



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



December 29, 2021

Kamal Al-Khatib
Committee Chair
Palmdale Station Community Advisory Committee
Palmdale, California

Dear Mr. Al-Khatib:

PALMDALE STATION RESPONSE TO CAC RECOMMENDATIONS

The Palmdale Sheriff's Station Community Advisory Committee (CAC) published its Fourth Annual Report to document the community engagement efforts of Palmdale Station between July 1, 2020 And June 30, 2021. On page 19 of the CAC's Fourth Annual Report, the CAC made the following recommendations to Palmdale Station to help improve the overall relationship between the Sheriff's Department and the community:

1. Recommended that Sheriff's Department provide liability coverage to CAC members as volunteers; this recommendation is being implemented and liability coverage will be provided to ALL CAC members in the county as a result of our request per Commander John Burcher.
2. Recommended that CAC members have an operating manual which will include a training schedule for CAC members.
3. Recommended to create a brochure to promote the CAC.
4. Recommended adding monthly complaints to CAC meeting agenda for discussion and allow the community and the CAC to attend some of the training classes the deputies go through, especially classes that have been recommended by the Settlement Agreement.

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5. Continue to increase outreach towards youth in the community, including hosting a "Teen Summit" and participating in friendly sporting events with students from socio-economically challenged areas.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department does not provide any general civil liability insurance coverage to any of their employees or volunteers. If members are directly acting as an agent for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, then their actions "may" be covered in some circumstances. Furthermore, employees and volunteers are expected to adhere to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's policies and procedures. Volunteers may be subject to personal liability and termination if they violate these policies and / or procedures including providing comments that are contrary to the Sheriff's Department's mission.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has policies (FOD 93-005) and unit orders (PLM 14-07) that provide information needed for the CAC. Additionally, the AV Settlement Agreement provides information for the CAC as noted in section 93 of the AV Settlement Agreement. A CAC manual will not be created as recommended at this time. The CAC is advised to refer to the AV Settlement Agreement, departmental policies, and unit orders already established which also includes required training for CAC members.

A promotional brochure for the CAC is the responsibility of each patrol station and the patrol station's CAC. It is recommended the Palmdale Station CAC design a CAC promotional brochure with final approval from the station commander.

The station commander has recently been providing the CAC with the number and types of complaints with the CAC at their monthly meetings. This summary information will continue to be shared with the CAC at monthly meetings, when available. As a reminder, per the AV Settlement Agreement section 97, the CAC will not be allowed access to any non-public information regarding an individual deputy or allegation of misconduct or disciplinary action. As per FOD 93-005, the CAC will have no formal involvement in the resolution or review of citizen complaints. However, the CAC will perform a valuable service by serving as another conduit for personnel and service complaints, and in the erroneous perceptions regarding department procedures.

In 2020, CAC members Atherine Blanco, Lynde Williams, and Allison Blaylock attended the "Bias Free Policing" class and should have provided feedback in

their report. Therefore, a recommendation for CAC members to attend deputy training classes cannot be a recommendation in this report.


The CAC is reminded they should be assisting with youth outreach efforts. One of the purposes of the CAC is to establish partnerships with the community and this includes the youth as required by the AV Settlement Agreement. Palmdale Station has participated in "Youth Summits" and other sporting events in recent years. Palmdale Station continues to actively engage the youth community through various events including "Youth Summits."

With the continued efforts of the Palmdale Station CAC, Palmdale Station personnel continue to strive to improve their relationship with the community they serve.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Shaffer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald T. Shaffer, Captain
Palmdale Station