

LANCASTER SHERIFF'S STATION

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

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Introduction

The Lancaster Sheriff's Station Community Advisory Committee was established in 2011 to promote a better understanding between the public and the Sheriff's Department. 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 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 Settlement Agreement (2015), the CAC produces regular reports. This annual report produced by the CAC covers their work from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

CAC Members

Allison Blaylock – OUTreach Center, (818)-288-7158, allison@outreachcenterav.org

Dr. Miguel Coronado - Community Activist/Youth Mentor, (661)-466-6810,

Drmcoronado13@gmail.com

Brian Johnson – Pastor True Life Community Church, (661)-902-3805,

bljohnson32@yahoo.com

Cynthia Lehman – Professor, Antelope Valley College, (626)-689-3002,

clehman@avc.edu

Dave Mashore - CEO Catalyst Foundation, (661)-948-8559 davem@qnet.com

Shunnon Thomas – President NAACP (AV Chapter), (661)-492-5355,

shunnon@shunnon.com

Lynde Williams - Community Activist/Neighborhood Watch Captain, (661)-547-9412,

lyndewilliams@yahoo.com

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: Brian Johnson

Secretary: Cynthia Lehman

Station Liaison: Shunnon Thomas

Activities Chairperson: Lynde Williams

Safety Chairperson: Dave Mashore

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 Liaison coordinates all dissemination of committee information to public venues, including publicity for upcoming Town Halls and public meetings. The 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. During this reporting period the CAC and Lancaster Station adapted to the March 2020 CA Stay-at-Home orders by moving all monthly meetings to Zoom. In spite of the challenges, the committee and Station personnel continued to meet on a regular basis and plan for future public engagement events.

Monthly meetings in this reporting period include:

07/09/2019, held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station

08/06/2019, CAC participation in National Night Out events

09/03/2019, held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station

10/01/2019, held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station

11/04/2019, CAC quarterly public meeting

12/03/2019, held at Le Papillon as an end of year dinner/meeting

01/07/2020, held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station

02/04/2020, held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station, meeting with AV Monitoring Team

03/03/2020, held at Lancaster Sheriff's Station

04/07/2020, held as a Zoom meeting

05/05/2020, held as a Zoom meeting

06/02/2020, held as a Zoom meeting

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 2019 - June 2020 the CAC did bring forward several concerns from the community. Some of the concerns and follow up discussed below will be elaborated upon in greater detail in the Recommendations Section of this report.

A committee member asked about the possibility of deputies wearing more casual

attire for public meetings. He feels it would make the deputies appear more approachable. This suggestion was brought forward last year as well and the response back from Lancaster Station was that only bike patrols are approved to wear LASD polo shirts.

The committee again discussed an earlier CAC recommendation in regards to adding more bike patrols in the city. Captain Weber advised the CAC that the Sheriff's Department is under contract with the city of Lancaster. The number of patrol units, motor units, and how personnel are deployed are determined as part of the contract with the city. Any changes in how station personnel are deployed would have to be agreed upon by the city and approved through the contract. CAC members were reminded they should not approach the city on behalf of the CAC or the Department. However, in response to their question, CAC members could go and request bike patrols as private citizens.

The CAC was very appreciative of Lancaster Station's community engagement efforts in this reporting period. The Station hosted the first all-Spanish Community Academy and the first all-Spanish Town Hall in 2019. Both events were a huge success and the CAC and Station discussed all the positive feedback obtained from the community after these events. We believe the Spanish-speaking community felt valued at that meeting. We all agreed that it was wonderful that several Latinx deputies were able to attend and dialogue with residents. As a committee, we also agreed we need to continue to reach out to the Latinx community and increase attendance at future public meetings.

There was much discussion this past year on the recruitment of minorities within LASD. Ideas were proposed to get the Recruitment Unit to promote law enforcement careers at Black schools, colleges, and churches. The CAC recommended reaching out to Black pastors, who could reach out to youth in their churches to help with recruitment efforts. The CAC believes the demographics at each Station should reflect the diversity within the communities served.

The CAC again raised questions in regards to the content of the Bias-Free Policing Training. In 2019, both CACs were offered summary versions of that training after they requested it through Sgt Dawson and Sgt Nagel. Two training sessions were scheduled and the public was even invited to one of those sessions. Unfortunately, the CAC attendance at those two training sessions was very low. Most of the current Lancaster CAC membership has never seen the curriculum of the Bias-Free Policing Training. The AV Monitoring Team also promised they would make the formal training available to both CACs. No training date has yet been set so that the CAC can observe the training that AV deputies receive as per the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

Several CAC members voiced concern that the material presented is not being taught from the perspective of an African American instructor. Questions were raised about the content material being taught to deputies and whether those training sessions are effectively achieving the desired outcomes. The CAC intends to further research the training material and methods of instruction and make a recommendation to DOJ and the Monitoring Team in regards to any revisions they feel are necessary to the Bias-Free Policing curriculum.

CAC Quarterly Public Meetings

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

09/30/2019, at Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH), 44226 10th Street W., Lancaster, Spanish language Town Hall

11/04/2019, at Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH), 44226 10th Street W., Lancaster

02/20/2020, at Growing Valley Baptist Church, 44818 20th Street W., Lancaster

06/15/2020, Town Hall with Sheriff Villanueva, held as a Zoom meeting

On September 30, 2019 the CAC and Lancaster Station hosted the first-ever all Spanish-language Town Hall at AVPH in Lancaster. About 30 community members attended this event. 6 deputies from the Station led the discussion around topics generated by the audience. Several audience members were recent graduates of the first Spanish-language Community Academy, also hosted by Lancaster Station in 2019. The CAC agreed that this event was one of our best quarterly public meetings and we will definitely be hosting more events geared toward our Spanish speaking communities.

The quarterly public meetings on November 4, 2019 and February 20, 2020 followed our usual format of providing the audience with a summary of the most recent Monitoring Team Report and then opening up the conversation for community feedback and questions. Both of these Town Halls were attended by approximately 40-50 community members and between 10-15 deputies.

The last quarterly public meeting in this reporting period occurred on June 15, 2020 and it was conducted as a Zoom meeting, hosted by Sheriff Villanueva. Due to the

COVID-19 restrictions on public meetings, Lancaster CAC and the Station were in the process of creating a social media driven campaign to address community concerns and feedback. The social media campaign would have replaced an actual physical meeting with community-generated questions that could be answered and discussed on Facebook and other platforms over an extended period of time. The CAC was asked to collect community feedback and concerns and forward them to the Community Relations Unit at the Station. The idea was for the CAC and Station personnel to respond to the community using a variety of social media platforms, including live virtual discussion via Zoom.

In the midst of planning and executing this social media campaign, Sheriff Villanueva organized a virtual Town Hall for Lancaster and Palmdale. The AV was very fortunate in the past year that the Sheriff actually made two visits for Town Halls. He hosted a public meeting in Palmdale at the Chimbole Center on September 12, 2019. The Sheriff also hosted a Town Hall in Lancaster at City of Hope Hospital on December 19, 2019. Both events were attended by approximately 40-75 community members.

The Sheriff's Town Hall on June 15, 2020 was advertised extensively for a month and Lancaster CAC was asked to send concerns and questions directly to Captain Weber to forward on to Sheriff Villanueva. Students from Antelope Valley College created a list of almost twenty-five questions for the Sheriff. Their questions mainly focused on racial profiling, use of force guidelines, LASD accountability procedures, and body worn cameras. The Sheriff replied to almost half of the questions the students asked. The community was also able to call in during the Town Hall and ask questions and offer

feedback. Both Station Captains also attended the Town Hall and responded to community members.

Advertising of Quarterly Public Meetings

For all Station events (including the CAC quarterly public 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 Department, as well as with the Department's Headquarters Media Unit. Additionally, Lancaster Station staff post the event to 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, who notify special interest groups such as the NAACP, T-CAL, and 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 whatever 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 that 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 the completed surveys were reviewed and discussed with the CAC at monthly meetings.

Community members have brought forth their crime and quality of life concerns at quarterly public meetings and the CAC and Station are working on ways we can address those crime and quality of life issues. We as a committee would like to see crime prevention topics continue 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, getting community buy-in and participation has been difficult. Getting residents to 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 they 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 with 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 those 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 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.

Community Engagement Review

In all of the AV Monitoring Team's Six Month Reports, the Monitors have consistently stated that their community engagement review indicates that Lancaster Station does not do enough to truly engage and receive feedback from the community. The Monitors have referred to their engagement efforts as "public relations" work. The Lancaster CAC would like for the Monitors to clarify what more is needed from the Station to demonstrate their commitment to effective community engagement. Since one of the primary objectives of the CAC is to advise the Station on ways to build trust and legitimacy within the local community, it would be most helpful if we understood what the Monitors believe is lacking in the Station's current community engagement efforts.

According to guidelines established by The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), examples of effective community engagement practices are as follows:

- 1) Hosting community events and attending events hosted by outside agencies,
- 2) Coffee with a Cop programs,
- 3) National Night Out,
- 4) Ride-Alongs,

- 5) Neighborhood Watch Programs and neighborhood-specific briefings,
- 6) Town Hall meetings,
- 7) Strategic partnerships with schools, community organizations, civic organizations, and religious organizations,
- 8) Use of social media to inform and receive feedback from the community,
- 9) Community surveys, and
- 10) Press conferences.

Lancaster Station produces an annual report of all their community engagement efforts. This report is posted to the Station 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 AVC's Black History Quiz Bowl competition, participation at the Cinco de Mayo celebrations in Lake Los Angeles, *Boold* Trick or Treating with children, a variety of school presentations throughout the year, mentorship in the MAC Program (anti-drug program) at 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.

Last year the Station participated in 145 public events. This year the public events calendar was greatly diminished due to the Stay-at-Home orders from the Governor's Office. The Station participated in just 27 public events prior to mid-March 2020. Obviously the challenges of meeting in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic are going to require some alternative planning. The CAC believes that these opportunities for dialogue, while they must be virtual for the time being, 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 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The CAC has made several recommendations to Lancaster Sheriff's Station. Some of the recommendations have already received feedback, and where possible that feedback will be discussed in this section of the report.

- **Casual Attire at Public Events** - It was suggested that deputies wear more casual attire in public meetings. A recommendation was made last year and again this reporting period to suggest deputies wear LASD polo shirts to public meetings so they would appear more approachable to the public. This recommendation was discussed at several CAC meetings and the feedback received at those meetings was that LASD only approves the polo shirts for deputies assigned to bike patrols.
- **Bike Patrols** - A recommendation was made again this year for increased bike patrols in the city of Lancaster. The CAC believes the bike patrols would make the deputies more visible and allow for more contact with the community. This recommendation was made in the last reporting period and it was discussed at length in several monthly meetings both last year and again this year. Adding bike patrols does create some logistical problems for policing the city. The city of Lancaster also contracts with the Station on the numbers of patrols for the city. Community members can direct their requests for bike patrols to the City Council if they feel that more bike patrols are needed.

- **Spanish-language Public Events** - The CAC recommends continued focus on Spanish-language community engagement with Lancaster Station. Station leadership has already affirmed their commitment to pursuing continued engagement with our Spanish-speaking communities. The Station also intends to further their engagement with the African American and LGBT+ communities to build trust and establish partnerships.
- **Recruitment of African American Deputies** - The CAC has expressed concerns regards the low numbers of African American deputies at Lancaster Station. They would like to see increased focus on recruiting Black deputies to work at the AV Stations. Lancaster Station leadership and Sheriff Villanueva have expressed in monthly meetings and Town Halls that LASD does have a commitment to diversity and they intend to continue to recruit in under-represented communities. The CAC suggested utilizing the Clergy Council and local African American churches as an avenue for potential recruitment. Antelope Valley College has also partnered with both Stations to assist in recruitment and testing efforts for LASD.
- **Bias-Free Policing Training** - As discussed at length in a previous section, there are several concerns in regards to the Bias-Free Policing Training. The CAC has asked for the opportunity to receive the training and two summary versions were provided to both CACs. The Sheriff's Department did offer the training but most CAC members did not attend.

In the past, LASD has also offered other training sessions when requested and CAC attendance has been very low. The Bias-Free training was also promised to the CACs by the Monitoring Team last year and no date for the formal training was ever established.

- **Trainer for Bias-Free Policing** - The CAC has concerns over the instructor teaching the material and the curriculum of the Bias-Free Policing Training. Lancaster CAC recommends the appointment of an African American instructor for the training. The CAC believes only an African American instructor can convey the depths of the experiences of the African American community in relation to policing practices. The CAC also wants to make sure that the curriculum addresses issues of concern within the LGBT+ community. They plan to make a formal recommendation at a later date to DOJ.
- **Updates on Deputy-Involved Shootings** - In this reporting period there were four deputy-involved shootings in Lancaster. After each incident, the CAC was briefed by Lancaster Station. Capt. Weber provided as much detail on the shooting and investigation as he could at the time. Lancaster Station has always discussed every critical incident with the CAC at monthly meetings and in Town Halls. The CAC has been provided with information on the investigative process involved after every shooting. While there may be an immediate demand for public information and disciplinary procedures, LASD can only provide limited information as the incidents are active investigations. All deputy-involved

shootings receive a thorough investigation, which includes both internal and external oversight.

- A request was made by the CAC to at least get text message updates after every deputy-involved shooting. Lancaster Station and the CAC have been using a text messaging system for at least the last three years. Information doesn't always get out as quickly and as accurately as some might expect, but the Station has kept the CAC informed as much as possible after every critical incident. CAC members have also been getting information from Captain Weber, either in person or by email after each incident.
- **Access to Disciplinary Records** - Related to these recent shootings, several CAC members have also been requesting individual deputy misconduct and disciplinary records from Lancaster Station. As per the terms of the Settlement Agreement, "The CAC will not have access to any non-public information regarding an individual deputy or allegation of misconduct or disciplinary action" (SA #97). The CAC is not a Civilian Oversight Commission and as such, it cannot obtain this information.
- **Adding New CAC Members** - CAC membership has recently declined due to the removal and/or resignation of a few members. The committee needs to look at adding some new members, especially youth representation.
- **Virtual Public Meetings** - Lastly, the CAC recommends moving forward that we host monthly virtual meetings with Lancaster Station. Each

monthly meeting could be “hosted” by a different CAC member and target a specific community. Given that we don’t know when public in-person meetings can resume, the committee believes targeted outreach via Zoom chats are the best option at the moment for all parties. Lancaster Station is committed to community engagement and the CAC really needs to assist with this process given the current pandemic.

Unit Order #72 from Lancaster Sheriff’s Station discusses the role and responsibilities of the CAC as follows:

- “Advising the Lancaster Sheriff’s Station on strategies and training to improve community relations, bias-free policing, and access to the civilian complaint system;
- Working with the Lancaster Sheriff’s Station to establish and carry out community public safety priorities;
- Receiving and conveying to the Lancaster Sheriff’s Station public comments and concerns.
- Advising the Lancaster Sheriff’s Station on matters relating to public perception of law enforcement issues, services and performance and sharing information with the public regarding the same.
- Representing the views of the local community relating to law enforcement efforts, programs, needs and concerns.
- Assisting the Lancaster Sheriff’s Station staff by providing advice and tailoring programs which are uniquely suited to meet the community's needs.

- Assisting in establishing community partnerships and the education of the community to the needs and goals of law enforcement.
- Provide the community with information regarding implementation of LASD's Agreement with the United States Department of Justice to ensure constitutional policing.

The Lancaster CAC will have no formal involvement in the resolution or review of citizen complaints; however, they will perform a valuable service by serving as another conduit for personnel and service complaints and in the elimination of erroneous perceptions regarding Department procedures" (www.lasd.org).

As we move forward into this next year, it is extremely important for the CAC to take a more active role in assisting Lancaster Station in developing and implementing a Community Policing Model.

APPENDIX

**Lancaster Sheriff's Station
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

July 9, 2019

1. Call to Order

Cynthia Lehman called the meeting to order at 1827 hours.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Dawson, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Christian Aligwekwe, Lynde Williams.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved from the 03/05/19 meeting.

4. Captain's Report

Capt. Weber shared information regards the date and location change for the Town Hall with Sheriff Villanueva in September 2019. The Town Hall will be held September 12, 2019 at 6pm at the Chimbole Center in Palmdale. CAC members were encouraged to help publicize the event.

5. New Business:

a) Youth Summit

If the CAC intends to move forward on the Youth Summit we should have some discussion as to whether we want to partner with Tarzana Treatment Centers or another organization/event. This item has now been tabled.

b) CAC Volunteer Hours Form

This item was removed from the agenda.

c) CAC Draft Report (due August 1, 2019)

Cynthia Lehman has the draft of the CAC report done and ready for review. It was sent out to the CAC by email for review before submission to the Monitoring Team.

d) Town Hall with Sheriff Villanueva, September 12, 2019

The Town Hall was rescheduled to this new date at the Chimbole Center in Palmdale.

e) National Night Out – August 1, Lancaster/August 6, unincorporated areas

CAC members were encouraged to attend one of this year's National Night Out events. Our meeting in August is being cancelled to allow members to participate at one of the local events.

f) CAC Participation at AV Fair, August 16-25, 2019

Cynthia and Sgt. Dawson both asked the committee for their participation at the AV Fair this year. CAC members were asked to distribute the annual AV Community Survey at the Fair. The Monitoring Team approved this suggestion after discussions with both CACs. A tentative schedule will be established in July 2019.

6. Old Business:

**a) Public Meeting on 2019 AV Survey (MT, DOJ, UCLA researchers)
June 26, 2019, 6pm, City of Hope Hospital**

The community was invited to provide feedback on the last Annual Community Survey. Both CACs also participated in the discussion.

7. Open Comments from CAC

There were no additional comments.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 1927 hrs

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

Lancaster Sheriff's Station

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2019

1. Call to Order

Miguel Coronado called the meeting to order at 1816 hours.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Dawson, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Shunnon Thomas, Lynde Williams, Dave Mashore, Miguel Coronado, Allison Blaylock, Christian Aligwekwe.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 9, 2019 were approved.

4. Captain's Report

Capt. Weber reminded the committee of the importance of members attending scheduled monthly meetings of the CAC. He said it is very important to the Station that our committee meets monthly. The CAC meetings are required to demonstrate compliance with the Settlement Agreement.

The recent shooting, which turned out to be a hoax, was discussed. Capt. Weber explained the different levels of civil service protections for the different categories of employees in the Department, and the fact that probationary employees had a very low level of protection per civil service rules. Deputy Reinoso is no longer with the Sheriff's Department.

The District Attorney's Office is now handling the investigation to see if criminal charges will be made against Reinoso. Capt. Weber stressed the importance of transparency and how significant it was that Sheriff Villanueva held a news conference on a Saturday. This was an important event to inform the public of the Department's decision to terminate his employment.

Several CAC members expressed their belief that the DA should prosecute the deputy for creating a stressful and dangerous situation for the Sheriff's Dept. and the surrounding community. Questions were raised about the security in the Station parking lot and what steps would be taken to provide better protection to personnel. Capt. Weber said the security and lack of privacy in the parking lot has been a concern for quite some

time. It was proposed that solar panels be installed in the lot to provide some measure of privacy and security.

Capt. Weber stated that he was very proud of the response from the Sheriff's Dept. and Station personnel on the day of the alleged shooting and its aftermath. He particularly commended Station personnel for their professionalism.

5. New Business

a) Town Hall with Sheriff Villanueva, September 12, 2019

A flyer will be distributed by email for this event and posted to social media. The CAC was asked to help publicize the event.

b) Quarterly Public Meeting, Spanish language Town Hall, September 30, 2019

The committee decided that this public meeting will be conducted entirely in Spanish. Text of the committee's presentation will be provided in English and Spanish. A PSA was sent out through CHIRLA and ads were posted at AVC. Committee members were emailed a flyer to share with their contacts as well.

c) CAC Member Responsibilities

The CAC discussed the need for representatives from Antelope Acres and Lake Los Angeles. Adding a high school student to the committee would also add another youth perspective. A call for new members will be going out in the next week. The CAC was asked to develop a list of questions for prospective members.

d) Election of Officers

It was decided that the committee retain the current officers. New officers will be appointed yearly. The next election will be in December 2019.

e) Goals for the year

- 1) Attendance at monthly meetings
- 2) Youth Summit, in partnership with Tarzana Treatment Centers
- 3) Discuss issues brought forward from the community so they can be documented for the next report period

6. Open Comments from CAC

Dave Mashore asked about the possibility of deputies wearing more casual attire for public meetings. He feels it would make the deputies appear more approachable.

The committee discussed an earlier CAC recommendation in regards to adding more bike patrols in the city. Cynthia reminded the CAC the topic of bike patrols had been brought up at a previous meeting for future discussion. Captain Weber advised the CAC that the Sheriff's Department is under contract with the city of Lancaster. The number of patrol units, motor units, and how personnel are deployed are determined as part of the contract with the city. Any changes in how station personnel are deployed would have to be agreed upon by the city and approved through the contract. CAC members were reminded they should not approach the city on behalf of the CAC or the Department. However, in response to their question, CAC members could go and request bike patrols as private citizens.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 2000 hours.

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2019

1. Call to Order

Miguel Coronado called the meeting to order at 1809 hours.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Shunnon Thomas, Miguel Coronado, Liza Rodriguez.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 3, 2019 were approved.

4. Captain's Report

There was no Captain's Report.

5. New Business

a) Evaluation of Spanish language Town Hall

The committee discussed the success of the Spanish language Town Hall, September 30, 2019. We believe the Spanish-speaking community felt valued at that meeting. We all agreed that it was wonderful that several Latino deputies were able to attend and dialogue with residents. As a committee, we also agreed we need to continue to reach out to the Latino community and increase attendance at future public meetings.

b) Quarterly Public Meeting

November 4, 2019 is the next scheduled Town Hall/CAC meeting.

c) CAC Membership

A resident inquired at the Town Hall regards the selection process for CAC members. The committee suggested we look into the selection process and consider adding new members at a later date.

6. Open Comments from CAC

Miguel announced the annual Agents of Change awards dinner on November 1, 2019.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 1900 hours.

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2019

1. Call to Order

Miguel Coronado called the meeting to order at 1810 hours. The meeting was held at Le Papillon, Lancaster CA.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Sgt. Dawson, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Shunnon Thomas, Miguel Coronado, Lynde Williams, Dave Mashore, Allison Blaylock and Brian Johnson.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 1, 2019 were approved.

4. Captain's Report

There was no Captain's Report.

5. New Business

a) Election of Officers

The committee appointments for the next year are:

Chairperson – Miguel Coronado

Vice Chairperson – Brian Johnson

Secretary – Cynthia Lehman

Station Liaison – Shunnon Thomas

Activities Chairperson – Lynde Williams

Safety Chairperson – Dave Mashore

Sergeant at Arms – Allison Blaylock

b) Lancaster CAC link to AV Survey

Cynthia shared the link to the AV Community Survey with committee members to distribute to their contacts. The survey link has also been posted to the Lancaster CAC Facebook page.

c) Quarterly Public Meeting

The next CAC Quarterly Public Meeting was set for Thursday, February 20, 2020 at Growing Valley Baptist Church. The meeting will be from 6-8pm.

d) Lancaster Station Open House

The Open House is scheduled for May 2, 2020. CAC members were requested to select a nonprofit organization to invite to the Open House.

6. Open Comments from CAC

Committee members discussed the possibility of planning some future meetings at local restaurants as a dinner/meeting to make it more convenient for people to attend after work.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 2008 hours.

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2020

1. Call to Order

Shunnon Thomas called the meeting to order at 1805 hours.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Lt. Burgin, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Shunnon Thomas, Dave Mashore, Brian Johnson, Miguel Coronado.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 3, 2019 were approved.

4. Captain's Report

There was no Captain's Report. The meeting opened with a general discussion/feedback of the recent AV Town Hall with Sheriff Villanueva. The Town Hall was announced two weeks prior and the committee felt the short advertising window may have impacted the turnout. Lt. Burgin added that the Sheriff intends to do Town Halls for the communities served by every Station at least once per year.

5. New Business

a) Quarterly Public Meeting – February 20, 2020

The next public meeting will be held at Growing Valley Baptist Church, 6-8pm. The NAACP will participate at this meeting.

b) Lancaster Station Open House

The Open House was set for May 2, 2020. Each CAC member was requested to invite 2-3 nonprofit agencies to participate. The names of all invited organizations should be emailed to Cynthia.

6. Open Comments from CAC

Dave asked if the deputies could wear more casual uniforms, like a polo shirt, in the summer months. He felt the casual attire would make the public feel the officers were more approachable. Lt. Burgin noted that shorts and polos were the attire worn and approved on bike patrols only.

There was much discussion on the recruitment of minorities within LASD. Ideas were proposed to get the Recruitment Unit to promote law enforcement careers at Black schools, colleges, and churches. Brian recommended reaching out to Black pastors, who could reach out to youth in their churches to help with recruitment efforts. The CAC believes the demographics at each Station should reflect the diversity within the communities served.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 1913 hours.

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Dawson

Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2020

1. Call to Order

Miguel Coronado called the meeting to order at 1811 hours.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Lt. Carrazosa, Sgt. Dawson, Sgt. Marion, Sgt. Metten, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Miguel Coronado, Brian Johnson, Lynde Williams, Dave Mashore, Allison Blaylock.

3. Captain's Report

Captain Weber provided an update on the rollouts of body worn cameras at Lancaster Station. Those cameras should be coming in June 2020. Lancaster Station is one of five stations that are getting the BWCS in the first rollout.

Risk Management Forum discussed that LASD car crashes are the #1 liability right now. The Department was trying to secure an extra track to offer more drivers training.

A question was raised regards the proposal for a new city police force. Capt. Weber stated that the proposed model would most likely provide zone deputies (city police force) that would respond to quality of life/non-emergency calls for service. It isn't yet clear how the city will merge the citywide force with LASD.

4. Recognition for Sgt. Dawson

Sgt. Dawson attended her last CAC meeting prior to her retirement. The committee thanked her for her service to LASD and LA County and recognized her contributions to our community.

5. New Business:

- a) **Lancaster Station Open House** - May 9, 2020, 10am-2pm

CAC members were asked to invite a non-profit to participate. The committee was asked to inform the Community Relations Unit (Dep. Deciga and Dep. Green) as we get organizations that want to participate.

- b) **Town Hall Recommendations**

Cindy recommended we change formats for the Town Halls in the future. We aren't getting back many surveys from the public and we should push to have comments from the public for the Station. Cindy also requested that committee members share the responsibility for moderating the discussion.

c) CAC Member Recruitment Plan

There was discussion on requiring potential CAC members to complete the Community Academy prior to being appointed to the CAC. That requirement has been waived in the past on the expectation that the member complete the Academy within the first six months of membership. Potential new members should be referred to Sgt. Marion and Capt. Weber. The Committee could conduct interviews during the monthly meetings.

d) Bias-Free Policing Training

Lt. Carrazosa and Sgt Metten led discussion on the committee's questions regards the Bias-Free Policing Training, Settlement Agreement Item #65. Metten noted that the Museum of Tolerance consults on the training curriculum and the actual trainer is Randy Means. DOJ approved the trainer and curriculum, in consultation with LASD and the AV Monitoring Team. Sgt Metten provided two overviews of the Bias-Free Policing Training in 2019, both of which were not well attended. Both CACs and several community organizations were invited to participate at those training sessions.

Several CAC members voiced concern that the material being presented is not taught from the perspective of an African American instructor. Questions were raised about the content material being taught to deputies. Sgt. Metten again offered to present an overview of the training curriculum if the CAC would like to see examples of the content.

Lynde and Dave expressed a desire to find an African American instructor with expertise on Bias-Free Policing, preferably someone in LA County. They volunteered to research this topic and report back to the CAC. The hope was to make a recommendation to DOJ in regards to changing the curriculum and trainer.

Capt. Weber also reminded the CAC that community organizations have been welcome to come to patrol briefings and provide presentations to deputies. Those shift briefings are another way for deputies to dialogue with community members from diverse backgrounds.

6. Open Comments from CAC

Miguel announced the "Spring into Wellness" Health Fair, April 25, 2020 from 9am-2pm.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 2012 hours.

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman
Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Molidor

**Lancaster Sheriff's Station
Community Advisory Committee**

Meeting Overview

May 5, 2020

- Prostitution in the 1121 RD (see Tag 341 on 04-07-20 for details).
- Social distancing here at Lancaster Station
- Deputy involved Shooting in April
- Possible virtual town hall in June
- Protesters on Lancaster Blvd at Date Street. Protest in regards to ending the lockdown and against stay-at-home orders. (Part of a larger social media movement).

**Lancaster Sheriff's Station
Community Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2020

1. Call to Order

Shunnon Thomas called the meeting to order at 1833 hours.

2. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Marion, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Miguel Coronado, Brian Johnson, Lynde Williams, Dave Mashore, Allison Blaylock, Shunnon Thomas, and guest Pastor Jacob Johnson.

3. Captain's Report

Captain Weber discussed the demonstration on Lancaster Blvd last week. He spoke with some of the protestors on the Blvd, including a member of Floyd's family.

4. Discussion on Recent Protests in Palmdale

Pastor Jacob Johnson and several CAC members attended the recent protests in Palmdale. He noted that Palmdale deputies did a good job monitoring the situation during these marches. Most of the demonstrators were younger people, in their early 20s. The demonstrations occurred in response to recent events and served to allow people to have their voices heard and to know that the Sheriff's Department was listening to their concerns.

Several committee members and Pastor Johnson also spoke on the public's reaction to the appearance of deputies in riot gear at a peaceful demonstration in Marie Kerr Park (Palmdale) over the weekend. CAC comments indicated that many demonstrators were upset with the deputies being deployed as though prepared for violence. Several committee members thought the perception was perhaps that the appearance of police in riot gear could create a violent confrontation. Miguel spoke to Capt. Shaffer about this issue and stated that the riot gear would instill fear of police in younger people. Capt. Weber noted that one of the related issues with the marches is that we have people not affiliated with any local groups who are taking over the demonstrations and sometimes creating violence. The CAC suggested in the future that any deputies deployed in riot gear should not be placed on the ground immediately in the area of the peaceful protestors. It was suggested that perhaps those deputies could monitor the situation from a distance to the actual march.

The committee expressed a desire to sit down with young people in the community and with Station personnel and dialogue about their concerns. In addition, the NAACP AV chapter does have a list of reforms to policing. Discussion followed on

LASD policy that holds deputies accountable for their behavior. LASD also has policy that disciplines deputies for not reporting the conduct of fellow officers. The Department webpage has a section on transparency, where these policies and disciplinary outcomes can be viewed by the public.

Capt. Weber also provided the CAC with an update on the shooting that occurred on 17th and West Avenue K last week. A white male, in his 30s, displayed a gun at passing deputies. The man was shot and killed after getting into a physical altercation with deputies. His weapon turned out to be a replica gun. After the shooting, about 200 demonstrators who were at the march on the Blvd arrived on scene. Some of the demonstrators proceeded to throw rocks and bottles at deputies on scene, based on false rumors that the shooting victim was an African American male. Some of that misinformation was being shared on social media. Capt. Weber commended the deputies for their restraint and for monitoring the protest. He stated that LASD does respect the rights of people to protest peacefully.

The committee agreed that we need to have a public dialogue with the organizers of these protests. We need to hear their concerns and provide a response from Lancaster Station. Cindy also noted that she would like to see us have a conversation about anti-police bias. She stated that the media never covers instances of violence against law enforcement and she believes if we are going to have an honest conversation, we need to look at all perspectives.

In closing, Allison promoted a drive-up Pride event at the OUTreach Center on June 13, 2020.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 1957 hours.

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Molidor

CAC Member Biographies:

Allison Blaylock is a graduate of Quartz Hill High School. She got her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Colorado Tech and is currently working on a degree in Psychology. She 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 a special focus on transgender related issues. In 2016, she began writing an advice column for *The Gayly* specializing in transgender issues. Allison has been involved in the LGBT+ communities in Oklahoma, Texas, and Southern California.

Dr. Miguel A. Coronado has been a resident of Lancaster since 2004. He is an educational/political/social justice advocate. 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 Master of Arts in Educational Counseling from California State University, San Bernardino; and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership Higher Education Administration. Dr. Coronado is the Founder of Agents of Change Inc., a 501c3 academic organization focused on recruitment, retention, graduation and transfer of students to 4-year universities, with a leadership and public service component. 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. In September 2012, he became 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 has a M.A. and Ph.D in African American Studies from Temple University in Philadelphia PA. She teaches U.S. History and African American History at Antelope Valley College. Cynthia joined the CAC to foster dialogue between college students and LASD. She believes it is important to encourage young adults to take an active role in the community. She hopes that honest conversations can take place so that the local community and the Sheriff's Dept. can work together to address the issues of concern for everyone.

David Mashore is a resident of the Antelope Valley and CEO of the Catalyst Foundation. Through Catalyst, David 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. David 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.

Shunnon Thomas was born in South Los Angeles (then South Central) in the late 1960s and credits desegregation and busing as the reasons he escaped the tragic end that many

of his friends met because of drugs and gang violence. Shunnon has a B.A. in Criminal Justice, a Masters in Public Administration and a Masters in Educational Counseling, with a Concentration in School and Family Based Counseling. He now works as a Behavioral Therapist for Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. He is currently Antelope Valley NAACP Branch President, a volunteer with the Lancaster Sheriff's Station Community Advisory Committee, Volunteer Mediator for the City of Lancaster and also a member of the Concerned Black Men of Los Angeles. He enjoys gardening, karaoke, grilling, paintball and movies.

Lynde Williams has been a resident of the Antelope Valley for over thirty years. Born into a military family, Lynde was exposed growing up to numerous cultures and experiences. Lynde works with a variety of 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.