

2016

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Antelope Valley Crime Prevention & Community Engagement Strategies



Prepared by
Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff's
Community Relations

ANTELOPE VALLEY SHERIFF STATIONS' CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES 2016

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ANTELOPE VALLEY SHERIFF STATIONS' CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES 2016

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department entered into a settlement agreement with the United States Department of Justice. In total, the Sheriff's Department agreed to implement more than two hundred reforms, many of which were directed to the Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff's Stations in the Antelope Valley.

The Sheriff's Department, and in particular the Antelope Valley Sheriff Stations, has been committed from the onset to working to resolve problems and concerns voiced by the communities we serve. Since the agreement, the Sheriff's Department has dedicated numerous resources and has been working diligently with the Monitoring Team to ensure our interpretation and implementation of the Settlement Agreement reforms meet with their approval.

A New Direction

When Sheriff Jim McDonnell took over the Sheriff's Department, several key strategies were taken to ensure a positive change occurred in the way our employees perform their jobs and interact with the public. One of the first tasks was to change the Department's "Mission Statement" and "Core Values." Both of these documents work to outline the Department's expectations of all employees. Additionally, they help redefine our Department's commitment to Constitutional Policing and the development of partnerships with our community.



Sheriff Jim McDonnell at Palmdale Station's 10th Anniversary Open House

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MISSION

- *to enforce the law fairly and within constitutional authority;*
 - *to be proactive in our approach to crime prevention;*
 - *to enhance public trust through accountability;*
 - *to maintain a constitutionally sound and rehabilitative approach to incarceration;*
 - *to provide a safe and secure court system;*
 - *to maintain peace and order;*
 - *and to work in partnership with the communities we serve to ensure the highest possible quality of life.*
-



LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES

COURAGE - COMPASSION - PROFESSIONALISM - ACCOUNTABILITY – RESPECT

With integrity, compassion, and courage, we serve our communities
protecting life and property,
being diligent and professional in our acts and deeds,
holding ourselves and each other accountable for our actions at all times,
while respecting the dignity and rights of all.

Earning the Public Trust Every Day!

About This Report

This document is the second annual report which covers “Community Engagement” and “Community and Problem-Oriented Policing” (Section VII), as outlined in the Settlement Agreement. This report covers both Lancaster and Palmdale stations’ efforts during the 2016 calendar year and assesses the impact of community engagement initiatives. Additionally, this report will identify successes, obstacles, and recommendations for future improvement of the Antelope Valley stations’ community engagement efforts pursuant to Settlement Agreement Item #91.

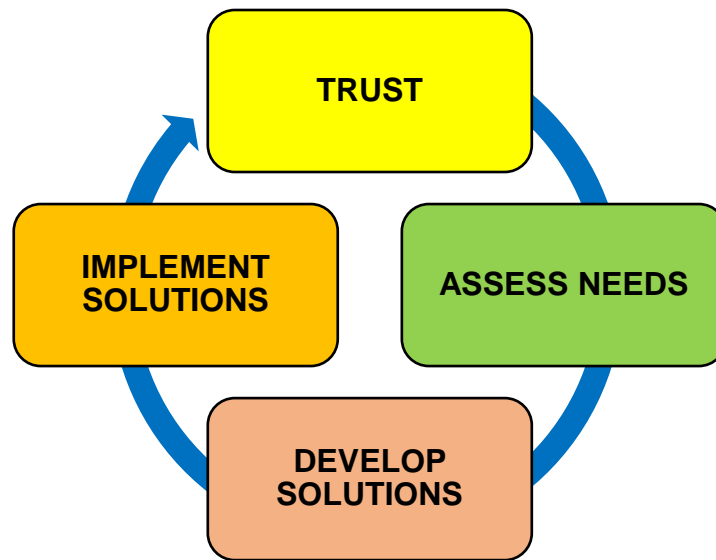
The Antelope Valley stations’ crime prevention and community engagement strategies have been primarily guided by Settlement Agreement Item #87, which outlines five key points:

1. Actively participate in community engagement efforts in the Antelope Valley.
2. Participate in local community meetings.
3. Making itself available for community feedback.
4. Developing the Community Advisory Committees (CAC).
5. Working with the community on the development of diversion programs.

Captain Kneer listening to community concerns at a “Days of Dialogue” event.



Both Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff Stations understand that by embracing these strategies and partnering with our community, we can work toward reconciliation. Our goals are to establish open dialogue where we may earn and restore trust with the public. Once trust is built, we can assess needs and work collaboratively to develop solutions. By working toward implementing these solutions, we will develop more trust, thus allowing us to assess new needs and begin the process over, each time building stronger bonds with our community.



This collaborative effort is working. One such example of the collaborative effort working happened following a shooting incident that occurred in Palmdale in which detectives identified a suspect. The suspect contacted an intermediary person to communicate with the Sheriff's Department. That intermediary person had been a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department and had been an outspoken critic of both Antelope Valley Sheriff Stations. The intermediary contacted the Captain of Palmdale Station and coordinated the safe surrender of the suspect.

This is just one example of the benefits of this collaborative effort. Both sheriff's stations have experienced increased public support and an overall reduction in the necessity to use force. We are hoping this model will ultimately lead to an overall reduction in crime throughout the Antelope Valley.



Deputies and field representative of the late Senator Sharron Runner discuss issues with the public at a "Coffee with a Cop" event.

SUMMARY OF WORK TO DATE

The 2015 Crime Prevention and Community Engagement report provided historical context and explained our community policing model. To date, both Antelope Valley stations have continued to work together in a “valley-wide” effort to reach out to community stakeholders and form alliances for the betterment of our citizenry.

Below you will find the listed Settlement Agreement points and the Antelope Valley Sheriff Stations’ efforts towards compliance.

Settlement Agreement Item #87

Actively participate in community engagement efforts in the Antelope Valley.

Both stations are participating in numerous community engagement efforts. Refer to “Detailed Work to Date” section of this report.

Participate in local community meetings.

Both stations are attending and participating in numerous community meetings. Refer to “Detailed Work to Date” section of this report.

Making itself available for community feedback.

Both stations attend numerous meetings and events, making themselves available for community feedback. Additionally, each patrol car has citizen complaint forms in both English and Spanish. Complaint and commendation forms may also be downloaded from the Internet, submitted on-line or by telephone. Both stations are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, where a citizen may walk in and get a complaint form or speak to a supervisor in person.

Developing the Community Advisory Committees (CAC).

Both stations have CAC’s whose members have been selected by each station Captain. Members on the CAC meet all of the requirements as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and within the guidelines mandated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Working with the community on the development of diversion programs.

Lancaster and Palmdale Stations are working collaboratively with several community groups to enhance our current diversionary programs and to create new alliances in hope of developing new programs.



Deputies attend Red Ribbon Week to engage children and talk about the health consequences of tobacco, alcohol and drug use.



Palmdale School Resource Deputy Ray Wilson encouraging a student at a local school.



Deputy Dustin Wiemann giving a child a bicycle won at an opportunity drawing at a Sheriff's event.

Settlement Agreement Item #88

All sworn personnel at the Antelope Valley stations shall actively attend community meetings and events.

Both stations were able to pool resources and attended several hundred community meetings, presented over 50 events, and participated in more than 80 events hosted by other organizations. This led to an 83% attendance compliance by our personnel for attending at least one community meeting or event within the 2016 calendar year. Major obstacles were staffing issues and personnel working the early morning shifts from 10pm to 8am.

LASD agrees to develop a plan for such attendance based on the results of an annual community satisfaction survey and feedback from the CAC.

There have been continued discussions regarding the annual survey, which will provide a baseline to gauge current community engagement efforts. All parties to the settlement agreement hope to have a survey completed sometime in 2017. Once the community satisfaction surveys have been performed, a plan will be created.

Both Antelope Valley stations have developed a database to track employee attendance at community meetings and events. The database tracks the type of event and personnel attendance at each event.

The plan shall indicate the number and types of events to be attended on a regular basis and take into account the need to enhance relationships with particular groups within the community, including, but not limited to, youth, and communities of color.

To date there has been no agreement with regard to the number of events each deputy must attend. As previously stated, the combined attendance from both stations for the 2016 calendar year was 83% for at least one community meeting or event. The high call volume at both stations, coupled with staffing shortages, makes attendance difficult. Both stations have scheduled personnel to attend

events, however, oftentimes personnel are pulled away prior to or during the event due to exigent circumstances.

*Deputies pose with Sheriff's
Community Academy members after
completing role playing scenarios
with the class.*



Settlement Agreement Item #89

LASD agrees to provide structured annual in-service training on community policing and problem-oriented policing methods and skills for all Antelope Valley deputies, including station supervisors and unit commanders.

This training shall include:

- methods and strategies to improve public safety and crime prevention through community engagement;
- scenario-based training that promotes the development of new partnerships between the police and community targeting problem solving and prevention;
- leadership, ethics, and interpersonal skills;
- community engagement techniques, including how to establish formal partnerships and actively engage community organizations, including youth, immigrant, and LGBT communities;
- problem-oriented policing tactics;
- conflict resolution and verbal de-escalation of conflict; and
- cultural awareness and sensitivity training.

Every sworn employee at Lancaster and Palmdale Stations has attended a class presented by Sheriff's Command Staff regarding the Settlement Agreement, its terms, and the Department's expectations for individual and unit compliance. Additionally, every deputy has attended a class presented by Mental Health America in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and the Sheriff Department's Mental Health Team. This class focused on recognizing behaviors consistent with persons exhibiting mental health issues and de-escalation techniques.

Deputies give an interview with a local Hispanic radio station.



Settlement Agreement Item #90

LASD agrees to ensure that monthly Crime Management Forum meetings with the Assistant Sheriff or his designee and semiannual Risk Management Forum meetings include

- discussion and analysis of trends in misconduct complaints and community priorities to identify areas of concern
- to better develop interventions to address them

LASD agrees to use techniques such as spatial mapping and scientific deployment analysis to enable the Risk Management Forum to better support and measure community and problem-solving policing efforts.

Crime Management Forum meetings have always been attended, even prior to the Settlement Agreement. Each item described has always been implemented and will continue.

Settlement Agreement Item #92

LASD agrees to seek the assistance of community advocates in widely disseminating, in English and Spanish, to the public the requirements of this Agreement.

LASD prepared a summary of the Settlement Agreement, which has been disseminated to the public in English and Spanish. This summary was approved by the Monitoring Team as meeting this requirement. Both English and Spanish versions of the summary have been made available at all CAC town hall meetings and can be accessed at both Antelope Valley stations' websites.

Settlement Agreement Item #93

LASD will continue to support Lancaster and Palmdale's CAC's to advise and provide feedback to the LASD's Antelope Valley stations.

The panel will leverage the insights and expertise of the community to address policing concerns, including, but not limited to, racial or ethnic profiling and access to law enforcement services, and promote greater transparency and public understanding of LASD.

The civilian panel shall be authorized to:

- advise the Sheriff and the station commanders on strategies and training to improve community relations, bias-free policing, and access to the civilian complaint system
- work with the Sheriff and station commanders to establish and carry out community public safety priorities
- provide the community with information on the Agreement and its implementation
- receive and convey to LASD public comments and concerns

Lancaster and Palmdale CAC's have each been granted the authority as outlined above. Both CAC's have hosted several "Days of Dialogue" events aimed at creating opportunities for station personnel to engage in meaningful conversation with the community regarding issues which have been traditionally controversial.

Settlement Agreement Item #94

LASD will memorialize the CAC's into LASD-Antelope Valley policy within 90 days of the Effective Date. The policy will establish the number of members and a mechanism to ensure that membership is representative of the diverse communities in the Antelope Valley, including members from each station, faith communities, minority, ethnic, and other community organizations.

LASD has completed this section of Settlement Agreement Item #94

LASD shall include student or youth organizations on the CAC's or create a separate advisory committee made up of youth representatives.

LASD has worked with the CAC's and has completed this section of Settlement Agreement Item #94

LASD will facilitate quarterly public meetings of the CAC to discuss the Monitor's reports and to receive community feedback about LASD's progress or compliance with the Agreement.

LASD has been working with the CAC's to hold quarterly town hall meetings at venues in both Lancaster and Palmdale.



Deputies talking with students at a CAC Town Hall Meeting in Palmdale.

Settlement Agreement Item #95

The CAC's reports and recommendations will be posted on LASD-Antelope Valley's website.

LASD is working with the CAC's to meet this requirement.

LASD will consider and respond to the civilian panel's recommendations in a timely manner.

LASD has been working with the CAC's and has provided all information requested. Recommendations made by the CAC's are taken under advisement by the station captain and are considered for future implementation.

Settlement Agreement Item #96

The County will provide the CAC with reasonable administrative support, including meeting space. In addition, the Monitor may provide advice and technical assistance to the CAC.

Each of the Antelope Valley stations has provided administrative support and the use of their station conference room for CAC meetings.

Settlement Agreement Item #97

The CAC will not have access to any non-public information regarding an individual deputy or allegation of misconduct or disciplinary action.

LASD agrees to continually meet the goals of this objective.

Settlement Agreement Item #98

LASD agrees to assist the Monitor in conducting a reliable, comprehensive, and representative annual survey of members of the Antelope Valley community regarding their experiences with and perceptions of LASD and of public safety.

LASD has met with the Monitoring Team and is working to achieve this objective.



Station CAC Members and Deputies working with the public to resolve issues.

Settlement Agreement Item #99

To conduct the annual community survey, the Monitor shall retain an individual or entity that shall:

- a. develop a baseline of measures on public satisfaction with policing, attitudes among police personnel, and the quality of police-citizen encounters
- b. design, conduct, and analyze baseline and subsequent annual surveys of a representative sample of Antelope Valley residents, law enforcement personnel, Section 8 voucher holders, and detained arrestees
- c. review and consider prior law enforcement surveys in the Antelope Valley and other cities (including recent community policing surveys in Palmdale and Lancaster), as well as current or recent concerns in the Antelope Valley, in designing the survey
- d. engage in informal conversation with Antelope Valley residents, LASD deputies and command staff, and DOJ representatives, and observe community meetings
- e. ensure that the resident and arrestee surveys are designed to capture a representative sample of Antelope Valley residents including members of each demographic category
- f. conduct the survey in English and Spanish, as necessary, to ensure representation of the entire Antelope Valley community
- g. formally discuss the survey methodology with LASD supervisors and DOJ, and consider these opinions in development of the initial survey and improvements to subsequent surveys

The Monitoring Team and LASD are currently working to achieve these goals.

Settlement Agreement Item #100

LASD agrees to cooperate with the design and conduct of the survey by, for example, helping to organize focus groups of deputies and obtaining and providing previous survey instruments and data.

LASD has met with the Monitoring Team and is working to achieve this objective.

Settlement Agreement Item #101

The report of the baseline survey and subsequent annual surveys shall be publicly distributed and posted on the LASD-AV website.

LASD will post the baseline survey report as specified, once it has been completed.

DETAILED WORK TO DATE**Settlement Agreement Item #91**

“Actively participate in community engagement efforts in the Antelope Valley...”

As stated earlier, both Antelope Valley stations have continued to work together in a valley-wide effort to reach out to community stakeholders and form alliances for the



betterment of our citizenry. Both stations have focused on attending council meetings and meetings with organizations who serve all residents of the Antelope Valley.

In order to meet our goals and objectives, we began by holding classes to explain to our personnel the problems, concerns, and issues raised by the public and the Department of Justice regarding past law enforcement efforts. Every

sworn member at each of the Antelope Valley stations attended this training. The terms of the settlement agreement were explained, as well as the Department's expectations for compliance and the ultimate benefit to both our personnel and our community.

These classes established the baseline from which we have built upon to change behaviors and perception of the public. We have worked to break down the “us versus them” mentality which had existed, and instead have promoted a “partnership” mentality. Each of our deputies try to extend this partnership in every contact made. This has allowed our personnel to take ownership of our problems and work collaboratively with the public to resolve policing, quality of life, and social issues affecting our community.

Community Engagement is the process of building relationships with community members who will work side-by-side with you as an ongoing partner, to make the community a better place to live.

Considered from the perspective of a two-way relationship, Community Engagement is the organizational equivalent of friendship.

-Gottlieb, Community Engagement Planning in Three Steps, 2015

One of the many key factors was to change our “community relations” ideology, which focused on showing up at meetings and events and taking a passive role. Even our prior “community policing” model failed to engage the community as stakeholders in the process of formulating strategies and achieving consensus for implementation. Instead, we listened to the problems voiced by the public and worked with public and private organizations to solve the problems. This was often done without public assistance or buy-in throughout the process.

In order to change, we had to embrace a “community engagement” model, which focused on attending meetings and events as co-partners and equal stakeholders with the community. This has developed mutual trust and friendships, which has led to a working relationship in which all parties agree on the problem, create the solution, and work together to rectify the situation.

The next step involved reaching out to the community to find out what their concerns were, as well as public perception of both Antelope Valley Sheriff Stations and law enforcement in general. This was accomplished by holding several “Days of Dialogue” sessions in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Days of Dialogue was a moderated dialogue between the community and law enforcement. Attendees were broken into groups of eight to ten people and generally one deputy. Several topics were discussed regarding public perception of law enforcement. The discussions allowed AV deputies/supervisors personnel to see how their actions were perceived by the public. They also allowed the public to see how their actions were perceived by law enforcement. The Days of Dialogue discussion model proved so effective, we incorporated its use during our Community Advisory Committee (CAC) town hall meetings.

From this dialogue, several community members requested greater access to Department members. They wanted to learn more about law enforcement procedures and requested sheriff’s personnel to join them at social events like community barbeques and get-togethers. They wanted deputies to be one with the community, and in turn, believe the community will become one with the Sheriff’s Department.

From these Days of Dialogue events, community meetings, town hall meetings, and presenting and attending community events, we have been able to tailor our community engagement efforts to reach a broad spectrum of our citizenry. All of the events and

programs Department members participated in have worked to make them more accessible to the public. It has also allowed the public to view deputies as people who care and take an interest in the community. More importantly, this has allowed Department members the opportunity to meet members of our community they may have never had contact with before.

Unfortunately, there are still segments of the community who have been hesitant to attend events aimed at fostering meaningful dialogue. We are hopeful that information obtained from a community survey will help AV deputies/supervisors to understand the concerns of this portion of the community and to identify solutions for connecting with them.



Deputies in both Lancaster and Palmdale attended National Night Out events, a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement.



The public lines up to “Dunk a Deputy” at a National Night Out event in Palmdale.

Community Engagement Events

Lancaster and Palmdale Stations have a long history of presenting and participating in numerous events annually throughout the Antelope Valley. Our goals have always been focused on partnering with the community and allowing the community to accept

both stations as stakeholders. The below listed engagement events are broken into two categories: those presented by the Sheriff's Department, and those in which the Sheriff's Department has been invited to attend, or has partnered with and has sent representatives.

In either case, each of these events have a proven track record of reaching a large constituency throughout the entire Antelope Valley. Each event has allowed our personnel to engage with our communities in a positive atmosphere and has worked to break down barriers between the stations and the public.

Station Events:

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Refresher classes – These hands-on classes are held quarterly and focus on disaster preparedness and rescue techniques. Sheriff's deputies work with the Fire Department to teach and work alongside the public to employ the techniques. These classes result in excellent team building exercises. Classes are open to the public and free to attend.
- Christmas Gift Giving Campaign – Each year both stations collect and purchase gifts which are handed out by deputies to children throughout the Antelope Valley. A deputy will dress as Santa Claus and ride in a patrol car or specialty vehicle, waving and talking to children while helper deputies hand out toys.
- Christmas Toy Special Delivery – Each year both stations are contacted by deputies of the Sheriff's Special Victims Bureau who provide the stations with information regarding children who have been the victim of a crime. Toys are gathered during a month-long toy drive and delivered to the homes by a patrol Hummer or other specialized vehicle. Additionally, deputies stop by the Pediatric Ward at Antelope Valley Hospital to distribute toys to children spending Christmas in the hospital.



- Coffee with a Cop/Deputy/Captain – A friendly cup of coffee with local law enforcement, talking with community members about everything from sports to politics. These events are held monthly in both Lancaster and Palmdale. They are open to the public and no purchase is necessary to attend. In most

instances, the coffee is provided free of charge.

- Coffee with a Veteran – Deputies meet with a local group of Veterans who meet every Tuesday for breakfast. Deputies have given presentations about calling 9-1-1, for those Veterans who are in medical distress or live alone. Additionally, community resources are explained and deputies have provided a worksheet to keep next to the phone in case of emergencies. Deputies attempt to “drop in” on the coffee each week to make themselves available for questions or any concerns the group may have.
- Community Academy – Presented twice a year, once at Lancaster Station and once at Palmdale Station, this 8-week long course invites the community to learn more about the Sheriff’s Department. The bond formed between the deputies and the class oftentimes extends way beyond the completion of the program. This course is open to the public and free to attend.
- Kids, Cops and Frozen Yogurt – These events are off-shoots of the Coffee with a Cop concept, but reaching out to families and children. At these events, we bring out specialty vehicles for the whole family to enjoy, while having some delicious frozen yogurt. In 2016, Palmdale Station hosted two events. This event is open to the public and no purchase is necessary to attend.
- Law Enforcement Memorial Torch Relay – In honor of Peace Officers Memorial Day, a relay event is held traversing through all 23 LASD patrol stations, including Catalina Island. Lancaster Station receives the torch from Santa Clarita Valley Station in Agua Dulce. They pass the torch to Palmdale Station at Sierra Highway and Avenue N. Palmdale passes the torch to Crescenta Valley Station at Monte Cristo Campground in the Angeles National Forest. The public is invited to run, bike, skateboard or scooter alongside station personnel.



- North County Law Enforcement Explorer Competition – The Explorer program is an apprentice-type program operated in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America, Learning for Life program. This program is geared towards teenagers and young adults, ages 14 to 21. The program focuses on leadership, integrity, accountability, and teamwork. The



competition connects teams from throughout the western United States and tests them on communication and law enforcement tactics. The 2016 competition had more than 350 participants. Anyone interested in more information about the Explorer program is welcome to view the events.

- Muddy Explorer Fun Run – As a project to raise funds for a charity, our local Explorers hosted this grueling mud run

event which featured more than 50 obstacles and numerous water slides. This event was open to the public and had more than 150 runners. Deputy personnel supported this event by handing out water along the course and helped to pace participants. All proceeds were donated to charity.

- Ride-A-Long – The Sheriff's Department provides this program to community members and department applicants. This program provides participants the unique opportunity to gain insight into law enforcement by "riding" in the car "along" side a deputy as they work their shift. Many of the program participants come away with a much better understanding of the challenges faced by law enforcement.
- Station Open House – Each station hosted their own open house.
 - Lancaster Station invited many non-profit organizations who serve throughout the Antelope Valley. They showcased their new mobile command post, the BEARCAT armored rescue vehicle, had a rock climbing wall courtesy of the Sheriff's Antelope Valley Search and Rescue Team, and provided guided station tours. The event was open to the public and free to attend. Free food and water were provided.
 - Palmdale Station celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the opening of their new station. They invited many department bureaus and units. They had a rock climbing wall, "Dunk a Deputy" dunk tank, speed pitch radar trailer, firearm safety and shooting gallery, tactical medical demonstration, and guided station tours. This event was open to the public and free to attend. Free food and water were provided.

- Station Tours – Each station hosts tours as requested by schools, Boys and Girls Club Troops, civic groups, and businesses. The tours are generally chaperoned by community relations staff. Staff from each operational area talk about their specific job function. Tours are tailored based upon the age group of the participants. The participants get to see the inner workings of a police station, including desk operations, secretariat, detectives, armory, and jail. In 2016, Lancaster facilitated 22 tours and Palmdale facilitated 37 tours.
- Lancaster Trunk or Treat – Hosted at the local domestic violence women's shelter, deputies handed out candy from the trunk of their patrol vehicles for the children of the women. Most victims of domestic violence were too frightened to have their children walk door-to-door at night, and this safe environment allowed the children to participate in trick or treating festivities.
- Trunk or Treat and Car Show – To promote Halloween safety and engage the community, Palmdale Station worked with the local Boys and Girls Club to present this inaugural event. The public was invited to decorate their cars and hand out candy, while children were invited to dress in costume and receive candy. The rock climbing wall was present along with several department specialty vehicles. The event was open to the public and free to attend. A nominal fee was requested for car show participants to defray the costs of T-shirts. Awards were made by participants enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club welding program.



Partner Agency Events – LGBTQ

- Antelope Valley Pride – Sergeant Dawson was part of the planning committee for the 2016 Antelope Valley Pride event. This event included a festival and open house (Outreach Center) which included craft booths, entertainment, food and camaraderie involving the LGBTQ community. Deputies were present to interact and meet members of the LGBTQ community.
- Friendsmas at PennyLane – Partnering with PennyLane non-profit organization, deputies served hot meals for Christmas to the less fortunate. The Yellow Submarine program is a newly launched program created to provide a safe space for homeless teens to stay during the day. Showers, laundry services and televisions are available at the facility. Many of the Antelope Valley's homeless teens are part of the LGBTQ community and have no safe place to sleep at night. Deputies handed out meals and toured the facility to learn about the resources available should they encounter a homeless teen.

Partner Agency Events – Neighborhood Watch

- Numerous Neighborhood Watch events were hosted throughout the Antelope Valley. Deputies met with block captains and neighborhood watch groups throughout the year to discuss crime trends and quality of life issues within their neighborhood.

Partner Agency Events – Youth Engagement

- Antelope Valley-Youthbuild Softball Tournament – Youthbuild provides educational and workplace opportunities for young adults seeking to improve their lives. Deputies attend classes and each year, they are invited to compete against the program participants in a friendly game of softball. Deputies and participants have a great time putting aside their differences and playing together. At the conclusion of the game, there is a question and answer period and a delicious BBQ.



Deputies playing softball with AV YouthBuild participants.

- *Every 15 Minutes* – This national program teaches, in a very vivid way, the dangers of alcohol intoxication while driving. The Antelope Valley stations, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner, and a local tow company work together to present several events a year. Students get the opportunity to see law enforcement in action at a crash scene where their peer is arrested and booked for drunk driving. Students get to interact with law enforcement throughout the event.
- *Exploring My Career Path* – A career fair hosted at Antelope Valley College where middle school-aged students take a field trip to talk to deputies about job related sworn and civilian options. The Explorer program was introduced and there was a brief presentation on social media safety.
- *Fulfill A Dream* – This organization provides last wishes for terminally ill children and teenagers. Both Antelope Valley stations' personnel will do everything possible to make a person's dream come true, especially if that dream is to be a deputy sheriff.
- *The Great Kindness Challenge* – Deputies were at Monte Vista Elementary School to help launch the Great Kindness Challenge, a week-long event where students are encouraged to perform at least one kind act per day. Deputies committed to smiling at 25 people, saying "Thank you" to volunteers, and saying "Good Morning" to 15 people amongst other ideas presented by the students and school.
- *Highland High School Career Day* – Each year, deputies join other law enforcement agencies and first responders to present a career day for all of the school students. Deputies interact with the students by showing them special equipment and vehicles. Additionally, deputies answer general questions about the law and a career in the law enforcement profession.
- *Highland High School Law and Government Academy* – Deputies and other law enforcement agencies introduce high school teens to careers in all facets of the criminal justice system. Deputies speak with students about the needed educational and principled requirements of those seeking a future career in the justice system.
- *Law Enforcement Explorer Competitions* – Lancaster and Palmdale Station Explorer Posts traveled to Chandler, Arizona and Orange County, California to compete in Explorer competitions against other posts from across the country. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Explorers consist of teenagers and young adults between 14-21 who participate in physical agility training, learn radio codes and wear uniforms to get a feel for what being a deputy is all about. This three-day annual competition included team and individual events which allowed the participants to showcase their law enforcement skills, as well as build confidence, team work and leadership skills.

- *Make A Wish* – This worldwide organization grants last wishes to terminally ill children and teenagers. The Sheriff's Department is committed to fulfilling the wishes of anyone in this program.



- *Paw Patrol* – Sundays are “NICK JR” night at the Hangar, the local Class A-Advanced Affiliate of the Colorado Rockies baseball stadium in Lancaster. Paw Patrol, a popular cartoon show for young children, was the theme of the night and deputies were present so participants could meet their real life heroes. Other first responders, such as the Fire Department, were also on hand, and children got to see the deputy's vehicles and specialty equipment.
- *Pen or Pencil* – Pen or Pencil is a non-profit organization which mentors youth to continue with their education. Deputies were present to watch the program participants perform skits, as well as engage and participate in team building games. Deputies were assigned to different teams and encouraged children to stay in school.
- *Piute Middle School Blood Drive* – A blood drive was held in honor of Sergeant Steve Owen, who was murdered on October 5, 2016. The middle school students hosted a “Star Wars” themed blood drive, encouraging parents and teachers to donate blood to the local hospitals. Deputies arrived in uniform to talk to the students about events which led to the tragic loss of Sergeant Owen, to take pictures, and to show their appreciation to the students.
- *Read Across America* – In celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday and to promote literacy in schools, deputies attended numerous Elementary schools to read books to classes from kindergarten to 6th grade. Even Captain Pat Nelson joined the fun, going from class to class reading books like “Cat in the Hat” and “One Fish, Two Fish”.
- *Red Ribbon Week* – Deputies went to several schools throughout the Antelope Valley encouraging children to stay away from drugs. Students are encouraged to take the pledge to stay healthy and drug free. Several show cars, patrol cars, and specialty vehicles were brought in for the students to sit and play in, along with asking deputies questions.
- *School Presentations* – Both stations attended numerous elementary and



middle schools and provide information on bullying, drugs, and careers in law enforcement. Patrol cars, specialty vehicles, and equipment were brought, allowing for hands on demonstrations with the students and teachers. Many of the students ask questions and take photos with the deputies.

- *Walking School Bus* – This program is geared towards elementary school students and promotes walking as a means of staying in shape. Students, teachers, and family members walk to school instead of taking a bus. Deputies assist by walking with students and blocking intersections to ensure safe passage.
- *Winter Wonderland* – Bringing winter snow to the desert at Christmas time for the children of all ages. This event was presented by Red White Blue CDC, which operates a thrift store benefiting veterans. Deputies and Explorers attended with specialty vehicles and played in the snow with the public.

Partner Agency Events – Veterans

- *Veterans Annual Job Fair* – Teaming up with organizations such as the NAACP, Antelope Valley College, Rite Aid and Michael's, Lancaster Station hosted a booth at the 2nd Annual Veterans Job Fair. This event focused on the hiring of Veterans. Numerous deputies were on hand throughout the day to explain in detail the hiring process, application process, background investigations, as well as benefits and retirement options.
- *For Veteran's Sake* – This organization teams service dogs with veterans. They donated a service dog to a terminally ill child who wanted to grow up to be a service member. The young boy was named an honorary service member and presented with a retired service dog. Deputies were on hand to take pictures with the young boy and his family while his bomb dog searched and found an improvised explosive device at a local Pet Smart store.

Partner Agency Events – Victims of Crimes

- *Domestic Violence Advocate Presentation* – Hosted by two of our station's domestic violence investigators, a class was presented to the domestic violence/sexual assault shelter teaching women how to become advocates for other victims. Detectives discussed crime elements, definitions related to domestic assault crimes, and how to obtain restraining orders. Additionally, station personnel instructed the advocates on basic self-defense techniques to keep them safe.
- *Fallen Heroes Memorial Ride* – A multi-agency event honoring and remembering law enforcement and fire personnel who were killed in the line of duty. Deputies met with several community members after the ceremonies to talk about those who paid the ultimate price.

Partner Agency Events – General Events

- 9-11 Memorial – Each year all of the Antelope Valley law enforcement and fire agencies meet at the Fallen Heroes Memorial at the Antelope Valley Mall to remember those who perished in the 9-11 attacks. This event features school students and members of the public. After the formal ceremony, law enforcement and fire personnel talk and console the public in attendance.
- Boo!vd – Coinciding with Halloween festivities, this City of Lancaster hosted carnival is a celebration where community members dress up in costume and go door to door “trick or treating” at businesses on Lancaster Blvd. Lancaster Station set up a booth and deputies handed out candy to children and took pictures in their “costumes.”
- Caring for the Community at University of Antelope Valley – An annual “Caring for the Community” toy drive and bike giveaway. Deputies helped with the distribution of more than 2,000 toys donated by the community. Deputies also rolled up their sleeves and served a hot lunch for those in need and helped pass out coats. Santa Claus was also present to take pictures with children and deputies.
- Casino Night – Both Antelope Valley stations have booster organizations which help to provide funding for items not supplied by the County. A major fundraising effort is each groups Casino Night. Station personnel are given the opportunity to engage with business owners and community members who help to support the efforts of the booster groups.
- Celebrate America – This City of Lancaster hosted event brings awareness to the beauty of American liberties and freedoms. Several deputies attended to interact and meet with residents and participate in several challenges, including a pie eating contest against the Fire Department.
- Days of Dialogue – Is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to be a catalyst in the community problem solving process by creating dialogue on sensitive social issues among diverse community groups. By facilitating respectful, purposeful conversation on a broad range of public issues and public policies and topics, they foster understanding, and encourage people to improve their quality of life through civic engagement. Both stations have embraced this program and have incorporated it into the CAC town hall meetings.
- Deputy Don Self Integrity Golf Tournament – Deputy Don Self worked at the Antelope Valley Mall where he would arrest shoplifters. He created a diversionary program for first time offenders stressing the importance of integrity. Deputy Self’s life was cut short due to a medical illness, but his legacy lives on. This golf tournament raises scholarship monies for high school students entering college. Off-duty deputies compete with business owners and members of the public at this annual event.
- Elder Abuse and Safety Presentation – A meeting specifically for elderly citizens living in group homes, these presentations covered safety information such as popular scams, financial, physical and emotional abuse by caregivers and social

media safety. Con-artists oftentimes prey on the elderly, so several different scams were shared to ensure our elderly residents do not fall victims to crime.

- *Fire Service Day* – This is the Los Angeles County Fire Department’s open house in the Antelope Valley. The Sheriff’s Department assists with this event by providing emergency and specialty equipment and vehicles for display. Deputies interact with the public by talking, answering questions and taking photos.
- *Foundations Fundraiser* – The fundraising event for this non-profit organization called “Transformations,” provides and promotes specialized programs for adults with many different “possibilities.” Deputies met with caregivers and participants of the program to reinforce that making contact with someone in uniform is the safest thing, should they be in need.
- *Guns and Hoses Softball Charity* – Deputies from both stations form a softball team and play against the Fire Department. The game is open to the public and money from ticket sales go to various non-profit organizations.
- *Hot Dogs, Harley’s and Hot Rods* – This one day car and motorcycle show is hosted by Cornerstone Church of Littlerock. The event includes music, games, food and a pinewood derby race. Deputies attend with specialized vehicles and have a great time interacting with the participants.
- *Justice Sunday National Continuum Event* – This event is held during the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend and involves faith-based community leaders with a focus on race relations and procedural justice for all. Deputy personnel attend local events and stand in unison with participants.
- *Law Day* – Sponsored by the Antelope Valley Bar Association and the Fallen Heroes Fund, this annual luncheon recognizes the efforts of individuals making a positive impact in criminal justice efforts throughout the Antelope Valley.
- *National Night Out* – This annual event, sponsored by Target stores, is a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement. Both stations hold large public events in local area parks. Each station showcases their equipment and specialized vehicles. Deputies and “McGruff the Crime Dog” are on hand to interact with the public and take pictures.



- *Relay for Life* – This annual charity event is sponsored by the American Cancer Society. It is a 24-hour walk, in which sponsors pledge donations. Station

personnel help at this event both on and off-duty, to show support for this worthy cause by walking, raising money, and providing security.

- *Serving Those Who Serve* – Presented by the Pen or Pencil organization, teens served dinner to deputies who had participated in the program throughout the year. Team building games were played where deputies had to trust participants to guide them to place the decorations on a Christmas tree while blindfolded and only using the participant's verbal instructions to guide them. Deputies encouraged the participants to stay in school and stay away from negative environments.
- *Welcome Back to Campus* – Community and college members met at the Antelope Valley College campus to discuss campus security for female students. There is an informal question and answer session where parents and college students are able to ask questions, get safety tips and other pertinent information for college students.



Settlement Agreement Item #91
"...Participate in local community meetings,..."

The Antelope Valley Stations have continued to actively work with the below listed local community organizations and community based groups. Through consistent collaboration with these community groups, both stations have established the Sheriff's Department as a valuable resource and community partner. In return, these

organizations have assisted the stations in creating opportunities in developing relationships with the community members they represent.

Through increased participation in civic and community engagement, deputies from Lancaster and Palmdale Stations have gained a greater understanding of community needs and are working alongside community members, non-profit organizations, community organizations, and other government agencies to positively impact the quality of life for all Antelope Valley residents.

City/Town Council Meetings

Strategy: Continue to partner with the communities we serve to identify problems and work collaboratively to develop solutions.

Objectives: Attendance at city and town council meetings allow the public to speak directly to a deputy regarding their concerns. It also allows deputies to listen and understand the concerns of the community. For continuity, the same deputy is usually present at the same meeting each month, with patrol deputies stopping in to hear community concerns.

Benefits: These meetings allow the public to meet the deputies who are currently working in their area. The deputies get to meet the public and can address their concerns and conduct follow-up visits with the public to help resolve their specific issue.

Obstacles: These meetings are held in the evenings when both stations have their highest volume of calls for service. This, coupled with staffing shortages, often results in the patrol deputies only being present for a short period of time, as they must respond to emergent calls.

- Acton Town Council
- Aqua Dulce Town Council
- Green Valley Town Council
- Juniper Hills Town Council
- Leona Valley Town Council
- Littlerock Town Council
- Palmdale City Council Meeting
- Sun Village Town Council
- Wrightwood Municipal Advisory Council
- Lake Los Angeles Town Council
- Antelope Acres Town Council
- Lancaster City Council Meeting



School Board Meetings

Strategy: Allow access for the public to talk to school resource deputies about problems affecting students and the schools.

Objectives: Attend meetings as requested by school board members based on crime trends or issues affecting local schools.

Benefits: These meetings are a forum for citizens to voice concerns regarding their communities, school programs, school safety, as well as their experiences and perceptions of deputy interactions with students.

Below are listed each of the school districts serving the Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County.

- Antelope Valley Unified School District
- Antelope Valley Union High School District
- Eastside Union School District
- Keppel Union School District
- Lancaster School District
- Palmdale School District
- Westside Union School District

Chamber of Commerce

Strategy: To allow access of Department personnel to the business community to address concerns and collaboratively develop solutions.

Objectives: Our goals have been to increase business participation in crime prevention programs, develop relationships with the business community, and to work together with local businesses to develop strategies to reduce crime within the business community.

Benefits: Deputies learn about crime and social issues facing large and small businesses and their impact.

Obstacles: Breakfast and lunch meetings are often problematic as there is no funding source for deputies to attend. Morning chamber meetings are often held during shift change, so to enable patrol personnel to attend they are either held over from early morning shift, or have to come in early for day shift.

The stations have attended the following Chamber of Commerce meetings:

- Antelope Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Lancaster Chamber of Commerce
- Palmdale Chamber of Commerce
- Quartz Hill Chamber of Commerce

In 2017, the Antelope Valley stations hope to meet with the newly re-established Black Chamber of Commerce and the newly formed Multi-Cultural Chamber.

Other Community Meetings

The meetings and organizations listed below engage large segments of the public within the greater Antelope Valley. Their commitment to the betterment of our community is

unquestionable. The Antelope Valley stations affiliation with these groups allows for our input, thus providing our personnel with resources to better serve citizens in need.

These groups have helped both stations, through education and training in recognizing those in need, understanding their perception of law enforcement, and how best to bring about a peaceful resolution to their situation. Field personnel are now equipped with mental tools and a toolbox full of local resources to help those in need.

- *Antelope Valley Homeless Coalition* – meets on the first Wednesday of the month, 1pm.
 - This coalition includes Grace Resource, Catalyst Foundation, Mental Health America, Valley Oasis, the Department of Mental Health, and other service providers. Each of these organizations provide education, emergency food, housing assistance and other emergency resources for homeless, veterans, mentally ill and/or displaced members of the community.
- *Antelope Valley National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (AV NAACP)* – Meets on the third Monday of every month, 6pm, at Growing Valley Baptist Church.
 - This meeting helps the Sheriff's Department repair fractured relations with minority communities, specifically the African-American community.
- *Antelope Valley Veterans Alliance and the Antelope Valley Veterans Community Action Coalition* (Veterans, Homeless Veterans, Veterans with Disabilities) – Meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 10am.
 - Both organizations are comprised of representatives from government agencies, law enforcement, and non-profit organizations to address the needs and concerns of the Antelope Valley's Veteran population. Deputies with prior military service attend this meeting.
- *Mental Health America* (Mental Health, Homeless, Veterans) – Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10am.
 - This organization has proven instrumental in helping to equip law enforcement personnel with tools and de-escalation techniques when encountering community members suffering with mental health issues.
- *Antelope Valley Re-Entry Coalition* - Meets the third Wednesday of the month at Paving the Way at 11:00 a.m.
 - This coalition was created to assist probationers and parolees make a successful reintegration from incarceration back into society.

Other Community Partnerships

- *American Red Cross* – This worldwide organization provides disaster and emergency relief services. Both stations meet regularly to discuss ongoing community efforts and disaster planning.
- *Antelope Valley Disaster Planning Council* – This bi-monthly meeting is made up of all public and private sector entities who can provide emergency or disaster

relief within the greater Antelope Valley. Each meeting features four major presentations by entities who will require emergency services or who can provide emergency services.

- *Antelope Valley Re-entry Coalition* – Spearheaded by the Paving the Way Foundation, this group works to assist community members who are on probation or parole to successfully fulfill the requirements of their court sentence, while finding gainful employment and/or education. The coalition holds two Community Resource Fairs per year.
- *Antelope Valley Interfaith Council* (Faith Based/Secular) – These meetings and events provide public forums designed to engage the community in an open setting to voice grievances, ask questions and join in fostering a greater understanding of community concerns.
- *Children's Charities of the Antelope Valley* – Thunder on the Lot – Both Antelope Valley stations assist in this event, which benefits over 25 children's organizations. This event has expanded to become the largest car and bike show event in northern Los Angeles County.
- *Foster Care Community Programs* – Palmdale Station has partnered with the Department of Children and Family Services to promote adoption from the foster care system within their service area. Their involvement allows a forum for perspective parents to partner with deputies in providing counseling, mentoring, resources, and tools for addressing incorrigible youth.
- *Grace Resource Center* - A faith-based community emergency housing shelter and food bank. Both Antelope Valley stations support food, clothing, jacket, shoe and backpack drives to support the growing number of homeless and low-income families coming into the Antelope Valley.





Palmdale. Each year, Palmdale Station deputies, including Search and Rescue, bike patrol, motor officers, and patrol deputies engage the children with a hands-on opportunity to ask questions, touch and feel, and wear some of the specialized equipment used by various units within law enforcement. Station Explorers are on hand to explain their role in assisting the Department and the community.

- *Jacob Hefter Foundation* – Jacob was 18-years-old when his life was taken when the commuter train he was riding in collided head on with a freight train. It was later determined the conductor had been distracted by text messaging. Both stations have partnered with this organization to warn teenagers and adults of the dangers of distracted driving.
- *Making Appropriate Choices (MAC) Program* – Lancaster Station deputies participate in this program which encourages local youth to “make appropriate choices.” The MAC program was created in response to several tragic events involving the use of illegal drugs and/or alcohol which cost local teens their lives. A committee comprised of business professionals, school administrators, law enforcement and local youth, researched various drug, alcohol and tobacco

prevention programs that were being taught nationwide. The committee selected elements from each program that they felt were the “best practices” and the “MAC” program was created. The value in the program’s overlying theme is the premise that students are taught they have a choice. Information is conveyed in a fun and informative way, and responsible behavior is rewarded through a variety of extracurricular school-sponsored activities in which deputies and California Highway Patrol officers also participate.

- *Paving the Way Foundation* – Provides educational and re-entry programs and materials for life classes, parenting classes, job interview and resume assistance.
- *Pen or Pencil Mentoring* – A culturally-based academic and mentoring enhancement curriculum created by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice. The principles of Pen or Pencil evolved around the link between educational experiences (pencil) and delinquency (penitentiary). The Antelope Valley Stations participate by mentoring in the program which is designed to empower and encourage minority students to graduate high school, go to and complete college, and ultimately working s a successful career.

PennyLane – Lancaster Station has partnered with this organization to provide safety training to employees, counselors, and other staff who work with troubled youth. Additionally, station personnel have been working with PennyLane administrators to create life skills classes for foster children who are aging out of the program. Many of our homeless young people are children who left the foster care system without a support system or the skills to take care of themselves.

- *The Salvation Army* – This worldwide faith-based organization provides numerous outreach services to a broad spectrum of citizens throughout the Antelope Valley. Both Antelope Valley stations have recently partnered with the Army to address homelessness, prostitution, human trafficking, emergency preparedness, disaster relief, and mentorship opportunities.
- *Special Olympics* – This worldwide organization empowers special needs athletes. Both stations provide support at events and host annual Tip-A-Cop events to help raise funds and awareness for this worthwhile cause.
- *Valley Oasis* – A community-based organization dedicated to eliminating social and domestic violence and homelessness through community awareness intervention, prevention, safe shelter, and supportive services.
- *YouthBuild USA* - Palmdale Station has partnered with the Antelope Valley chapter of YouthBuild, which works with young adults between the ages of 17-25. This outreach provides guidance to those who are often in conflict with the justice system. Deputies meet bi-monthly with YouthBuild participants to answer questions and discuss current issues. This outreach includes events which promote tolerance and teamwork by coming together and participating in softball and kickball games with the deputies.

*Deputies playing softball with
AV YouthBuild participants.*



*Station Captains and
dignitaries wearing red high
heel shoes, in support of
“Walking a Mile in Her Shoes”
event.*

Additional Community Partnerships and Programs

There are several partnerships which have been developed with community members, specifically created to better serve our area residents.

- *Acton Disaster Resiliency Program* – Originally created by the Department of Health Services, this program provides relief services after an emergency or disaster to the residents of Acton.
- *Illegal Dumping Taskforce* – The task force uses residents to identify and report illegal dumping activities in the unincorporated county areas of the Antelope Valley. The task force is managed by the Sheriff’s Department and Department of Public Works.
- *Water Board meetings* – The unincorporated area has several small water districts. Local area Resident Deputies attend these meetings to stay abreast of issues affecting their area residents.
- *Business Watch Meetings* – These meetings are held with numerous community stakeholders and business leaders. Crime trend information is disseminated by the Sheriff’s Department and deputies are available to address issues concerning businesses.
- *Neighborhood Watch Meetings* – The Sheriff’s Department provides information and training to neighborhoods seeking to create their own group. Both stations provide crime trend information and attend meetings as requested. The cities of

Lancaster and Palmdale have several hundred active groups.

- Block Captain's Forum – These meetings are held by the cities for Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. Crime trend information is discussed as well as Sheriff's Department and community resources.

Deputies dancing at "Cultural Heritage Day" event.



Encouraging good citizenship at "Pen and Pencil" event.

Charitable Giving

Both stations provide charity work on a small scale throughout Antelope Valley. The Sheriff's Department has approved additional charitable campaigns for larger scale charity work. Both stations support the below listed causes.

- Cesar Chavez Week Food Drive – In honor of Cesar Chavez Week, both stations collect non-perishable food items for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. This organization distributes food at five locations throughout the Antelope Valley. In 2016, both stations collected over 900 pounds of food.
- March of Dimes – Both stations collected in excess of \$1,000 for this charity.
- 999 For Kids – Both stations collected in excess of \$2,000 for this charity.
- Special Olympics – Tip-A-Cop fundraiser at Red Robin Restaurant. This event raised over \$3,000 in 2016.
- Charitable Giving Campaign - Fun in the Sun Chili Cook-off – Both stations participated in this event which provided over \$30,000 to our regional area Special Olympics.
- AV CERT Fundraiser - Numero Uno Pizzeria – This establishment was kind enough to donate a portion of a day's sales to benefit our local CERT group.
- Wheelchair Giveaway – Lancaster deputies took a report for an elderly disabled woman who had her wheelchair stolen. Unfortunately, she did not have the

financial means to purchase a new wheelchair. Detectives collected donations from Detective Bureau and were able to purchase her a new wheelchair.



Station Volunteer Opportunities

From the inception of the Sheriff's Department in 1850, we have always sought volunteers to help us achieve our mission. From "rounding up a posse" of citizens to help arrest a bad guy, to our modern day cadre of reserve deputies, the Department still embraces volunteers. It would be extremely difficult for each station to function without the help of our volunteers. Each of our volunteers is an extension of the station and the Department.

- *Law Enforcement Explorers* – This program is an interactive career program available for young adults ages 14-21. The Explorer program provides education and hands-on experience for youth who may be considering entering the law enforcement, criminal justice or military profession.
- *Explorer Search and Rescue* – This program uses specially trained Explorers to assist on search and rescue operations in the mountain and wilderness areas of the Antelope Valley.
- *Teen CERT* – This program is operated in conjunction with our local school districts. It teaches emergency and disaster preparation and practical skills. Program participants are used to assist with school emergency drills.
- *Station Volunteers* – This cadre of volunteers helps with completing, organizing and filing paperwork within each station.

- Station Boosters – This cadre of volunteers assist with fundraising efforts to help support station function.
- Community Advisory Committee – These volunteers are discussed in great detail under “Settlement Agreement item #91”.
- Clergy Council – This group is made up of pastors and associate pastors of churches throughout the Antelope Valley. They provide comment and suggestions from their constituency and act as a liaison between the stations and the community.
- Station Chaplain – This cadre of pastors minister to station personnel when requested.
- Volunteers on Patrol – This cadre of volunteers act as an extra set of “eyes and ears” on the streets of our community.
- Mounted Volunteer Posse – This cadre of volunteers act as an extra set of “eyes and ears” from horseback and patrols the rural areas of Palmdale.
- Mama and Papa Program – When children are removed from their homes, they are often taken to the station until family members or the Department of Children and Family Services arrive. This can sometimes take hours. We utilize specially trained volunteers to watch these children. The volunteers wear regular street clothes while playing and interacting with the children.
- A.V. Court Docent Volunteer – This cadre of volunteers help in the morning and afternoon at Antelope Valley Court. They help direct the public to the proper courtroom.
- CERT Volunteers – This cadre of volunteers have been trained in the FEMA Community Emergency Response Team program and have agreed to help our community in the event of a disaster or emergency.
- Disaster Communications Specialists – These highly trained volunteers assist the stations with amateur radio communications in the event of an emergency or disaster.
- Uniform Reserve Company – These highly trained volunteers are Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s and can perform all police functions. They support and augment patrol operations.
- Antelope Valley Search and Rescue – These highly trained volunteers are Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s and can perform all police functions. Additionally, they are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and have specialized training in mountaineering and wilderness survival and rescue skills. They augment patrol operations and search for missing, lost and/or injured hikers.
- Civilian Volunteer Specialists (SAR Team) – These highly trained volunteers are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and have specialized training in mountaineering and wilderness survival and rescue skills. They support the search and rescue team by searching for missing, lost and/or injured hikers.



Settlement Agreement Item #91
“...Making itself available for community feedback,...”

The above listed community events, meetings, and partnerships provide numerous opportunities for community feedback from a broad spectrum of our population. In addition, each and every deputy at both stations carry business cards and each patrol car has complaint forms in both English and Spanish.

At the front counter of both stations, there are complaint forms in both English and Spanish. They are in the open, as opposed to being behind the front counter, so there is no need to talk to personnel. The public can just come in, take a form and leave.

The main Sheriff's website contains both complaint and commendation forms. Both stations have links on their websites to the complaint/commendation form. We also receive feedback via mail, email, telephone, or in person at the station, in the field while at a call for service, or at community events.

Both Lancaster and Palmdale CAC's also receive feedback from the community. Information they receive is forwarded directly to the station captains. The station captains will research the issue and take the necessary action.

Settlement Agreement Item #91

"...Developing the Community Advisory Committees (CAC),..."

The Sheriff's Department has supported the Lancaster and Palmdale CAC's from their inception. Their goal is to be a liaison between the Sheriff's Department and the Community. The CAC's are responsible to keep the Sheriff's Department informed about criminal matters and quality of life issues within the Antelope Valley. Additionally, they receive and forward public comment and complaints to the Sheriff's Department.

CAC members have unfiltered access to the station captains and provide valuable input to them and the Sheriff regarding strategies in training which would improve community relations and the complaint process. They also work with the Sheriff and station captains to establish and carry out community public safety priorities and concerns.

Both CAC's have received training in the organizational structure of the Sheriff's Department, a review of Department's Manual of Policy and Procedures, the Department's complaint system, use of force policies, internal investigations and accountability systems, Peace Officers Bill of Rights (POBR), policies and procedures related to the use of force and firearms, station community programs, Problem Solving Policing, Community Policing and Communication, Bias-Free Policing, and Implicit Bias. Both stations are developing a program to train new CAC members so they may better understand how the Sheriff's Department operates and equip them with the same information of tenured CAC members.

Both CAC's have taken active roles in station and community events, making themselves available to the community for feedback. They have hosted quarterly town hall meetings in 2016 to discuss the Settlement Agreement and progress made to date. Our goal is to continue to see an increase in attendance and participation as these meetings have proven to be a great opportunity to engage with the public and receive commentary.

The Lancaster CAC created and maintains control over its Facebook page, "LancasterCAC." CAC Member Shunnon Thomas is the administrator of the site. The CAC is able to receive messages from the public and can advise the public how to file complaints, commendations, or just voice comments or concerns. To date, the Palmdale CAC has not created an Internet or social media presence.

One of the initial projects spearheaded by the Lancaster CAC was to create a pamphlet about what to do if stopped by a deputy sheriff in the Antelope Valley. This project was submitted to the Monitoring Team and forwarded to the Department of Justice for approval. The pamphlet is expected to be released by early 2017.

The CAC's are still working with our local cable and radio stations to produce several public service announcements (PSA's). The purpose of these PSA's is to educate the public on, "What to do if you are pulled over," "What to do if you see an emergency vehicle behind you," and "How to reduce theft," to name a few.

Both CAC's have been working with community leaders to build partnerships and specifically engage youth, the Hispanic community, and communities of color. The ultimate goal is to establish open communication and trust.

Settlement Agreement Item #91

"...Working with the community on the development of diversion programs."

VIDA (Vital Intervention Directional Alternatives)

VIDA is a 16-week structured academy. Each week consists of a 2-hour mid-week counseling class and an 8-hour course on Saturdays. Students engage in educational tours, physical fitness and educational classes. Parents attend parenting skill building classes.

Male or female participants must be between the ages of 11 to 17-1/2 and may be referred to the program through the court, probation, patrol deputies, station detectives, school districts, or a legal guardian.

VIDA is facilitated by Deputy Sheriff's equipped with training in juvenile intervention. Each site is a collaborative effort between law enforcement, community-based organizations and volunteers dedicated to the ongoing success of each family.

Palmdale VIDA is located at Oaktree School (38136 35th Street East, Palmdale). VIDA is part of the Department's Community Partnership Bureau. There is currently one Palmdale Deputy assigned to the program.

Enrollment:

2016

Class 30: Total Enrolled 33; Graduated 11

Class 31: Total Enrolled 32; Graduated 12

Lancaster VIDA is located at 1040 W. Lancaster Blvd, Lancaster. There is currently one Lancaster Deputy and one Lancaster Reserve Deputy assigned to the program.

Enrollment:

2016

Class 30: Enrolled 27; Graduated 11

Class 31: Enrolled 33; Graduated 14

The VIDA program graduates have had less than a 10% recidivism rate.

YAL (Youth Activity League)

Youth Activity Leagues (YAL's) provide educational tutoring, computer training, cultural field trips, sports activities, and character building activities for "at-risk" children ages 8 – 17. These children, some for the very first time, enjoy a positive relationship with law enforcement. This afterschool program offers a safe environment for young people during the hours of the day that most juvenile crime is committed. Activities and

programs offered include: basketball, libraries, academic tutoring, boxing, computer labs, cultural trips, arts and crafts, cooking, and foreign languages.

The program has an open door policy. Most children are referred to the program by local schools. There are currently 80 children enrolled in the program, with approximately 30-35 showing up day to day. YAL is open Monday thru Friday, 1230 pm to 630 pm with occasional field trips on the weekends. Children are also provided snacks and a hot meal.

Palmdale YAL is located at Jackie Robinson Park (8773 East Ave R, Littlerock). Palmdale Station has one deputy assigned to the program. The Sheriff's Youth Foundation also provides a civilian staff member.

Teen Court

"Teen Court" is a general term describing alternative early intervention courts which involve young people in various roles participating in the trial of a juvenile offender. It is a juvenile diversion and prevention program which link students, schools, teachers, parents, juvenile offenders, local police, civic organizations, volunteer attorneys, the Los Angeles Probation Department, and the Los Angeles Superior Court in a collaborative effort to reduce recidivism and encourage juvenile offenders to accept responsibility for their actions.

Teen Court is based on the philosophy that both the students who volunteer to participate as jurors, clerks, and bailiffs, and the juvenile offender benefit from participation. The premise is that a juvenile offender will not continue delinquent behavior after participating in a judicial process in which a jury of their peers determines that he or she violated the law and recommends an appropriate consequence. Each Teen Court case teaches the juvenile offender and the student volunteers: 1) The rules of the law that apply to the particular case; 2) The consequences of the offense; and 3) How due process is observed by court procedure. In addition, the participants – both offender and volunteer – learn about justice, power, equality, property rights, and liberty. Justice is demonstrated when the jury exercises its power of decision to either hold the alleged offender responsible for his or her actions or to exonerate him or her of responsibility by finding him or her not guilty. The property rights of members of society are addressed in cases involving vandalism and theft. Liberty is addressed when the desire of the individual offender is weighed against the rights of others. The court provides equal justice according to established rules and procedures.

The Teen Court program offers a convicted juvenile offender the incentive of having no record of a criminal conviction if the sentence imposed is completed within a six-month period. If the juvenile offender fails to comply with the conditions of informal probation for the entire six month period, the offender is transferred back into the traditional juvenile justice system for adjudication. This informal probation early intervention program is authorized by Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 236 and 654.

Teen Court has two locations in the Antelope Valley:

Highland High School
39055 25th Street West
Palmdale, Ca. 93551

Antelope Valley High School
44900 Division Street
Lancaster, Ca. 93535

Juveniles in the program who attend either Highland or Antelope Valley High School will have their cases adjudicated at the opposite location. Cases are held twice a month at each school and generally two to three cases are heard each session.

2016 Lancaster: **25** (3 received new arrest)

2016 Palmdale: **8** (2 received new arrest)

Total cases for Teen Court 2016 = 33

New arrest = 5

Teen Court participants have an approximately 10% recidivism rate.

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Baseline Survey Study

The Monitoring Team is working with the Sheriff's Department to conduct a community survey in an effort to establish a baseline. Until the survey has been developed and completed, there cannot be a baseline study to determine the effectiveness of the Sheriff Department's efforts to engage the community in the Antelope Valley.

Tracking

The Sheriff's Department created a tracking system to record community engagement events and to document each deputy's participation at an event. The Department also created a community event survey form, which is made available for the public to complete and comment on the Department's participation at an event. As a pilot program, we have set-up the event survey online and provided event participants with a direct link from the Palmdale Station website (Palmdale.lasd.org) to the online survey.

Survey forms are provided at station events. It is very common for event-goers to verbally express their comments, concerns and/or appreciation of the event and the Department, however, it is not very common for participants to take the time to complete a written comment

On October 29, 2016, Palmdale Station hosted a "Trunk or Treat and Car Show" event at their local Boys and Girls Club facility. Over 600 people attended the event. Only 15 comments were received, all of which were favorable. The station provided a rock climbing wall at the event which required a waiver form to be completed by a responsible adult. The waiver form required a name and address. Letters were mailed to all 287 people who signed the waiver, asking them to complete the event survey form supplied with the letter or online. Only eight survey forms were returned, six mailed in, and two completed online (27 letters were returned as undeliverable).

Attendance

Both stations believe they have made great strides in their efforts to engage their communities. The stations are hopeful their efforts will result in greater attendance and

participation from the public at town hall meetings and Department-sponsored events. Both stations have published these events via conventional newspaper articles, fliers, posters, station internet websites, and social media. We have handed out fliers in front of shopping centers, have gone door-to-door, and have enlisted our local schools to send the fliers home with students. With the exception of reaching out to our schools, these are the same avenues used to advertise station open houses, safety fairs and the Trunk or Treat and Car show event. Each of these events garnered several hundred people.

Interestingly enough, a town hall meeting was held in Leona Valley to discuss the temporary closure of a roadway. The only advertisement was a marquee in front of the community center. More than one hundred people came out, mostly to complain about the road closure.

State Senator Steve Knight held a town hall meeting to address concerns about the repeal of portions of the Affordable Care Act. This meeting was held at Chimbolle Cultural Center in Palmdale. Several hundred people were present to voice their views.

In the town hall meetings where citizens did voice their views and concerns about the Sheriff's Department, deputies met one-on-one with the citizens, either during the event or at a later date, to obtain information about their concern. Once the issue was investigated, the citizen was contacted and informed of the disposition. In several instances, once the concern was investigated, it was learned the citizen was misinformed, or the incident did not occur.

The Sheriff's Department is interested in working with the groups who formed a lawsuit against the Department, however, thus far, it does not appear they are interested in engaging the Department. We are hopeful this will change in the future.

Event Photos

The Monitoring Team requested the Department provide high-quality, un-staged photographs of deputy personnel engaging the public at community events as evidence of their attendance. This request has proven difficult to accomplish for a couple of reasons learned from community members. The community members, at times, have said they do not want their picture taken or used, and/or have made comments to the effect that it appears disingenuous and/or self-serving in taking the pictures for publicity or proof of fulfilling an obligation rather than a true concern for the community members.

Department Participation

The Sheriff's Department's primary function is to provide police services throughout Los Angeles County. As part of providing these services, the Department believes community engagement is essential in providing safer communities. Palmdale and Lancaster stations service approximately 1,170 square miles, serving nearly half-a-million residents. Despite the vast area and number of residents, plus staffing shortages, both stations were able to have approximately 83% of their sworn personnel participate in at least one community event during the 2016 calendar year.

The goal is to have even more participation in the coming year. The Monitoring Team and the Department are clarifying which events constitute community engagement efforts, and which ones are consider normal police functions.

Tragedy Strikes the Antelope Valley

On Wednesday, October 5, 2016, Lancaster Sergeant Steven Owen was shot and killed while responding to a burglary in progress. Sergeant Owen was checking the rear of an apartment building when the subject emerged and shot him. Another deputy on scene heard the shooting and ran to the rear of the building where he found Sergeant Owen wounded. As he rendered aid, the suspect attempted to steal Sergeant Owen's patrol car, but crashed into a second patrol car as a second deputy attempted to stop him.

The suspect then fled into a nearby home where he took two teenagers hostage for several hours. As a SWAT team entered the apartment, the man fled but was quickly apprehended.

Once the word got out about this tragic incident, literally thousands of community members came out in support of Sergeant Owen and his family. Both Lancaster and Palmdale Stations were flooded with condolence cards, letters, flowers, and food. Citizens lined overpasses, parked along the emergency lane of the 14 Freeway, and lined the streets as Sergeant Owen was transported to and from the coroner's office in downtown Los Angeles.

On the day of Sergeant Owen's funeral, the Antelope Valley community came out to show their support and extend their condolences. It was an extremely somber occasion, made better only by the outpouring of support by our community.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES



Hispanic Outreach

The Lancaster and Palmdale Stations have worked diligently to increase outreach efforts within the Hispanic Community. Both stations added bilingual personnel to their community relations/public information staff. In addition to hosting neighborhood watch groups, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and women's self-defense classes spoken primarily in Spanish, we have partnered with local churches and business groups such as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce which host various social events.

Community Relations staff from both stations are currently developing a Community Academy which will be presented solely in Spanish. Additionally, both stations are working to increase communication efforts through multi-media by 2017. It is our goal to have Facebook, Nixle, and Station information in Spanish as well.

The Department continues to establish trust within the Hispanic community despite some community members distrust of police officers and government officials due to

their experiences in their country of origin. The Department is working on overcoming the obstacles those with limited English speaking skills have by presenting more information in Spanish, whether it be on-line, in written word, or in presentations.

Clergy Council

The Antelope Valley Sheriff's Clergy Council program which is led by community church leaders and sponsored by both stations. In 2016, we looked to increase the number of pastors participating in the program. These efforts have resulted in an increase in the number of African American pastors who are participating in the program. Our goal in the next year is to increase the overall number of pastors participating in the program especially within the minority communities.

Diversions Programs

Both the city of Lancaster and the city of Palmdale recognize the importance of reducing the number of incarcerated youth and offering instead, diversion programs aimed at redirecting misguided youth before they destroy their futures. Our involvement with the VIDA, YAL, Teen Court and Explorer programs work towards redirecting and mentoring youth to positive activities and life choices.

Our work with the Probation Department and the teen court program help to provide an alternative to incarceration. Our partnerships with other organizations like YouthBuild, MAC program, and Salvation Army, provide alternatives and role models to affect positive life choices.

Both stations will continue with these efforts and seek out additional organizations who can help with these and new endeavors.

CONCLUSION

Over the past four years, both Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff's Station personnel have worked diligently to improve relations within their respective communities. They have developed the CAC's, worked with community collaborative groups to address special needs of homeless persons, the mentally-ill, veterans, LGBTQ, youth, and minority communities. It is our goal that every member of our community feels safe and free to voice their comments, commendations and concerns to the Department. Through continued conversations, we hope to learn more about the diverse community members we serve and work establishing more effective community partnerships.