

**LANCASTER SHERIFF'S STATION**

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

***ANNUAL REPORT***

**July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

## **Table of Contents**

Introduction - 3

CAC Members - 4

Committee Structure - 4

CAC Monthly Meetings - 6

Concerns and Follow-up Addressed at Monthly Meetings - 7

CAC Quarterly Public Meetings - 8

Advertising Quarterly Public Meetings - 9

Concerns and Follow-up from Quarterly Public Meetings - 10

Recommendations - 11

Appendix

CAC Meeting Minutes - 17

CAC Member Biographies - 43

## **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, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

## **CAC Members**

**Allison Blaylock** – OUTreach Center, (818)-288-7158, [allison@outreachcenterav.org](mailto:allison@outreachcenterav.org)

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

[Drmcoronado13@gmail.com](mailto:Drmcoronado13@gmail.com)

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

[bljohnson32@yahoo.com](mailto:bljohnson32@yahoo.com)

**Cynthia Lehman** – Professor, Antelope Valley College, (661)-722-6489,

[clehman@avc.edu](mailto:clehman@avc.edu)

**Shunnon Thomas** – NAACP (AV Chapter), (661)-492-5355, [shunnon@shunnon.com](mailto:shunnon@shunnon.com)

**Iris Urias** – Lake Los Angeles, (818)-620-3486, [irisurias@aol.com](mailto:irisurias@aol.com)

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

[lyndewilliams@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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.

### **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 continued to meet via Zoom due to COVID restrictions. 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:*

07/07/2020, held via Zoom

08/04/2020, held via Zoom

09/01/2020, held via Zoom

10/06/2020, held via Zoom

11/03/2020, no meeting/Election Day

12/01/2020, held via Zoom

01/05/2021, meeting cancelled

02/02/2021, held via Zoom

03/02/2021, CAC quarterly public meeting

04/06/2021, held via Zoom

05/04/2021, held via Zoom

06/22/2021, CAC quarterly public 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 2020 - June 2021 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.

The CAC discussed the shooting death of Michael Thomas in Lancaster at several monthly meetings. The committee was asking for more details on the status of the investigation and whether all the deputies involved were back on patrol duties. Capt. Weber debriefed the committee as soon as possible after the shooting and provided as much detail as he could, pending a formal investigation. The D.A.'s Office now has the results of the investigation and will be making a decision on whether to bring charges against the deputies involved in the shooting.

A few committee members have raised questions regarding the presence of deputies on school campuses within the AVUHSD. They believe that African American and Latino students are often overly disciplined and have more frequent encounters with law enforcement in the district. A request was made for district disciplinary records and data on contacts with LASD on the school campuses. It was noted that this information may not be available due to privacy concerns regarding minors.

The CAC has discussed the new Zone Deputy Program at several monthly meetings and it was the focus of one of the quarterly public meetings. Some members of the committee were upset that the CAC was not consulted prior to the roll out of the program. Capt. Weber and the Community Relations Unit have provided extensive details on how this program was set up and its purpose. The committee continues to have discussions with the Station in regards to how the deputies were chosen for the zones and how they will work within the community in which they are assigned.

### **CAC Quarterly Public Meetings**

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

09/15/2020, streamed from Lancaster Station via Facebook Live

11/17/2020, streamed from Lancaster Station via Facebook Live

03/02/2021, streamed from Lancaster Station via Facebook Live

06/22/2021, streamed from Lancaster Station via Facebook Live

All quarterly public meetings in this reporting period were conducted as live online events, streamed from Lancaster Sheriff's Station via the CAC Facebook page. Due to COVID restrictions we were unable to host in-person meetings and the CAC all



agreed that using social media was the best way to connect with the community. Our topics for the past year included discussions of mental health resources, domestic violence, body worn cameras and the Zone Deputy Program. Community members were able to ask questions at each public meeting by either submitting questions in advance to Deputy Green or to any CAC member. Audience participation was achieved during the event via the chat feature in Facebook Live. CAC members were following the chat in the livestream and directing all questions to Station personnel and/or CAC members.

One of the challenges that we have faced over the past several years is that we have not had full participation of the CAC at our public meetings. At most quarterly public meetings we only have 2 or 3 CAC members in attendance. The community is not getting a true picture of the diversity of the CAC and the varying opinions and work of the committee in regards to community engagement.

### **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.

## **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.

- **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 regarding 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.
- **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.
- **Transparency** - The CAC would like to see more transparency from

Lancaster Sheriff's Station, specifically in regards to questions from the community. Several members also requested that the CAC be informed prior to the roll out of any new Station programs, such as the Zone Deputy Program. The CAC gets questions from the community and feels they should know about any new programs so they can answer those questions effectively.

- **“Coffee With a Deputy”** – It should be hosted at venues around Lancaster and not always at Crazy Otto's or Starbucks. Coffee chats should also be hosted in Lake Los Angeles periodically.
- **Roundtable Discussions** - The Station and CAC should host public meetings in a roundtable discussion format to encourage dialogue. Some community members expressed a desire to have more interpersonal dialogue at the public meetings and they feel the small group discussions lend themselves to better opportunities for participation.
- **Community Engagement** - CAC members believe that Lancaster Station should engage in a variety of forms of community engagement, especially when invited to attend public events and meetings by the CAC. “A Walk and Talk” with deputies in different neighborhoods might be a great program to promote community engagement. Deputies could meet local residents and dialogue on issues of concern in that specific community.
- The CAC also requests to be made aware of any events/meetings the Station is participating in that are not highly advertised, especially if the CAC can also participate/attend or share it with the community

- **Community Education Programming** - The CAC would like to learn more about Lancaster Station and the Sheriff's Department when it comes to specialized units and/or training that deputies receive. Community meetings could also provide educational material to the public to educate residents on Department policy and law enforcement topics. The Town Halls have been structured this way at most public meetings. In the past, the CAC has been invited to several training sessions conducted by LASD and unfortunately the CAC attendance at those events has been very low.
- **"Law Enforcement Informed Interaction Program"** – This program would be an idea to promote better understanding of law enforcement in the community. During our public meetings, the Station could share information and provide examples of policies and procedures (directly related to our local area) that are not necessarily readily known to most citizens limited to law enforcement/citizen interactions. The format could be presented similarly at various community events in part or in total. The format would provide the community with a reasonable expectation of law enforcement reaction based on various encounters. Topics could include: Reasonable suspicion, Terry Stops, Constitutional Rights, and Sovereign Citizenship.
- **Social Media Posts** - The CAC suggests that the Station be mindful of when they use "#myherowearsabadge" on social media posts, as it may not always be appropriate. Some members recommended that deputies not affiliate themselves to any Facebook groups with their "professional"

social media accounts.

## **APPENDIX**



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

**July 7, 2020**

**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. Molitor, Dep. Deciga, Cynthia Lehman, Miguel Coronado, Brian Johnson, Lynde Williams, Dave Mashore, and Shunnon Thomas.

**3. Captain's Report**

Captain Weber asked the CAC for suggestions on future virtual meetings between the Station and the community. All in-person public meetings are postponed at the moment due to COVID-19 restrictions. Sgt. Marion will look into the technical issues involved with hosting virtual public meetings.

Weber also asked the CAC for feedback on recent comments made to the Monitors in regards to complaints from the CAC. Comments were made to the Monitors that reflect complaints against the Station over the last six months. Capt. Weber requested to know what the criticisms and complaints were that were reported to the MT. Cynthia also asked for clarification since no complaints were brought to any CAC meetings over the last six months, except for concerns regards recent deputy-involved shootings in Lancaster.

Discussion followed from several CAC members about what they feel is a lack of communication from the Station. No specific complaints were brought forward other than the recent shootings, which had only happened within the last few weeks. It was also discussed that we do use the group text and emails to share information. Use of those group messages has been consistent over at least the last three years. The CAC did

not discuss any specific complaints. Several members were confused as to what the criticisms were that were brought forward to the Monitors by someone on the committee.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **a) Removal of Inactive Members/Process for Adding New CAC Members**

The following CAC members were removed due to non-participation over the past year: Liza Rodriguez, Tae'lor Moore, Christian Aligwekwe, Manny Magana.

##### **b) Time Limits on Discussion Items**

Shunnon suggested we put a time limit of 2 minutes per question/discussion item on member comments at each meeting to keep the flow of the meeting moving forward.

##### **c) Virtual Town Hall**

The next CAC quarterly public meeting was set for September 15, 2020 at 6pm. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

##### **d) Update on Bias-Free Policing Training**

Capt. Weber noted that the trainings were not held recently due to travel restrictions. Quarterly roll call trainings have started again. New training scenarios were being presented with the July sessions.

There is still some CAC concern about the training material and the instructor for the Bias-Free Policing training. Lynde was going to research the issue of recommending an African American instructor. This discussion was a follow-up to the lengthy CAC discussion of March 2020. The process of requesting a new instructor was discussed with the Station and the CAC understands that this request has to go through DOJ. Captain Weber reminded the committee that he is always open to having individuals/organizations come and address the deputies at shift briefings.

**e) CAC Annual Report**

The report is due in September 2020. Cynthia asked the committee for input on recommendations to Lancaster Station and the concerns and successes that occurred over this past year.

Discussion followed on how we can get more people to attend our public meetings. The Community Academy was recommended as a possibility for virtual engagement. The CAC was asked to submit ideas for engagement to Capt. Weber.

There was also some discussion about Neighborhood Watch programs. Currently there is an active program in Antelope Acres. The Station can help set up neighborhood programs and then the community oversees the program.

**f) Policing in Our Schools**

Miguel recently held a meeting with local college students regards the school resource deputies in AVUHSD. He was hopeful the students would bring their concerns to the next school board meeting. A request was made to obtain school district arrest records from LASD. Discussion also followed on the new Diversion Program at the AV Stations. Youth with criminal records are able to get family counseling and restorative justice through this program and once completed, their criminal records are cleared.

**5. Open Comments from CAC**

A suggestion was made to have the Station host weekly Zoom forums with the public. Each weekly chat could be an hour. Staffing and technological issues may be a hindrance to doing this weekly chat.

An update was provided on the recent shooting death of Michael Thomas. The CAC asked for information on the deputies involved in the shooting and whether they were all back on patrol duties. Several deputies are back on the street but the shooter is off patrol pending the investigation. Capt. Weber provided a brief summary of the investigative process and all the agencies involved in that review.

The Station was asked about the involvement of the local Clergy Council. Capt. Weber was going to follow up on that question. It was suggested that the clergy might be of assistance with community mental health issues.

**6. Meeting Adjourned at 1932 hours.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Sgt. Molidor

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

**August 4, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

Cynthia Lehman called the meeting to order at 1807 hours.

**2. Roll Call**

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Lt. Bruner, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Green, Ali Villalobos, Cynthia Lehman, Miguel Coronado, Brian Johnson, Lynde Williams, and Shunnon Thomas.

**3. Captain's Report**

Captain Weber discussed a deputy-involved shooting that happened last week in Lancaster. It started as a call for service on a domestic violence incident. The suspect fled the scene and later returned. After the suspect crashed into a patrol car on scene, he was shot by LASD and a second pursuit ensued. He was shot a second time by LASD after he attempted to hit another deputy with his car. The suspect suffered non-life threatening wounds. A full investigation into the shooting has begun.

In response to CAC questions, Capt. Weber also informed us that there is no new information regards the Mike Thomas shooting.

**4. New Business:**

**a) Adding New CAC Members**

A potential new member of the committee has completed a volunteer application. The committee also needs to appoint two youth members. Youth are being recruited through AVC and local high schools. Lynde asked about appointing a representative from Antelope Acres. Ali said she could put a call out on social media for recruitment.

#### **b) Virtual Town Hall**

The CAC was reminded that we need to host quarterly public meetings to present the most recent 6 Month Monitor's Reports. The next quarterly public meeting is September 15, 2020, at 6pm. It will be presented as a Virtual Town Hall live on the CAC Facebook page. Audience questions can be submitted during the live event and someone can monitor those questions and present them during the meeting for the panel to respond. It was suggested we advertise the meeting 30 days out and ask for questions to be sent in advance to Dep. Green as well.

Cindy will present the MT Report that night at the meeting. The slides of her presentation will also be posted to the CAC Facebook page at least a week ahead of the meeting.

#### **c) Monthly Zoom Public Meetings**

The committee had more discussion regards on-going virtual meetings with the public and Lancaster Station. A recommendation was made to host weekly meetings to provide more contact.

Another option would be to host monthly meetings and each CAC member could be the host, bringing a unique audience into dialogue with the Station. Brian recommended we rotate each month and each committee member could bring 5-10 people together with the Station to discuss specific concerns. Questions could be submitted ahead of time as well. Brian requested to host the first meeting, scheduled for August 18, 2020 at 6pm on Zoom. \*This meeting was later canceled at Brian's request.

#### **d) CAC Annual Report**

Cindy requested feedback from the committee for inclusion in the Annual Report, which is due in September 2020. All comments should be sent by email to her.

### **5. Open Comments from CAC**

Miguel announced that he is running for a seat on the School Board for AVUHSD. At this time he will be taking a leave of absence from the committee until after the election. If he wins the election he would have to step down from the CAC as per our bylaws.

**6. Meeting Adjourned at 1923 hours.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Dep. Green

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

**September 1, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

Brian Johnson called the meeting to order at 1808 hours.

**2. Roll Call**

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Marion, Dep. Green, Ali Villalobos, Cynthia Lehman, Brian Johnson, Lynde Williams, Allison Blaylock, Dave Mashore, and Shunnon Thomas.

**3. Captain's Report**

Captain Weber discussed the BWCS that is coming to Lancaster Station in October. LASD policy regards the use of body-worn cameras is now published on the Department's website. Several deputies attended a "Train the Trainer" class from the Station, who will then train other deputies in the use of the cameras.

Several questions were asked about the policy issues related to turning the cameras off/on by deputies in the field. Capt. Weber noted that victims also have rights to privacy and the cameras may be turned off in those instances where the crimes are more sensitive, like a sexual assault cases. Department policy does establish accountability in instances where cameras are NOT turned on when they should be recording. Disciplinary actions may be taken in those instances. Once the cameras roll out at the Station, deputies will no longer be able to buy their own personal BWCS.

It was also noted that Sheriff Villanueva would like to have information published online on all public requests, in accord with SB 1421, but sometimes officer safety concerns bar the release of the names of deputies involved in critical incidents.



Several questions were asked in regards to the data storage system for maintaining the digital footage. Axon is the supplier of the BWCS and they use a cloud-based storage system. The Station does have limited space for storage of cameras and related equipment.

Finally, a question was raised in regards to LASD relocating homeless people in the area of 20<sup>th</sup> Street West and Avenue F in recent days. Capt. Weber said that relocation was not done by LASD, but perhaps another agency.

#### **4. New Business:**

##### **a) Lancaster Station Unit Order #72**

The committee reviewed our purpose, as established in the Settlement Agreement. The CAC advises Lancaster Station and brings forward community concerns. Additionally, the CAC provides the community with information about LASD/policy and the complaints process.

Several CAC members have requested information in the preceding months on deputy-involved shootings. These concerns and requests for information have been made at every monthly meeting since late Spring 2020. The Station has provided the CAC with as much information as can be legally shared without compromising the investigations. Capt. Weber explained that the release of information is contingent on the length of the investigation. Investigations could take several months to a year or longer after an OIS.

Requests have also been made for access to the deputy misconduct records. The latter request is beyond the scope of the CAC. All requests for public information under SB 1421 must be made through the LASD website.

Lynde asked about the recent pursuit and containment in her neighborhood and why no information was released to the CAC. She feels that information needs to be released to the public so they can be advised on personal safety issues. The Station does attempt to get information out as quickly as possible to the CAC during critical incidents but it is not always possible during an actual event to do so.

#### **b) Virtual Town Hall**

Cindy Lehman and Deputy Green discussed the upcoming Town Hall on September 15, 2020 at 6pm. The event will be broadcast live from the Station on the CAC Facebook page. Audience questions will be monitored during the event and presented to panelists for the Q/A. In addition to Cindy, Shunnon Thomas will also be present for the Town Hall. All other CAC members were requested to follow the event on social media and respond to questions in the comments.

#### **c) Monthly Zoom Public Meetings**

Ali Villalobos is taking requests from the CAC to establish on-going Zoom meetings with the committee and our constituents. Cindy is hosting a meeting for AVC students on October 14, 2020.

#### **d) Approval of CAC Annual Report**

Cindy Lehman requested the committee review the final draft of the CAC report. The report was sent out to the CAC on August 1, 2020 for revisions and then discussed at both the August and September meetings. The committee voted to approve the final draft of the CAC Annual Report. That report will be forwarded to the Monitoring Team in a few days.

### **5. Open Comments from CAC**

Allison will be presenting a roll call training at the Station on LGBT concerns later this month.

### **6. Meeting Adjourned at 1956 hours.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Dep. Green

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

**October 6, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

Brian Johnson called the meeting to order at 1815 hours.

**2. Roll Call**

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Lt. Bruner, Sgt. Marion, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Brian Johnson, Lynde Williams, Allison Blaylock, Iris Urias, and Shunnon Thomas.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

August 2020 and September 2020 minutes were approved by email.

**4. Captain's Report**

Captain Weber discussed the roll out of the body cameras at the Station. On 10/01/20, the first group of deputies was trained on the use of the cameras. By the end of October it is expected that all patrol deputies at the five stations getting the body cameras will have been trained.

The BWCS pairs with a smartphone and all data is saved in cloud storage. The cameras operate with a 1 minute buffer prior to each recording. The committee discussed LASD policy regards the saving of all video, release of video to the public, and how long video evidence must be saved.

## **5. New Business**

### **a) Feedback on Town Hall, 9/15/20**

Comments in the chat stream on FB came very fast during the event and it was difficult to collect the questions as we were presenting material. There was some discussion regarding how CAC members are linked as administrators on our FB page. The current linking of CAC members to the page doesn't allow us to identify who is speaking for the group in the chat forum.

Some community members commented on the lack of participation from the CAC at the Town Hall. Only Cynthia Lehman and Shunnon Thomas attended the event in person. Several comments addressed the belief that the CAC should be doing the presentation and Q/A, not the Sheriff's Dept.

Brian and Allison suggested that the CAC should have each member discuss their community work at subsequent CAC public meetings. Iris Urias also mentioned that she wants to build our social media presence. Discussion centered on what types of posts were appropriate for the CAC FB page. It was suggested to make the focus on community events and the CAC.

### **b) Virtual Town Hall**

The next quarterly public meeting will be November 17, 2020 at 6pm. It will be live streamed on FB from the Station. Allison and Cynthia confirmed their attendance at the event. An agenda will have to be established with input from the CAC, to be done via email.

### **c) CAC events with LASD (workshops, Zoom...)**

Any CAC member wishing to do virtual engagement with the Station is encouraged to contact Dep. Green. So far, Cynthia, Allison and Shunnon have created monthly dialogues with deputies in small group Zoom chats.

### **d) Feedback on Bias-Free Policing Training**

Cynthia, Allison, and Lynde attended the Bias-Free Policing Training at Lancaster Station on September 24, 2020. They liked the scenarios used in the training and felt that all CAC members should attend one of the trainings in the future.

**e) Youth CAC members**

Brian is working on getting youth membership on the CAC. He has a student from AVC who is interested in being on the committee. Brian will invite the student to attend the Town Hall on 11/17/20.

**6. Open Comments from CAC**

Allison promoted the drive up Halloween event sponsored by the OUTreach Center.

Lynde discussed a recent post on the CAC FB page on the subject of “what to do during a containment.” She had requested a PSA on this topic at the last monthly meeting. Cynthia shared a PSA created by the Station to the CAC FB page. There was some discussion about the content coming from LASD and how some community members were upset that it appeared the Station was creating content for our CAC.

**7. Meeting Adjourned at 2000 hours.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Dep. Green

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

**December 1, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

Miguel Coronado called the meeting to order at 1807 hours.

**2. Roll Call**

The following persons were present: Lt. Bruner, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Lynde Williams, Dave Mashore, Miguel Coronado, Iris Urias, and Shunnon Thomas.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

October 2020 minutes will be sent out for review by email.

**4. Captain's Report**

There was no Captain's Report this month. Lt. Bruner reminded the CAC that as volunteers with LASD we are bound to follow the Policy of Equality implemented by the Sheriff's Department. A copy of the Policy of Equality is being emailed to all CAC members.

**5. New Business**

**a) Town Hall**

The next CAC Town Hall is set for March 2, 2021 at 6pm. This event will live stream on FB from the Station.

Cynthia reminded the CAC of our responsibility to participate in public meetings. At the last two Town Halls, less than half the CAC has been in attendance. Only two

CAC members attended the September 2020 public meeting. Cynthia expressed concern that the Chairperson of the committee isn't attending any of the public meetings, and usually on very short notice (10-15 minutes before the meeting).

Each CAC member was asked to collect questions from the community to bring to the committee in advance of the Town Hall. Input is needed from the committee to set the agenda for the public meetings. Dep. Green reminded the committee that all advertising needs to be in place, including the agenda, at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

**b) Youth CAC members**

Miguel will take responsibility for recruiting youth members for the CAC.

**c) Suggestion on Name Change of CAC**

The Captain determines the name of the committee so this discussion was tabled.

**d) Social Media Guidelines**

Iris requested input on what types of social media posts the committee wanted. Recommendations were made to highlight community based organizations and the work of individual CAC members in the community. We should keep a balance on what is posted and not just share content from the Station.

**e) Election of Officers**

Cindy reminded the committee that we need to focus on the roles and responsibilities attached to this committee. Election of officers resulted in the deletion of the Office of Safety Chairperson. All other offices remain unchanged from last year.

Chairperson: Miguel Coronado

Vice Chairperson: Brian Johnson

Secretary: Cynthia Lehman

Social Media Coordinator: Iris Urias

Station Liaison: Shunnon Thomas

Activities Chairperson: Lynde Williams

Sergeant at Arms: Allison Blaylock

**6. Open Comments from CAC**

There were no additional comments.

**7. Meeting Adjourned at 1912 hours.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

Minutes Reviewed by: Dep. Green



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

**February 2, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

Miguel Coronado called the meeting to order at 1802 hours.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. Captain's Report**

Captain Weber talked about the three pilot programs in LA County that are alternatives to incarceration (Lancaster Station VIDA Program, MET Team Program, and Board of Supervisors Program). All three programs provide counseling and restorative justice to individuals who qualify and request placement within the program. Once completed, all criminal charges are dropped from the individual's record.

Dave mentioned that Catalyst Foundation is also creating a diversion program for the county that targets individuals between 18-25. He requested a copy of LASD's program for comparison. Capt. Weber said he would follow up on that request.

Capt. Weber also provided an update on the Michael Thomas shooting of last year. The DA's Office now has the investigation. The DA will weigh the evidence and decide whether or not to bring criminal charges. LASD will also review the shooting to evaluate the tactics involved.

Weber also noted that the shooting investigation on the Robert Colvin case has now gone to JSID.

#### **4. New Business:**

##### **a) Youth CAC members**

Miguel Coronado recommended two students to apply for the CAC. The Station is still waiting on those applications.

##### **b) Town Hall**

The next Town Hall is March 2, 2021 at 6pm (streamed live on FB from Lancaster Station). The CAC would like to invite Sheriff Villanueva to the next Town Hall, in either May or June 2021. Cynthia was going to ask for preferred dates from the CAC by email after the meeting.

##### **c) Community Policing Model**

The CAC reviewed the 6 Pillars of Community Policing, which will be presented at the Town Hall.

The SARA Model will also be discussed at that meeting. The CAC was given a brief overview of this information. Brian noted that Valley Oasis gets a lot of domestic violence calls and they could be a resource for the Station to get the community involved on this issue.

The Zone Deputy Program at Lancaster Station rolled out recently. The CAC discussed how this program falls under the Community Policing Model that was developed by the Station to better engage the community. COPS training was provided to all deputies at the Station. The Station now has 3 Zone Deputies that will handle quality of life issues and direct the appropriate resources to the communities that report problems. This new program is a problem solving approach, which will involve the community, LASD, community partners and local government.

#### **5. Open Comments from CAC**

Cynthia reminded the CAC that our participation at Town Halls in the past year has been very low. We need the full participation of the committee to make these public meetings successful.

Iris is collecting public questions for the Town Hall on social media.

Lynde noted that she emailed the Station with several questions about the Zone Deputy Program and she was not happy that her email was not fully answered.

Several questions were raised regarding the rollout of the Zone Deputy Program. The CAC feels they should have known about it prior to finding out on social media. Questions were also raised about how the deputies were chosen to fill those slots and there was some concern that all the deputies are White. Currently the deputies assigned to this program are on administrative duty and they were the only deputies available for that assignment.

**6. Meeting Adjourned at 1940 hours.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

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

**April 6, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

Miguel Coronado called the meeting to order at 1809 hours.

**2. Roll Call**

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Lt. Bruner, Sgt. Marion, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Lynde Williams, Miguel Coronado, Iris Urias, and Shunnon Thomas.

**3. Captain's Report**

Captain Weber discussed the concerns over increases in water theft on the Eastside of Lancaster and in unincorporated areas. The thefts are related to illegal marijuana grow operations. Currently, the Station has extra patrols in those areas 24 hrs per day. Discussions are also being held with local residents. Using the COPS Model, Station personnel are engaged with local residents to look at potential solutions to the increases in water theft in those areas. Fish and Wildlife and the Water Company are also part of the discussion. If left unchecked, the water theft could seriously impact the water system in those areas, due to low water pressure. Capt. Weber also noted that the 24 hr patrols couldn't be deployed permanently so they are looking at getting the community involved through education and dialogue to help solve the problem.

Lynde mentioned a program in Oklahoma that annually taxed marijuana grow operations and levied fines against individuals for not paying their yearly taxes. The fines and taxes were used to financially support more patrols by law enforcement. Capt. Weber mentioned that he would be reaching out to Supervisor Barger's Office for further assistance as well.

#### **4. New Business:**

##### **a) Youth CAC members**

Miguel and Cynthia were still trying to encourage college students to apply for the CAC. The committee needs at least two youth members.

##### **b) Town Hall**

The CAC is awaiting confirmation from Sheriff Villanueva's Office on a date for the next quarterly meeting. It is hoped that we can invite the Sheriff to the Town Hall in June 2021.

##### **c) Community Academy Zoom Sessions**

Shunnon requested that the Community Academy be presented via Zoom for the public to learn more about the Sheriff's Dept. The Community Relations Unit is working on creating some material and getting personnel scheduled to present some Zoom sessions.

##### **d) Roles of CAC**

Miguel and Shunnon led discussion on asking DOJ to expand the role of the CAC. Cynthia emailed Unit Order #72 along with the agenda for 4/6/21, which covers the responsibilities and duties of the CAC. She mentioned that the committee already has considerable duties that we aren't fulfilling. As mentioned in several previous committee meetings, the CAC does not have full participation of all its members at our Town Halls and monthly meetings. She questioned why we would want even more responsibility when we can't meet our present obligations.

Capt. Weber also read from the Settlement Agreement, outlining the purpose and duties of the CAC. He asked Shunnon what additional responsibilities he would like to recommend for the CAC. Shunnon was hoping that the Monitoring Team could review the committee and our work and make some recommendations to forward to DOJ. Discussion followed on how the public perhaps is looking to the Lancaster CAC to be an oversight committee and is confusing us with the COC.

Miguel suggested that the committee needs to develop a process for recommending the removal of members for non-participation at CAC meetings. The

Station was also considering putting out a call for interested candidates to apply for membership. CAC members were reminded to forward their community activities to Iris for her to share on our social media sites.

*Motion: To ask DOJ to expand the role of the Lancaster CAC. (Shunnon and Miguel will draft that letter)*

Yes	3
No	1
Abstain	1

*Motion carries.*

#### **5. Open Comments from CAC**

Lynde asked for more information regarding a dog that was killed in the desert on 3/24/21 by a Lancaster Station deputy. She would like to find out what happened.

A recommendation was made to put a discussion on the May agenda regarding the Zone Deputy Program. The committee would like to discuss how to get the public more involved in that program.

#### **6. Meeting Adjourned at 1917 hours.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

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

**May 4, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

Miguel Coronado called the meeting to order at 1804 hours.

**2. Roll Call**

The following persons were present: Capt. Weber, Lt. Bruner, Dep. Green, Cynthia Lehman, Lynde Williams, Miguel Coronado, Brian Johnson, Allison Blaylock, Iris Urias, and Shunnon Thomas.

**3. Captain's Report**

Captain Weber debriefed the committee on the deputy-involved shooting in Lake Los Angeles last week. Residents notified dispatch that a man had placed rocks in the street and he was pointing what appeared to be a rifle at passing motorists. A containment was set up in the area and SWAT, MET and crisis negotiators were also brought to the scene. The deputy involved in the shooting was not assigned to Lancaster Station, he is part of the Detective Division. The suspect was in possession of a commercially fabricated rifle.

Several committee members questioned the need to shoot the suspect. They expressed frustration over the numbers of deputy-involved shootings in Lancaster in the past year. Questions were also raised as to who made the decision to involve SWAT and MET team members. Captain Weber stated that a call was made from the scene for assistance and that it is standard procedure in barricade situations to ask for help from additional LASD units.

#### **4. New Business:**

##### **a) Youth CAC Member Applications**

Dep. Green has two applications that are being processed. It was suggested that we reach out to local schools and the NAACP to solicit youth input. Brian would like to see the CAC act independently of Lancaster Station and host their own events. He said we need more engagement with the Black community, particularly with young people.

##### **b) Town Hall with Sheriff Villanueva**

The next quarterly public meeting is set for June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm with Sheriff Villanueva. The meeting will take place at City of Hope Hospital in Lancaster.

The CAC will be running this meeting and setting the agenda. The Sheriff's Office does use question cards at public meetings to solicit the questions for the Q/A, but the CAC will be conducting the meeting. It was suggested by Miguel that we also request the Zone Deputies to attend the Town Hall.

The CAC will not be meeting on June 1, 2021 as the Town Hall is set for just a few weeks later.

##### **c) Zone Deputy Program and Community Involvement**

The committee discussed the Zone Deputy Program and a suggestion was made to attach a CAC member in each zone to the deputy assigned to that area to foster better communication with the public.

##### **d) Updates on SA Progress**

#### **Crime Prevention Plan**

This topic was not discussed at the meeting.



## **Revised UOF Policy**

LASD is making revisions to their UOF policy with the assistance of DOJ. After final revisions are approved the policy will be posted the Dept's website.

A discussion followed on the content of a video involving Lancaster deputies arresting a man for suspicion of selling drugs/carrying a concealed weapon. The video shows several deputies with guns drawn, including one deputy holding a gun to the back of the suspect's head while he is being handcuffed. The committee raised questions as to whether the deputies followed Dept. procedure in subduing the suspect. Several committee members felt that one of the deputies was very unprofessional in the way he spoke to the crowd at the scene who were filming the incident.

Capt. Weber stated the video will be reviewed and a debriefing will take place at the Station for all personnel. The review will be conducted to see if any Dept. policies or procedures were not followed. Several committee members were calling for disciplinary action against some of the deputies involved. Brian requested that the public hear directly from the Station in regards to this incident. He feels the community needs to know what disciplinary actions are given to the deputies involved. Committee members expressed their beliefs that less lethal tactics could have been used in subduing the suspect and responding to the crowd at the scene.

### **e) CAC Letter to DOJ**

Shunnon has drafted a letter to DOJ as per our discussion at the April CAC meeting. The letter will ask DOJ to review the work of our CAC and make any recommendations to better assist the committee in fulfilling its purpose. Cynthia has removed herself from any responsibility for drafting the letter or its content. The letter will be reviewed at the next monthly meeting.

### **f) Community Events and CAC**

Iris suggested that the CAC attend local community events, possibly staffing a booth at larger events. The CAC could also attend public meetings and ask for time to make announcements to the public. She has been participating as a CAC member at Lake LA Town Council meetings.

**5. Open Comments from CAC**

Brian requested that all future Town Halls be held away from Lancaster Station. He also asked the committee to let him know about meeting soon with the Cancel the Contract/AV Committee.

**6. Meeting Adjourned at 1956 hours.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cynthia Lehman

## **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** earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees 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.

**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 on the Executive Board of the Antelope Valley NAACP, 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.

**Iris Urias** is a resident of Lake Los Angeles who volunteers as a peer to peer group facilitator for NAMI and is actively involved in the community. Iris finds a lot of joy in volunteering, she especially loves networking dogs at two local animal care centers to help them find homes. Iris hopes to encourage people to get involved in the community by sharing local resources, events, meetings and volunteer opportunities. She uses various social media platforms to get the message out. She started engaging more with law enforcement to talk about mental health in hopes they would learn something from her experiences and have a better understanding of someone who struggles with a mental illness. She believes that having a dialogue with your local law enforcement agency is very important and she hopes to help the CAC with their community outreach online and in person.

**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.