down the stations command post. Participation by Lancaster Station also allows deputies the opportunity to meet and engage with the community in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Capt. Weber mentioned the recent DOJ out briefing with both CACs in June 2018. DOJ discussed the positive and negative concerns they had with the two CACs from the most recent Monitoring Update. Lancaster Station CAC is now more organized and is addressing the prior concerns raised by DOJ.

4. New Business

a) New Member Introductions

The Committee members all introduced themselves and one new member was introduced. Cynthia Lehman joined the CAC in August. She teaches at Antelope Valley College and has previously worked with Lancaster Station to host a “Days of Dialogue” event at the college in March 2018.

b) CAC Member Responsibilities

Shannon Thomas led the Committee in a discussion of the administrative structure of the CAC and the responsibilities of every member. The CAC was also reminded by Sgt. Dawson that they should make every attempt to attend all meetings of the Committee. It was also stressed that members may not be running for elective office at any time during the period of their appointment to the CAC.

The Committee discussed the positions within the CAC and the role of each office. It was agreed by majority consent that we would use a 6-month rotation cycle to allow members to change offices within the Committee. Group consent was attained regarding the position description and duties of each office.

There was some discussion regarding the use of a group messaging system. Several members do not use the GroupMe app for a variety of reasons. For now, it was agreed that we would use text messaging and email to communicate with the group on CAC business. We will explore the use of a group-messaging app at some point in the future.

c) CAC Goals 2018-19

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

d) Annual Report 2017-18

The Committee reviewed and revised the CAC Semi Annual Community Report, after the addition of a few minor corrections and Department review, it will be submitted to the DOJ Monitoring team.

Shannon Thomas and Lynde Williams spoke briefly on the success of the CAC quarterly report and Station’s visit to the homeless shelter on June 26, 2018. The CAC felt the shelter/homeless population was a portion of the community that should not be overlooked, and deserved the opportunity to be informed of the agreement and Department's progress.

CAC members and Station personnel went to the homeless shelter and fed the community there. The deputies were dressed in jeans and t-shirts, which made the people there feel more comfortable. Sgt. Dawson said it was important

for Station personnel to sometimes project a softer image to the public by appearing in civilian clothes rather than in uniform. It makes the public feel the Sheriff's Department is more approachable for dialogue. She stated that the homeless population themselves are often the victims of crimes and may have their own distrust of law enforcement so a more relaxed appearance may be beneficial in reaching out to that population. CAC members agreed. Lynde said she is excited about the connection and she is looking into funding resources to help the homeless shelter acquire picnic tables and air conditioning units. The CAC unanimously agreed future events at the shelter would be beneficial.

e) Town Hall (September 18, 2018)

The upcoming Town Hall will be on 9/18/2018 from 6-8pm at Antelope Valley Partners for Health, 44226 10th Street West in Lancaster. This discussion will focus on the June 2018 Monitoring Update, as required by the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

The Activities Chairperson will be communicating with the group on how this event will be structured.

f) Upcoming Quarterly Meetings Scheduling

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

g) Incident on Sunday (added to the agenda with majority consent)

Lynde Williams brought up an incident that occurred this past Sunday to get more information from Capt. Weber. There was an incident on the Boulevard where it was reported that a large group of people were blocking the street and deputies ordered the crowd to disperse. No arrests were made. The belief is that this incident was somehow connected to an earlier hit and run.

Capt. Weber explained that it is possible to identify the vehicle in a hit and run with as little as a partial plate number. Even with only 2 numbers and a vehicle description it could be possible to find the vehicle involved in an incident.

5. Old Business

Community Policing Training

Sgt. Dawson distributed a guidebook on 21st Century Policing and shared a new form with the CAC. The new form is a scannable document that will allow the Station to track community concerns both nuisance and criminal, as well as document and track community concerns that do not rise to the level of a complaint. This information was not previously tracked.

These forms can be distributed by CAC members/Station personnel and can be brought to the Station by any community member or any member of the CAC. The lack of a trackable complaint system was an issue raised by DOJ in previous

Monitoring Updates, which the Station has now resolved. Due to time constraints the training previously slated for tonight was postponed to address the following discussion.

6. Discussion – Comments Brought to CAC by Community

Miguel Coronado discussed concerns that were brought to him by members of the community in regards to possible gang-affiliated tattoos within the Antelope Valley Sheriff's Stations. An article that appeared in the *LA Times* recently quotes a former deputy from Palmdale Station commenting on cliques within the Station and the re-appearance of tattoos, which were a serious concern more than a decade ago. Coronado expressed concerns that many community members feel the problem has resurfaced and it now includes a large number of deputies at both Stations.

Miguel Coronado has spoken with Sheriff McDonnell in regards to the community concerns about the tattoos. Sheriff McDonnell announced on July 26, 2018 that the Department will launch an internal investigation into the allegations of cliques and tattoos. This recommendation was made by the Civilian Oversight Commission and the Sheriff's Department leadership has stated that there is a zero tolerance policy on any gang-related tattoos for Department personnel.

Miguel Coronado did meet privately with both Capt. Weber and Capt. Kneer in August to discuss his concerns. He expressed criticism at the CAC meeting over the fact that the Stations did not tell their CAC members about the extent of the problems at each Station with the tattoos. Sgt. Dawson questioned him on the use of the term "renegade deputies" that he used to describe the prevalence of the problems in the AV. Coronado mentioned the skull and helmet tattoo as an example of where the "renegade" image comes from. This tattoo is linked to Compton Station.

Sheriff McDonnell in an earlier press release stated that it would take approximately three months for the internal investigation to yield a report to the public. A report is expected closer to November 2018. Miguel Coronado hopes that the report will shed light on the extent of the problem with gang-related symbols at both AV Stations, what the tattoos symbolize and what the initiation process is prior to a deputy obtaining a particular tattoo.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 2018 hrs.

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

Lancaster Sheriff's Station
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2018

1. Call to Order

Shunnon Thomas called the meeting to order at 1813 hrs on November 20, 2018 at Lancaster Sheriff's Station.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Sgt. Dawson, Cynthia Lehman, Miguel Coronado, Tae'lor Ross (Moore), Christian Aligwekwe, Shunnon Thomas, Allison Blaylock

3. Approval of Minutes from September 4, 2018

4. Captain's Report

The Captain's Report was not presented.

5. New Business

a) Town Hall, Lake Los Angeles, November 27, 2018

The Committee was reminded of the upcoming Town Hall in Lake LA. We will try a new format for this meeting as the Monitoring Team requested more time for audience questions. Our formal presentation will be shortened to 15 minutes as per MT recommendations from October 2018 Joint CAC meeting.

The CAC then went into a discussion on how we all need to be accessible to the community by attending events. Sgt. Dawson mentioned how Palmdale Station is always posting photos to their Facebook page demonstrating the events they attend. Our CAC needs to do that as well. We need to attend public meetings and other events and at least let the community know who we are and ask if they have concerns. Several members voiced agreement on this issue.

Cynthia requested that all CAC members write a personal reflection on every public meeting we conduct so all of our opinions get voiced in the next report to DOJ. Sgt. Dawson distributed Cynthia's reflections from the AVPH Town Hall of September and the film screening hosted by AVC in October. Cynthia also requested short narratives of any events we attend and how they

should mention our observations of interaction between the community and Station.

Sgt. Dawson suggested at public events that we at least introduce ourselves to the community and briefly explain how a complaint can be filed at the Station. She said we need to demystify the complaints process so people understand that they can file in person, online, over the phone and even ask to speak to a Watch Commander. She specifically discussed how the Watch Commander will speak to all parties involved in any complaint and work to mediate the process to resolution. It is important that the public knows that we take all complaints seriously at the Station. DOJ wants to see evidence that the complaint process is in accord with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

b) CAC Goals 2018-19

The committee established several goals for the year. 1) More pictures at public events and they will be posted to social media, 2) Conduct a public meeting in Spanish, 3) Request that the Monitoring Team provide a Spanish translation of every future MT Six-Month Report, 4) Conduct a Youth Summit.

c) Upcoming Quarterly Meetings

We discussed the possibility of field trips to cultural venues. Perhaps we could transport interested people to events in LA and have discussion and engagement with our communities at different museums or public events. It was also discussed that we should look for events locally and request that the CAC and Lancaster Station be invited for a brief introduction. Sgt. Dawson has reached out to different community organizations in Lancaster and requested to be notified of upcoming events that we can attend. She mentioned that she almost never hears anything back from the organizations that she has reached out to for engagement.

Miguel noted that on January 21, 2019 there is a leadership gala in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Perhaps some of the CAC can attend that event.

Sgt. Dawson requested that all CAC members log the events and volunteer work they do so we can publicize that information on social media and include it in our next MT Report. All personal narratives should be sent to Cynthia to include in the next report.

We tentatively set February 21, 2019 as the date of the next Quarterly Public Meeting. A location has yet to be determined.

d) Town Hall Surveys from September 18, 2018

Discussion followed on the survey results of the September Town Hall. The CAC did not like the survey form that was distributed to the public so

we will be creating a new form to get better feedback from the community at future public meetings.

6. Old Business

Community Policing Training

Sgt. Dawson distributed a guidebook on 21st Century Policing. She explained how community policing reflects the idea that law enforcement has to educate the public about policy and also ask the community for input as to their concerns. We are all partners in community-oriented policing.

Sgt. Dawson explained how there is no waiting list to come to Lancaster Station after Academy Training. She has asked for the CAC to be provided with the same bias-free policing training that Station deputies now receive. It will help us to understand the SA and the reforms that have been made so we can share that information with the community.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 1951 hrs.

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

Lancaster Sheriff's Station
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2018

1. Call to Order

Shunnon Thomas called the meeting to order at 1810 hrs on December 4, 2018 at a special meeting at the AV Stations Community Academy event at the AV Fairgrounds. The meeting was a brief one so that the CAC could engage with the Community Academy as they conducted their final class meeting/field evaluation.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Dawson, Sgt. Molidor, Cynthia Lehman, Miguel Coronado, Shunnon Thomas.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2018 were sent out for email review to CAC

4. Captain's Report

The Captain's Report was not presented.

5. New Business

a) Upcoming Quarterly Meetings

The committee set a date for the public meeting conducted in Spanish. A tentative date of January 29, 2019 was set pending receipt of the Monitoring Report translated in Spanish. Ali Villalobos will translate the CAC created PowerPoint into Spanish for presentation. We will have Station personnel and CAC members fluent in Spanish at this public meeting to facilitate dialogue.

We also tentatively set February 21, 2019 as the date of another Quarterly Public Meeting. A location has yet to be determined.

Miguel mentioned a local Salvadoran community organization that we may want to reach out to for engagement. He will look into the contact person for this group and provide feedback to CAC.

b) New survey form for public events

Cynthia provided a draft of a new survey form for use at future public events. The committee made revisions to the form and Cynthia will amend and forward to the CAC for final approval prior to implementation.

c) Reflections on CAC meetings and events

Sgt. Dawson asked the committee to think about ways in which to get the Six-Month report out to the public. We already use public meetings, the Station website, Station and CAC social media accounts and AV Scanners social media and group accounts.

Shunnon recommended we start a mailing list for distributing Station and CAC reports and updates. We can use a sign-in sheet at future meetings to collect email addresses. Shunnon volunteered to take responsibility for maintaining the mailing list.

Capt. Weber asked if we could reach out to Lilia Galindo, the host of the local radio show *Café Con Leche* for publicity on future events.

d) Debriefing on recent Officer Involved Shooting in Lancaster

Capt. Weber provided a formal debriefing of the November 25, 2018 shooting to the CAC prior to our Lake LA Town Hall on November 27, 2018. He provided follow-up discussion at the December 4, 2018 meeting as not all CAC members were present at Lake LA. His debriefing was very detailed and explained the process that occurs after every OIS. The CAC was able to ask questions to understand what is happening regards this investigation.

6. Old Business

Community Policing Training

Sgt. Dawson distributed a guidebook on 21st Century Policing at the November 20, 2018 meeting. The CAC has been discussing concepts of community policing at every meeting, both public and private. This topic will be ongoing at future CAC meetings and public events.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 1853 hrs.

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

Lancaster Sheriff's Station
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2019

1. Call to Order

Shunnon Thomas called the meeting to order at 1811 hrs on February 5, 2019.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Dep. Chapman, Dep. Deciga, Miguel Coronado, Cynthia Lehman, Shunnon Thomas, Christian Aligweke, Dave Mashore, Lynde Williams, and Tae'lor Ross (Moore).

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes from December 4, 2018 were sent out for email review to CAC.

4. Captain's Report

The Captain's Report was not presented.

5. New Business:

a) Spanish Language Town Hall

Cynthia discussed the email the committee received from the Monitoring Team regards our CAC's request for a Spanish translation of the most recent MT Report of December 2018. The CAC requested the translation so we can have it for our planned Spanish language Town Hall in 2019. The MT response back to our CAC was that the report is not available in Spanish due to the MT not having a budget. We as a CAC feel that the MT should provide the report in Spanish for our Spanish speaking community. Lancaster Station currently provides all written material in Spanish and the translation is provided by Station personnel. We believe that the MT should also have to provide their written material in Spanish since LASD is held to that standard.

Our CAC wanted a Spanish translation of this report so we can provide community members with the report at the Town Hall. We as a committee will move forward and set a date for the Spanish language Town Hall.

b) Town Hall on February 21, 2019

The committee discussed the upcoming presentation of the December 2018 MT Six-Month Report at AVPH, 6-8pm. Our CAC read and discussed the report and we decided how it would be presented to the community.

Discussion also centered on how difficult it is to read and understand the MT Six-Month reports. Our CAC believes that the public can't understand the reports because they are confusing. We would like to see a summary provided by the MT that is concise and clear for future reporting periods.

The committee also discussed the baseline survey data that has not yet been released for the public. The baseline survey was conducted in February 2018. Our CAC would like to see this data so we can better work with Lancaster Station on any areas defined by the public as areas of concern. We did follow up with the MT in regards to the release of the data and we have been told it will be released soon to our committee and for public view.

We will follow the format of the Town Hall as recommended by the Monitoring Team and DOJ. We will have a 10-15 minute presentation summary of the December 2018 report (Cynthia) and then open up the meeting for questions from the community.

c) Coffee With a Deputy

The committee discussed the upcoming Coffee With a Deputy at Starbucks on February 27, 2019. There were concerns expressed that some community members may have very negative associations with Starbucks and CEO Howard Schultz's politics. The CAC acknowledged that some individuals may be turned off by our Station hosting a coffee at Starbucks after the arrest of two African American males last year and Schultz's recent verbal attacks on Kamala Harris. We did agree as a committee that it is a good idea for Lancaster Station to host a coffee in the evening hours to reach more people.

d) Surveys from LLARTC presentation

We discussed the survey results from our Lake Los Angeles Town Hall (November 27, 2018). Only three surveys were returned to our CAC and the meeting was a full house. We have expressed frustration as a committee that we aren't getting responses back from the public at these events. We will try to improve upon the survey return rate by encouraging people to complete the survey and by giving them out prior to the end of the meetings.

The committee also recommended ways to get the MT 6 month reports out to the public. We could ask *AV Press*, Antelope Valley College, city

of Lancaster, and our Public Safety Committee to help get the word out about the release of the report and post the links on their respective websites.

In regards to our Town Hall survey results on crime concerns from residents, the committee had some discussion with Dep. Deciga and Dep. Chapman about the resources available at our Station for increased foot and bike patrols. Lancaster Station currently has foot patrols on the Boulevard. In prior CAC meetings, Sgt. Dawson has told us of some of the challenges with the foot patrols. The Boulevard is about a mile from the Station so it is easy to deploy the foot patrols but the deputies on patrol then have no cover if their safety is threatened.

We discussed at the February and prior meetings how difficult it is for our deputies to make an arrest and transport the suspect to jail if they are on foot patrol. Deputies on foot patrol would have to radio for backup to get the suspect booked into jail. This would mean pulling another deputy away and further delay response times to calls for service.

While the CAC believes that bike and foot patrols would make our deputies more approachable to the public, we understand that the Station is currently understaffed and resources are stretched. Our committee made the recommendation to deploy foot patrols at local shopping centers where crime concerns are usually higher, but we understand that this request is not practical at the moment due to understaffing at our Station. The logistics of getting deputies deployed to bike and foot patrols in higher crime areas is also complicated by the fact that we do not have substations around the city. Our CAC does not have a formal plan at the moment for how we would like to address the requests for added patrols brought to us by the public. We will continue to work with Lancaster Station to address all issues brought to us by the public.

e) Approval of new survey form for public events

A new survey was approved by the committee for use at future quarterly public meetings.

f) Reflections from CAC regards the progress made by Lancaster Station

Cynthia reminded all committee members of the need for personal narratives from everyone for the CAC semi-annual reports. We are in process of writing our semi-annual report, with the intention of sending it to the Monitoring Team by the end of March 2019. The CAC will provide their perspective on the progress made by Lancaster Station per the terms of the Settlement Agreement and identify any areas of concern from the community during the July-December 2018 reporting period.

g) Changes to CAC positions/meeting days/times

The committee voted to maintain our meeting times as the first Tuesday of every month at 6pm, effective March 5, 2019. Members selected new positions as follows:

Chairperson – Miguel Coronado

Vice Chairperson – Tae'lor Ross (Moore)

Secretary – Cynthia Lehman

Station Liaison – Manny Magana

Activities Chairperson – Shunnon Thomas, Liza Rodriguez

Safety Chairperson – Christian Aligwekwe

Sergeant at Arms – Allison Blaylock

h) Youth Summit

Miguel shared his overview of the recent Youth Summit he attended with his students that was hosted by Palmdale Station and their CAC. Our CAC also discussed hosting a summit last year. We agreed that if we do create a youth program we need to get the area high schools involved as well as Antelope Valley College. We also need to have some programming for parents.

We would like to create a summit open to high school and college students, with a focus on outreach to African American and Latino students. Committee members were asked to think of ideas for workshops and ways in which we can partner with local businesses, civic organizations and our schools.

6. Old Business:

CAC Training

Additional training was not presented.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 1927 hrs

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

Lancaster Sheriff's Station
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2019

1. Call to Order

Miguel Coronado called the meeting to order at 1818 hrs on March 5, 2019.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Dawson, Sgt. Molidor, Cynthia Lehman, Allison Blaylock, Brian Johnson, Miguel Coronado, Manny Magana, Lynde Williams, Christian Aligwekwe.

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes from February 5, 2019 were sent out for email review to CAC.

4. Captain's Report

Capt. Weber discussed the recent luncheon with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Palmdale, at which Sheriff Villanueva was the featured speaker. Villanueva spoke on the issue of how new Captains will be assigned at stations with current needs and/or vacancies. Sheriff Villanueva has repeatedly stated his desire for the local community to have more involvement and work collaboratively with the LA County Sheriff's Department.

At present, every promotable Lieutenant can apply for promotion to Captain. Candidates can select three patrol stations they would like to be assigned to and a selection panel will review all applications. A list of ten qualified applicants will then be forwarded to the screening committee for interviews. The screening committee will make its recommendations for hires to the Sheriff, who then selects the new Captains. Villanueva has expressed his intent to have local communities much more involved in the process of evaluating new leadership at each station. He wants the promotions process to be more attuned to the specific needs of each community.

Filling vacancies at patrol stations are the #1 priority of the Department and assigning a new Captain at Palmdale Station is currently a top priority. New hires and/or transfers within the Department are filled based on the needs of the Department, skill sets of each applicant, and the best fit at each patrol station. Generally, Captains move to a new post every three years or so. Sheriff

Villanueva is committed to a Community Policing Model and his focus is on filling vacancies at patrol stations that best serve the needs of each community.

Miguel asked the Captain to explain why our Station is the busiest in LA County. Capt. Weber noted that we had 80,000 calls for service last year and another approximately 80,000 self-initiated calls by patrol deputies that required a response. Weber said he believed that the Hispanic community may call for service less frequently than other communities due to long-standing mistrust of law enforcement and/or fears of deportation. Our Station covers a more expansive patrol area than most and we receive a larger number of calls for service that other stations don't typically get.

Brian followed up that question and asked for a breakdown of calls for service. He would like to see data on the types of calls being made to the Station, such as how many calls are related to domestic violence, burglaries, homeless encampments, ...etc. His main interest relates to his work at the homeless shelter and wanting to know how many calls are made to the Station regards this population and how deputies handle those calls. He hopes to be able to follow up with shelter staff to assist the homeless population prior to any contact with law enforcement.

5. New Business:

a) Officer Involved Shooting

Capt. Weber briefed the committee on details of the February 17, 2019 shooting involving a Lancaster Station deputy. Weber provided the CAC with all the publicly available information as of March 5, 2019. Details of this shooting were provided as well at the Town Hall on February 21, 2019 so that the public could be given information regarding the investigation process. The shooting took place near Milling Street and Sierra Highway.

The suspect was shot after walking toward deputies armed with a knife, and after being warned to drop the weapon. CAC members wanted to know why details are not released immediately after a shooting occurs. Captain Weber explained during the initial phase of the investigation things are often chaotic as deputies are rendering aid, and securing the crime scene. Additionally, they are identifying and interviewing witnesses, victims, and suspects. Releasing information prematurely could jeopardize the investigation.

Sgt. Dawson notified the CAC of the shooting within an hour of the incident and she informed the committee of the process for the investigation: "Whenever an Officer-Involved Shooting occurs involving Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies, and it results in a wounding, multiple independent investigations immediately begin at the scene. These include separate investigations by the Office of the LA County District Attorney and the LA County Coroner, as well as investigations by Sheriff's Homicide Bureau and Internal Affairs Bureau. Attorneys with the Los Angeles Office of Independent Review

also respond to the scene, and have full access to the facts known to the Sheriff's Department throughout every phase of these investigations. Once concluded, every aspect of the shooting is reviewed by the Sheriff's Executive Force Review Committee." Capt. Weber also shared these details of the investigation process with the public at our recent Town Hall.

The investigation takes a long time because it is an exhaustive process of evaluating all the evidence and witness statements. The identities of both the suspect/victim and the officer are not released to the public immediately after the shooting to protect their privacy and to ensure the fairness of the investigatory process. Capt. Weber said the release of deputies' names after a shooting are typically only released in response to Public Records Access requests through the Discovery Unit, and the request is vetted through Homicide, as they're the investigating unit. SB 1421 may change that.

Miguel asked the Captain if deputies have to purchase their own body-worn cameras. At present, Lancaster Station is scheduled to be in the first group of stations to receive them, and it will be at the Department's cost. Until then, Deputies are allowed to buy their own BWC if they so choose.

A question was raised regards the use of Mental Health professionals on calls where there is a possibility of an issue with individuals at the scene. Weber stated that the MET Team is ready to respond to calls such as this and you would want them in place at the scene if there is any question as to the mental health of the individual involved, prior to any subsequent police action. MET was actually called to respond to reports of a man with a knife and they were on their way to the scene on February 17, 2019. The shooting occurred before they were able to get to the scene. Additionally, all AV deputies have received training from Mental Health America and LA County MH training is also available to deputies at both stations. Lancaster Station deputies have been receiving Mental Health Training for the past several years.

Miguel asked if the CAC could see the police report from the shooting. Capt. Weber said those reports are not available to the CAC or the public until the investigation is concluded. There is a process in place for the release of all information but it will not occur pending the formal investigation. The reason for the delayed release of information according to Capt. Weber is that you want the investigation to conclude because you usually find that the details of the shooting changes as you further investigate the circumstances. The investigation needs to be thorough so that misinformation does not get out to the public and jeopardize the investigation and/or the legal rights of all parties.

AV Press did not report on the officer-involved shooting and several committee members commented that we should be asking why the local paper did not report the story. Sgt. Dawson reminded the committee that print media and social media platforms are outside the purview of the Sheriff's Department.

There was discussion of the Station using social media to release information more quickly to the public. Capt. Weber noted that the Station already uses social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Nixle to get the word out. The CAC needs to let the public know that information is being distributed through these outlets. Nixle in particular is very useful and it keeps the public informed in times of local emergency or disaster.

b) Spanish Language Town Hall

The CAC discussed our desire to hold a Spanish language presentation and we tentatively set a date for the end of May 2019 (most likely May 21st). Sgt. Dawson shared the news with the committee of her recent attendance at a meeting hosted by CHIRLA. She attended this meeting with Dep. Deciga and two Explorers from Lancaster Station. Topics discussed at this meeting were the fear and distrust of law enforcement, immigration issues, and victimization of people within the Latino community as a result of that fear. Information was also provided about services available within the community, including domestic violence agencies, mental health, emergency shelter/food, and access to education for those who do not speak English. The Station has been working diligently to reach out to the Latino community. During the past two years Station personnel have made tremendous progress.

Dawson said the meeting was very positive and the Station will be moving forward to host their first-ever Spanish language Community Academy, set to begin April 2, 2019 at a site to be determined. The Academy will not be held at the Station in order to make participants feel more comfortable attending. CHIRLA also informed Sgt. Dawson that they would like to continue to work with our Station to do more community engagement.

c) Town Hall Surveys

The CAC discussed the community surveys from our February 21, 2019 presentation of the MT Six-Month Report. This event was held at AVPH and the turnout was over 100 people. We did receive back 29 surveys, which is an improvement over previous survey return rates. Lancaster Station developed the community survey to get feedback from the public on quality of life and crime concerns.

The committee had some discussion regarding getting the public better educated on community policing and planning ways to encourage neighborhood block parties and neighborhood watch programs to bring the public into collaboration with the Sheriff's Dept. Sgt. Molidor encouraged us to get the word out to promote the neighborhood watch programs in our respective communities. Sgt. Dawson will provide the CAC with copies of the Cops survey for us to consider as we work to revise our current survey instrument.

d) CAC Bylaws

We examined the current bylaws regards the prohibition of CAC members from holding elective office while on the committee. The bylaws state that CAC members may not currently hold public office or be seeking public office, or they will be removed from the committee. All committee members, minus sworn members, voted to keep Tae'lor Ross (Moore) on the CAC as her office is not a public office.

e) CAC Draft Report

Cynthia is writing a draft report for the next semi-annual CAC report to send to DOJ and the MT. She asked the committee again for their reflections on Lancaster Station's relations with our community. The CAC should address any concerns they have with regards to the Station and the Settlement Agreement in the next report, due in April 2019.

f) Joint Training with Palmdale CAC

Lynde and Cynthia attended joint training with Palmdale CAC on February 28, 2019. The training was presented by Sgt. Nagel at Palmdale Station and it covered the LASD Policy of Equality and Dept. Overview. These trainings are required of all CAC members as per the terms of the Settlement Agreement. CAC members came on the committee at different times so it is now in process that newer members are receiving the mandated training. We also have the opportunity to request additional training sessions on topics of interest beyond what is required in the SA.

The next scheduled joint training is March 28, 2019 at Palmdale Station. The topic will be Implicit Bias/Bias-Free Policing.

g) Youth Summit

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

h) Open Comments from CAC

A motion was made and seconded to amend the agenda to add a closing item on Open Comments from the committee. All future agendas will include a closing comments agenda item.

Miguel mentioned an upcoming program his Agents of Change is hosting with Tarzana Treatment Centers on May 15. Details will be forwarded to the CAC and the Station to get their involvement.

Christian informed the committee that the Law Scholars students from AVC will be touring the Station on April 11.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 2032 hrs

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

CAC Member Biographies:

Christian Aligwekwe is an Antelope Valley native and student. He's a young man who believes and strives for equality and fairness for the citizens and residents here in the valley. He is a person who believes in the government working harder to provide for the struggling people, hence his current study of political science. Through this, his ambition is to get into law school and become an attorney, becoming an official voice and representative of the people here in Los Angeles County. He also believes that law enforcement and the people have much more in common than not, and wants the bridge between them to get shorter so as to help everyone's trust on both ends. Mr. Aligwekwe has a huge interest in politics as well. He is currently Safety Chair for the Lancaster Sheriff's Station CAC and also Treasurer for the AVC Pre-Law Club.

Allison Blaylock is a graduate of Quartz Hill High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Colorado Tech and is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. She has served as a volunteer in the LGBT+ community since 2015, and has run support groups, helped various campaigns, and lobbied for LGBT+ rights. She is an advocate for the entire LGBT+ community with special focus on transgender related issues. In 2016, she began writing an advice column for *The Gayly*, again specializing in transgender issues. Ms. Blaylock has been involved in LGBT+ community in Oklahoma and Southern California.

Dr. Miguel A. Coronado, a resident of Lancaster since 2004, is an educational/political/social justice activist, as well as a public speaker. He holds an Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies from Victor Valley College; a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from the University of California Riverside; a Masters of Arts in Educational Counseling from California State University, San Bernardino; and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership Higher Education Administration from Argosy University, Orange County. Dr. Coronado is the

Founder of Dr. Suarez Coronado Agents of Change Inc., a 501c3 academic organization focused on recruitment, retention, graduation and transferring students to 4-year universities, with a community service component.

Dr. Coronado is actively involved in the community, serving on the Lancaster Sheriff's Station CAC; Antelope Valley Hospital Advisory Board Member; Chairman of the Antelope Valley Hospital Sub-Committee on Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Project; and Chairman of the Lancaster School District Measure L \$63 million General Obligation Bond. Presently, Coronado serves as a professor of academic counseling for the Los Angeles Community College District.

Brian L. Johnson grew up in Lancaster, CA and Torrance, CA. As a young man, he searched for identity in a divorced family, and was raised for many years by a single mother. As a teen, getting involved in gangs and drugs became a lifestyle. After losing many friends to violence and poor decision-making, he turned to drugs and alcohol to numb the past and current pain. Still lost in the world, distant from his family and on the path of destruction, he remained in and out of trouble. Faced with one decision particularly, that would keep him away from home for years, Mr. Johnson sought refuge in Live Again Recovery Home; a Christian-based camp. Asking for Grace and Mercy, his path began to change as he began his walk with Christ. In the 10 months of recovery, Mr. Johnson developed a sober mind. Losing friends and some family, some days were harder than others; but steadfast and determined he stayed in the Lord. In November of 2009, ordained a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Shortly thereafter, in April of 2010, planted a ministry with fellow laborers and installing it as Promises of God Ministry. In September 2012, the Sr. Pastor left sending the Assistant Pastor at the time, Mr. Johnson, into steadfast and fervent prayer. Mr. Johnson stepped into his call and responsibility as Sr. Pastor of Promises of God Ministry (now known as True Life Community Church), at the congregation's request. Pastor Johnson serves his community not only as a pastor, but also as a mentor to other young men and women who are seeking to change their lives. His church provides outreach to the homeless and to others who are in need.

Cynthia Lehman is a History Professor at Antelope Valley College, where she teaches African American History. As an undergraduate student, she participated in a summer internship program at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta GA. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in African American Studies from Temple University in Philadelphia PA. She joined the CAC because of her interest in wanting to promote opportunities for dialogue between the Sheriff's Department and college students.

Mr. Manuel "Manny" Magana is a long time resident of Lake Los Angeles. He is married and has ten children, 25 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He is a retired railroad and farm worker and currently serves as Vice President on the Board of Trustees for the Keppel Union School District. He is very involved with the community, and has worked with numerous non-profit and community organizations dedicated to improving the lives of local residents such as Latinos Americanos En Accion. Mr. Magana is a Volunteer on Patrol with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He created the current monthly Lake Los Angeles Business, Neighborhood Watch, and First Five Program groups geared towards our Spanish speaking community of Lake Los Angeles. Additionally, he assists in the coordination of the Annual Lake Los Angeles Cinco De Mayo Parade and Heritage Festival.

David Mashore is a resident of the Antelope Valley and CEO of the Catalyst Foundation. Through Catalyst, he works with many of our communities most at risk populations, those who are homeless, suffer from mental illness, and/or struggle with drug and/or alcohol dependency issues. He is the creator of the Lancaster Community Garden and is a Community Activist. Mr. Mashore created a program in which he mentors State Prisoners at California State Prison, Los Angeles County. The goal of the program is help the men in the program address the issues that caused them to become incarcerated while they are in prison, so they can align themselves with the supportive services they need upon release.

Tae'lor Moore is an Antelope Valley resident and student. She is someone who believes in justice and the maintenance of fairness within our criminal justice system. In order to achieve this ideal, she is a college student studying Sociology and she intends to become a lawyer. She wants to make a difference in the criminal justice system and ensure equity for all persons prosecuted. One of her primary concerns is the disparity between the abysmal numbers of Black lawyers versus the vast number of people of color being prosecuted.

Liza Rodriguez has been an Antelope Valley Resident for the past eight years and is currently Program Director of the Valley Oasis S.A.R.S. (Sexual Assault Response Services) program. She has an extensive background in combating public safety issues, such as human trafficking and domestic assault, and continues to have an active presence in a number of committees that work to protect the safety of the Antelope Valley community. In addition to serving the Lancaster Sheriff's Station, both as a member of its Community Advisory Committee and station volunteer, Mrs. Rodriguez is the Board President of Vita Illuminatus, a non-profit that fosters awareness and prevention of human trafficking in the Antelope Valley. She is also passionate about helping protect and educate Antelope Valley youth. She is a member of an Antelope Valley Hospital sub-advisory committee, which provides information regarding making appropriate choices with drugs and alcohol to middle school-aged children. Mrs. Rodriguez lives in Lancaster, and is a proud mother of seven and grandmother of two with her late husband Michael.

Shunnon Thomas was born in South Los Angeles (formerly South Central) in the late 1960's. He credits desegregation bussing as the reason he escaped the tragic end that many of his friends met due to drugs and gang violence. In high school, Mr. Thomas began his performing career as a professional dancer, studying jazz, ballet, singing and gymnastics -- wherever the jobs took him. Having landed in New York City, he would have to return to California a few short

years later, due to a back injury. After years of struggling to get his life back together – through periods of depression, military service, mental hospitals, homelessness and unemployment – Mr. Thomas, along with his mother, settled in Lancaster in 1996. By October of 2000, he found a full-time job repairing computers, which he did for 11 years until the store went out of business. He began his community service endeavors while employed in the computer repair business. In 2004, he was the victim of a racially motivated knife attack, by a man whose father was running for mayor. Community representatives rallied together to get the candidate to drop out of the race. One of the supporting groups was the Antelope Valley Branch of the NAACP (AV-NAACP). Mr. Thomas has been an active member of the branch ever since, currently serving as branch President. During the legal proceedings, which followed the attack, he pursued legal courses at Antelope Valley College to better familiarize himself with law and justice protocols. He eventually received his A.A. degree in Administration of Justice. Mr. Thomas went on to earn his B.A. in Criminal Justice, and then his Masters in Public Administration at California State University Bakersfield in 2014. He has since been substitute teaching for the Antelope Valley Union High School District and in the Juvenile Detention Centers, and is currently working on an M.S. In Educational Counseling at the University of Laverne. Besides his volunteer work as AV-NAACP branch president, Mr. Thomas is also a member of the Lancaster Sheriff Station CAC, Volunteer Mediator for the City of Lancaster, and participant in both the Lancaster School District and Eastside Union School District African-American Advisory Committees. A former board member of Community Alternative Law and Mediation (C.A.L.M), Mr. Thomas helped bring Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG) to the Antelope Valley.

Lynde Williams has been a resident of the Antelope Valley for over thirty years. Born into a military family, Ms. Williams was exposed growing up to numerous cultures and experiences. Over her lifetime she began noticing what she perceived to be "social injustices." Whether they were big or small, they would

slowly gnaw at her and she felt she had to do something, Ms. Williams became a neighborhood watch block captain and community activist. She began attending city council meetings, town hall meetings, and began speaking for those whose voice she felt were not being heard. She advocated for the LGBTQ community and educated members of the community who were seeking resource information. She went to the Sheriff's Department on numerous occasions to seek information regarding patrol practices, file complaints against personnel she felt had not acted appropriately, and also to commend those deputies she felt were doing a good job in the community. Ms. Williams continues to work with community groups and organizations such as Paving the Way Foundation, which assists people who are on probation or parole with successful re-integration into the community and supportive services. The organization also serves community members who are homeless and/or who have mental illness.