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2022 REPORT

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Relations*

&

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Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Antelope Valley Stations Community Engagement Report

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Introduction

History of the Settlement Agreement

In 2011, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) began a two-year investigation into the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) in response to community complaints about potential violations of the Fair Housing Act in the Antelope Valley (AV), consisting of Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff Stations. Upon completing the investigation, the DOJ alleged a pattern or practice of discriminatory policing, unlawful searches and seizures, and violations of the Fair Housing Act.

Although the LASD did not admit or agree with the DOJ's findings, the LASD was committed to ensuring the Department was functioning at an exceptional level and maintained positive relationships with all its communities. In April of 2015, the LASD entered into a Settlement Agreement with the DOJ. The goal of the Settlement Agreement was to ensure police services were delivered in compliance with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

In addition to creating an LASD AV/DOJ Compliance Unit, the Settlement Agreement listed over 100 agreed upon reforms related to training, improved community outreach efforts, and data collection/analysis. The LASD works with the DOJ and an independent monitoring team, who oversee the LASD's efforts toward satisfying the terms of the agreement.

This report addresses aspects of the "Community Engagement" section of the Settlement Agreement. It serves as an assessment of police-community relations in the Antelope Valley. Additional compliance efforts regarding the remainder of the Settlement Agreement can be found in the Monitoring Team's Semi-Annual reports, which are accessible on the LASD website (www.lasd.org/antelopevalleycomplianceunit), along with a copy of the Settlement Agreement, a summary of the mandates, and additional background information.

Community Advisory Committee Overview

Lancaster and Palmdale Stations established their own Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to build trust, enhance transparency and promote dialogue between local law enforcement and the community. Both stations continue to work diligently with their respective CAC's to build trust within their communities. The CAC's consist of members who represent the diversity of our communities. Members of the CAC have a nexus to the city they represent, either through living in the area or through employment.

Members from different geographic regions, ethnicities, faiths, ages and inclusivity of the LGBTQ+ community were all considered when selecting CAC members. We believe our CAC's are genuinely reflective of the diverse communities we serve. Some CAC

members have been members for many years, a few from the beginning. Many of these CAC members are very beneficial to the progress of the CAC. Some CAC members have built relationships with advocacy groups who bring community concerns to them. The CAC then brings the community concerns to the respective station captains or arranges meetings with the captains to address the concerns.

The CAC members meet monthly with station personnel, including the stations' respective captains and designated sergeants and deputies. These meetings allow CAC members to bring the concerns and issues from the community directly to the LASD. The meetings result in a mutual benefit of providing a better understanding for both the LASD and the community as they aim to address the community's concerns efficiently.

Both CAC's host quarterly Town Hall meetings to discuss various topics of concern and report on the progress and efforts made by the LASD. They also organize events involving the LASD and the community to create more opportunities for law enforcement personnel to interact with community members in a positive forum. These meetings occur in Palmdale, Lancaster, and the surrounding unincorporated areas. CAC meetings allow Lancaster and Palmdale Station deputies the opportunity to discuss various concerns with the community. Community members are invited to come, listen and ask questions of station deputies. Before and after the meetings, community members can speak directly with the station captains and deputies.

Both stations continue to work diligently with their respective CAC's to build trust within their communities.

The CACs write annual reports regarding their efforts for the year, including recommendations for LASD. Community members can find their published reports on Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff's Station's websites.



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Core Values

- **Lead with Compassion, Service with Humility and Courageously Seek Justice for All.**



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Mission Statement

- **The Mission of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is to partner with the community to proactively prevent crime, enforce the law fairly and enhance the public's trust through transparency and accountability.**
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Lancaster Station Introduction

The City of Lancaster is a community of approximately 174,000 residents located about one hour north of Los Angeles. There is a vast selection of attainable housing and people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds who call Lancaster home. Lancaster City contracts with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) for public safety. Lancaster Sheriff's Station measures over 600 square miles and covers the entire northeast portion of Los Angeles County. Deputies patrol from Neenach to the west (meeting up with Santa Clarita Station's patrol area), up to the County line to the north and east (meeting up with Kern County at Avenue A and San Bernadino County out past Lake Los Angeles, respectively), and down to Palmdale Station's patrol area to the south. The communities of Antelope Acres, Hi Vista, Roosevelt, and most of Quartz Hill are included in this patrol area.

Lancaster Station has approximately 190 sworn staff members. This sworn staff consists of lieutenants, sergeants, detectives, and patrol deputies along with a captain, most of whom live within the city areas they patrol. Lancaster Station is always looking for new deputies to work this vast area, but due to its relentless and unforgiving climate, combined with 700+ calls for service per day, many staff members often move on to other assignments where they share the wealth of knowledge which they have obtained from patrolling the busy Lancaster patrol areas.

As mentioned above, many Lancaster Station deputies live within the communities they serve. Many of these deputies have extracurricular activities outside of their employment with LASD. Some deputies are coaches for youth soccer, baseball, or are involved in football programs. Other deputies are referees, spiritual leaders, or youth group leaders. As members of the community, deputies and their families are involved with local sports teams and their children attend local schools. Community members learn about the deputies' employment and engage with them in an off-duty capacity. Through these sporting events, the community members develop friendships with law enforcement staff which may last for many years, potentially even after their kids are grown.



Community Advisory Committee (CAC)



The Lancaster CAC is comprised of civilian representatives who act as a liaison between the Lancaster Sheriff's Station and the communities it serves. The intent of the Lancaster CAC is to build a better understanding between the public and the Lancaster Sheriff's Station personnel, through education and communication. Lancaster Station appreciates all the hard work and dedication from our CAC members with trying to help bridge the gap between the community and the Sheriff's Department.

The Settlement Agreement requires the Lancaster Station to support quarterly public meetings of the CAC to discuss the progress or compliance with the Agreement and receive community feedback.


In 2022, the Lancaster CAC held two town hall meetings: one on March 15, 2022, and the other on September 19, 2022. Both were successful and allowed information to be shared as well as the community's perspectives on public issues to be heard. The community members asked the Department questions regarding our use of force policy (UOF) and School Resource Deputies on school campuses.

Captain Lecrivain responded by stating we have a UOF policy in effect and deputies have attended additional training specific to UOF.

The School Resource Deputies are in place to handle criminal activity that occurs on school grounds. Non-criminal discipline to students lies solely with the school districts. The March town hall attendance consisted of approximately 15 deputies and approximately 30 to 40 community members. The Settlement Agreement monitors, Dr. Angie Wolf and Joseph Brann, were also in attendance and were available to answer any questions from the public. The March agenda covered introductions of the CAC members, the Monitors' Semi-Annual Report, and an open Q&A session at the end.

The September town hall meeting agenda consisted of introductions of the CAC members, the Monitors' Semi-Annual Report, and open Q&A by utilizing speaker cards,





which are cards given to attendees prior to the event starting where they can write down their question and submit it at the end for open dialogue. Roughly 25 to 30 community members and 5 deputies were in attendance. The community voiced concerns related to fatal traffic accidents and traffic problems in their neighborhoods, questions regarding the use of body-worn cameras and the process of how a citizen can request a deputy to activate the camera. Captain Lecrivain addressed the questions and referred any additional traffic concerns to Lancaster Station's traffic office.

One community member inquired about starting a local youth baseball league and having law enforcement officers as coaches. The community member shared a story of how he grew up in East Los Angeles and how he participated in a baseball program coached by deputies and how it had a positive impact on his future. The community member was advised by Captain Lecrivain that, unfortunately, there is not sufficient staffing or funding for such a positive program; however, Captain Lecrivain shared his hopes of a Youth Athletic League (YAL) coming to Lancaster in the near future. The YAL is a youth organization dedicated to redirecting youth's attention in a more positive direction such as through sports.

Another citizen in attendance shared her personal experience with law enforcement, which led to a citizen complaint. This topic opened group discussion and many of the members in attendance shared their views and opinions related to her incident. The discussion was very interesting and consumed the remaining allotted time for the meeting. Captain Lecrivain personally met with the complainant after the meeting and, upon researching the incident, determined we had incorrect contact information documented for her. The correct information was obtained and given to the handling lieutenant, which allowed us to proceed with the complaint process.

In 2022, Lancaster Station's CAC encountered several issues with organizing and hosting quarterly town hall meetings, primarily due to a shortage of members on the CAC. At one point, the CAC only had 3 members (not enough for a quorum). The Department strives to maintain a minimum of seven CAC members, however, would like to have as many as possible and as diverse as possible. Therefore, two of the required town halls were canceled. Lancaster Station is currently working with the CAC to create digital recruitment flyers to post on social media. Lancaster Station has also attempted to recruit CAC members during our Community Academy and at community engagement events.

All community members who would like to apply for the CAC will be asked to complete a "Volunteer Application Form" at which time a background check will be conducted. Once approved, the applicant will have a one-on-one interview with the Captain of Lancaster Station. Once this process is completed, they will be asked to submit a fingerprint background check. Upon finalization, the new member will be introduced to the team and attend their first monthly meeting; this will help gain a better understanding of how the team operates. Lancaster Station is currently in the recruiting

process and hopes to increase its membership in 2023. The CAC's role and responsibilities are substantially time consuming and require attention to detail and commitment.

In the preceding years, the CAC reached out to the community for suggestions and then compiled a list of several recommendations to be addressed by Lancaster Station. These recommendations consisted of requesting there be a Spanish-language interpreter at Lancaster Station, public events, recruitment of African American deputies, being more transparent, new locations when conducting Coffee with a Deputy, public roundtable discussions of recent events, continued community engagement, community education programming, new programs such as "Law Enforcement Informed Interaction Program," and being more aware of the hashtag phrases we use on social media that could offend others.

In 2022, Lancaster Sheriff's Station was able to address several of the recommendations listed above. All the listed events that Lancaster Station holds are in an effort to include all community members and youth.



Some of those events include, but are not limited to, "Project Joy" and going into schools to talk with the youth. Other events are scheduled at numerous locations throughout the city with the purpose of reaching all community members.

Lancaster Station has continued to push our recruitment efforts in 2022. We have attended such events as, The University of Antelope Valley Career Fair, AV High School Teen Talk, and Lancaster Baptist Career Fair with the goal to encourage a ample variety of community members to consider a career in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Lancaster Station was able to reach out to hundreds of community members during these events and several members have expressed interest in joining our department.

Lancaster Station is determined and has prioritized rebuilding the bridge with the community. As we look forward to 2023, we plan to incorporate roundtable discussions in the town hall meetings. In the past, only a few agenda items were discussed along with the Settlement Agreement. The vision of the roundtable discussions will allow more community members to have a voice without interruption, to avoid a misstep from the past, and in return allow target specific discussions with deputies on a more personal level. "Cross talk" will essentially be eliminated and allow all community members a chance to voice their concerns. This new roundtable method will allow additional topics of discussion and permit the community members in attendance to discuss concerns in which they are most invested.

Community Engagement Events

Lancaster Station sworn personnel attend various events throughout the year. Events such as “Coffee with a Deputy,” “Business for Breakfast” and “Coffee with a Commuter” are just a few examples of regularly scheduled events throughout the year. The “Coffee with a Deputy” event was held on the second Thursday of every month and had approximately 5 to 10 sworn personnel with 20 to 30 community members in attendance. It was held at a longtime local family-owned restaurant called Crazy Otto’s. The restaurant has a separate meeting area which was perfect for hosting such an event. The owner and staff were extremely welcoming, and we cannot thank them enough for their continued support.

To reach out to other areas of the community, we decided to create “Coffee with a Deputy, Special Edition” which will be held at various Starbucks locations throughout the City of Lancaster and at different hours of the day. When community members stop by for their favorite Starbucks beverage and we are hosting an event, they can ask questions regarding anything law enforcement related. These afternoon and early evening events were designed to allow deputies to sit with community members in a more approachable setting which allows the opportunity for them to connect and get to know each other. There are six Starbucks locations within Lancaster City (East and West Lancaster). Our objective is to attend all six branches since they are scattered throughout the entire city. Our average attendance for Special Edition Coffee with a Deputy at Starbucks ranges from 5 to 10 deputies and 20 to 30 community members at one time. Topics of discussion vary based on current events. Examples of recent discussions were Proactive Community Policing, recent illegal street racing, and minibike riding on public roadways.

Lancaster Station provided strategic ways to prevent crime in their neighborhoods such as security camera placement, lighting, and neighborhood watch. Lancaster Station advised the community that we will notify the traffic division of their concerns of a spike in illegal racing. Once notified, the traffic division conducted target specific enforcement on street racing. Based upon this community input, multiple vehicles were towed and drivers were cited for illegal street racing. Lancaster Station is currently seeking funding for the enforcement of illegal minibike operations on city streets.

Business for Breakfast was managed by the city’s Business Chamber of Commerce. Lancaster Station attended this event regularly which was held on the fourth Thursday of every month. Four to five sworn personnel attended this event on average. Discussions on how to conduct proactive community policing were held at this event. Deputies also gave advice to small business owners on ways to prevent theft and how to deter shoplifters from entering their establishments.



“Coffee with a Commuter” was a unique event and was held three times this year. To help stay warm at the community engagement events during the cold winter months, the community relations team at Lancaster Station purchased stainless steel hot beverage dispensers. This purchase allowed the team to go mobile and provide a hot beverage to the attendees as well as another opportunity for deputies to meet community members and discuss any concerns or issues over coffee outside of the normal “Coffee with a Deputy/Commuter” events. This process



has allowed us to host Coffee with a Commuter without the need for electricity or relying on a business to provide coffee. This will help us in 2023 to also host events at harder-to-reach locations, such as, city parks throughout Lancaster and church parking lots. Lancaster Station will continue to identify new locations to host events.

Beginning at 3:30 AM at the Lancaster Metrolink Station, deputies set up a table for our early morning commuters to get coffee and pastries prior to getting on the Metrolink. If the commuter had time, they could meet, greet, or share their concerns with our deputies prior to boarding the train. We received positive responses about this event from the on-site security and commuters, that our presence at the Metrolink station puts them at ease and helps reduce criminal activity in the area.

Person(s) experiencing homelessness, combined with mental health conditions, on the Metrolink were mentioned as areas of concern several times. Multiple commuters mentioned late night walks to the Metrolink gave them an unsafe feeling. Given this response, we have increased patrol checks for the Metrolink during the early morning hours. Our Mental Evaluation Team (MET) has been notified of the increasing problems affecting the commuters during this time of the morning. During the early morning hours, the MET unit is unavailable, however, Lancaster Station deputies have the ability to provide resources when encountering people who are experiencing homelessness combined with mental health conditions.

Lancaster Station personnel attended many other events throughout the year that were attended by all different cultures throughout our community. These events consisted of food drives, clothing, and toy giveaways along with student workshops that conducted Q&A for all ages of youth.

Community Relations Events

The smaller, more personal events, such as “Trunk or Treat,” “Stuff a Humvee,” and at-risk youth workshops gave Lancaster Station deputies opportunities to develop a rapport with our youth. The children loved seeing the deputies in full uniform and asked questions about their gear and profession. The “Trunk or Treat” event for Halloween, which is hosted at the Valley Oasis Domestic Violence Shelter (a shelter house for battered families and their children) is an enjoyable event. Most of the children at this location who were dressed in their adorable costumes have been through recent trauma and most likely have had one of their parents taken away from them. It is very important that the children understand a deputy is there to help as well as make them feel safe. This “Trunk or Treat” event was a way of re-establishing trust after experiencing a devastatingly traumatic event.



The “Stuff a Humvee” event was a toy drive that allowed the community to donate toys to the less fortunate. Lancaster Station hosted a “Stuff a Humvee” toy drive collection event at the Lancaster Target in December. The objective was to collect as many toys as possible and then designate a last-minute location within the city to distribute the toys to the underprivileged families of Lancaster. This year’s distribution event was held across the street from Spirit and Truth Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Aaron Duncan collaborated with Lancaster Sheriff’s Station in distributing the donated toys to our youth.

Additionally, Lancaster Station deputies participated in city events such as National Night Out, “Haunt at the Hanger” for Halloween, and the “Magical Boulevard” for the winter holidays. Lancaster Station deputies also attend mental health events which are held by the Tarzana Treatment Centers, health fairs, food pantry giveaways and various



youth activities which are hosted by the Antelope Valley Partners for Health organization. All these events vary in participation and were open to all residents. Lancaster Station supervisors encouraged deputy personnel participation in each event; however, on some occasions only one deputy is available to attend and for others we may have as many as 10 to 15 deputies in attendance. Participation depends on call volume, event type, schedule, and venue location.

Captain Lecrivain, along with Lancaster Station supervisors, attended briefings regularly and advised deputies that when attending events, they are encouraged to interact with the community and document the community members' discussions. Future improvements being considered are to create a form that will assist deputies in documenting these discussions. The forms will be forwarded to the Community Relations Office to allow us to retain the information given. If any concerns arise during the discussion that were unanswered, the deputy will be given guidance on how to address the community members' concerns.

Youth workshops were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns (from January 2020 to approximately June 2021) and were a huge success. This program idea was originally proposed to us by a former CAC member, Dr. Cynthia Lehman. Dr. Lehman continued this program through 2022 due to its success in 2021. She continued to host these workshops with Lancaster Station even after her departure from the CAC. Students were able to log into Zoom and have Q&A with deputies regarding current community events. The age of the students ranged from 5 to 17 years old depending on what school was hosting the workshops.

There were multiple benefits to these workshop events. First, the workshops are in person and virtual. A virtual platform allowed participants to attend who may have transportation issues. Parents could join and see what questions kids were asking law enforcement for transparency purposes. In addition, the deputies interacted with the youth in a positive safe environment. The older students asked questions related to recent shootings (not on campus), as well as questions on how and why we use force. The information provided to the students allowed them to gain a better perspective and understanding of our duties as deputy sheriffs.

Lancaster Station personnel spoke to the students about our active shooter training, how we respond to these incidents, and what is expected from the students during these incidents. During the discussions regarding how and why we use force, we explained that deputies attempt to de-escalate any situation prior to resorting to using force. The use of force is based significantly on the actions of the person(s) the deputies

contact. On school grounds, deputies only respond to handle criminal behavior. Non-criminal discipline is and should be handled by school district officials.

Even though the pandemic closures have ended, these workshops will continue to be held on Zoom, as well as in person at various schools throughout the City of Lancaster.

The young community members are our future and Lancaster Station will continue to help educate them on the importance of partnering with law enforcement in all aspects of our community. Lancaster Station will work to ensure the youth understand their safety is our priority.

Community Engagement Successes

Lancaster Station recognized the need to enhance relationships with all groups within the community. In 2021, one of the major obstacles Lancaster Station faced was finding ways to connect with at-risk youth and communities of color. In 2022, “Project Joy,” a nonprofit organization that provides outreach, job skills and empowerment workshops to the vulnerable and young adults experiencing homelessness, helped us take steps to overcome this obstacle. Deputies were invited to attend their hosted events which are held in neighborhoods that have a large amount of at-risk youth. Deputies interacted with these youth and got to know each other and participated in age appropriate activities with them in their neighborhood. This method made it easier for the youth to engage with deputies while still feeling comfortable in their familiar surroundings.



Lancaster Station contacted the H.E.L.P.E.R. Foundation (Help Establish Learning, Peace, Economics, and Righteousness). The H.E.L.P.E.R. Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that was originally established to provide gang intervention and prevention services. We began working with this foundation to prevent our most vulnerable youth from taking a path that may lead to jail or even death. In 2023, we will be attending after school events for gang violence and domestic violence prevention. Deputies work with the Foundation and attend their events to advance the common goal of providing these youth with the knowledge to succeed and make positive life choices that will allow them to have a promising future.

An additional obstacle we faced in 2021, was low community member event participation. In 2022, we utilized social media for advertising which has been a major component in disseminating community event information. To improve public awareness of events, we expanded our “Coffee with a Deputy” events and have made them mobile. They are no longer required to be held at a coffee house. This allowed us to host events at parks, parking lots, and other open areas. This method provided an opportunity to reach more community members throughout the city, providing multiple

locations and participation times. We expect to further expand this approach to open forums throughout the city and county areas in 2023.

We look forward to developing new ways to encourage larger turnouts for our events. Our advertising is being reconstructed through social media. We are also working with our local AV Scanner group (a local web-based news source) to help get the event dates out to the public. We are hopeful that by increasing our social media platform, our attendance will increase. We currently have 39,000 followers on Facebook and expect to increase to 45,000 by the middle of 2023. The purpose of utilizing these platforms is to increase the amount of community engagement so that more community members can speak to us about the concerns or issues they see within their communities.

Lancaster Station had several successful events for the year 2022. First, we hosted numerous “Coffee with a Commuter” events. Lancaster Station was able to provide the early morning commuters with coffee and pastries prior to boarding the Metrolink. This was also a huge success in engaging the early morning deputies (whom you rarely get to see since most of the community is asleep during their working hours) with the community! Most of the commuters work 5 days a week in Los Angeles and spend their entire day away from the Antelope Valley. They have little contact with the Lancaster Station deputies, and otherwise would only contact us if they had a problem. This event gave us the chance to introduce ourselves and the commuter an opportunity to share any concerns or questions with us while they waited for the train. We welcomed all community members who were in the Metrolink area and wanted a hot beverage to fend off the cold temperatures. We also provided outreach and informational brochures to those experiencing homelessness who were seeking resources.

Our annual toy drive is always a successful event. It was voiced by our community that



several have fallen on hard times and finances have been tight. This event brought some relief to parents by providing toys to their children during the holiday season. This year we partnered with Pastor Aaron Duncan who leads Spirit and Truth Missionary Baptist Church. This church also conducted a toy distribution at the same time as Lancaster Station. By collaborating with Pastor Duncan, we were able to double our toy distribution and give out twice as many toys as last year!



Community Engagement Obstacles

Lancaster Station's 2022 obstacles were bilingual translation during town hall events, venue locations, personnel involvement during busy shifts and securing donations/funding to host events.

An obstacle for the majority of 2022 was providing bilingual translation during the town hall events. However, at the end of 2022, the Lancaster Station Community Relations team acquired a new Law Enforcement Technician (LET) Wendy Rojas. LET Rojas is bilingual in Spanish and will be available to translate during the town hall meetings. LET Rojas also has a vast knowledge of how to manage various social media platforms. Her primary role continues to be advertising our community events and providing station safety and major incident notifications to our residents. LET Rojas also answered numerous questions from the community in real time via social media platforms.


Acquiring venue locations to host events was also an obstacle in 2022. Not all events required the same public accommodations capacity. Some venues had the appropriate accommodation for a specific event; however, the parking area was not ideal. Other venues were very welcoming but were too small for our planned event. Another challenge we faced was that we did not want our event to negatively impact the venue's sales and customer interaction. Although we had good intentions when collaborating with small businesses to host an event, we understand the business must be able to operate without interference.

Personnel involvement in community events during shifts with high call volumes and lower staffing levels continued to be an obstacle that hindered our engagement efforts. The low staffing levels appear to be a challenge throughout the Sheriff's Department although efforts are being made to increase recruitment and expedite the hiring process. It is anticipated it will be a few years before our staffing levels will be at a sufficient level.

Securing donations and funding to host community events has been an ongoing obstacle. The Community Relations team is always looking for new ideas to enhance our community outreach and seeking donations. Any donations received were used to purchase items such as coffee, pastries, paper supplies, table decorations, and crayons



for the coloring books. Seeing a smile on a young child's face, made all the effort and long hours rewarding. The young children enjoyed looking at our uniform equipment, sitting in the patrol cars, and playing with the stickers, coloring books and water bottles we handed out. It also gave them a little souvenir from their visit with us. A hot beverage on a cold night for someone who may otherwise not be able to purchase one was also priceless.



These obstacles mentioned above can and will surely be overcome in 2023. We have already implemented strategies for successful community responses, such as obtaining a bi-lingual Law Enforcement Technician to help reach the Spanish speaking community, expanding our event locations by going mobile, and Lancaster Station has received an influx of new deputies to help with staffing levels. Lancaster Station has begun the process to select new CAC members and reached out to the proper channels for donations to make 2023 a successful year.


Recommendations and Plans For Future Improvement

The department has implemented training with the purpose of providing attendees with the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate and serve members of the LGBTQ+ community. Lancaster Station will be reaching out to the facilitator of this training to have them come to our station to provide knowledge to our deputies.

To address the issue of acquiring venues to host our events, Lancaster Station has reached out to the Lancaster Starbucks general managers to partner with them in hosting more late-night “Coffee with a Deputy” events. This will allow us to reach community members who are not normally able to attend during the day, which in turn would broaden our outreach in 2023.

Lancaster Station is in the process of implementing several improvements when conducting community engagement. First, we have located and secured two Smart TV’s for the station which will allow our deputies to see a digital calendar of local events for them to attend. Our deputies are constantly moving throughout our station and sometimes do not have the time to stop into the Community Relations office to see what events they are available to attend. This will no longer be an issue once the Smart TV’s are installed and displaying the upcoming events for 2023. We will have the digital calendar regularly updated on Lancaster Station’s Facebook page and Lancaster CAC’s Facebook page. One of our CAC members is a web designer and will teach us how to operate the digital event calendars.

Our ability to have our events more city-wide accessible starting in Summer of 2023 will be a huge benefit to the community and we will be seeking the proper resources to accomplish this task. We will be reaching out to middle schools and high schools to address preventative measures for the potential dangers of dating and domestic violence, which will open dialog with the students in a manner similar to the Teen Talk event. Lancaster Station has partnered with the City of Lancaster to create a preemptive domestic violence coalition which will teach the community about how to identify relationship red flags that may lead to domestic violence. This coalition will lay the groundwork for domestic violence prevention techniques, such as having a safety plan in place, with the end goal to keep our community members safe as domestic violence situations tend to be the most dangerous.



Lancaster Station will be offering guidance to the City of Lancaster in relation to the development of their proposed “Hybrid Policing Model¹” strategy which is currently still under development with limited information available. The Hybrid Policing Model was created by Lancaster City’s Public Safety Division in an effort to reduce response times by deploying unarmed personnel hired by the city to take specific routine calls for service. Lancaster Station Deputies will assist in teaching these unarmed Community Service Officers on how to write incident reports. In the development of this method, the ultimate goal would be to reduce the volume of calls for service, lower response times, and allow for a more positive interaction with deputies when taking reports.

The City of Lancaster will also be acquiring a “FLOCK” system to be activated in early 2023. This new camera system will be able to find stolen vehicles within the city, allowing a deputy to locate and conduct an effective traffic stop of a stolen vehicle. A large concern from our community is to address the rise in vehicle thefts. With this system, we will be able to show a significant increase in the apprehension of vehicle theft suspects during our community town hall meetings.

Lancaster Station continues to strive to make forward progress in community engagement and looks forward to locating other avenues/opportunities to ensure positive community engagement.

¹ Anyone interested in more information on the City of Lancaster’s proposed Hybrid Policing Model strategy, can contact Lancaster Public Safety at 661-723-6063 or email publicsafety@cityoflanasterca.gov.

Palmdale Station Introduction

Palmdale Station patrols an area of 770 square miles with a population just under 200,000 people of varied backgrounds. Within this area is the most diverse topography in all of Los Angeles County. It can be snowing at Mountain High Ski Resort in Wrightwood, and at the same time, it can be 90 degrees on the valley floor. Temperatures in the summer can reach as high as 110 degrees and as low as 20 degrees in the winter, with a chilling wind factor as high winds typically whip through the valley at 15 to 30 mph.

Looking at Palmdale Station's area on a map of Los Angeles County gives you an idea of how large our area really is compared to the rest of the County. The area includes the incorporated City of Palmdale. Along with the City of Palmdale, our service area reaches far west to the communities of Elizabeth Lake, Green Valley, and Leona Valley, east out to the San Bernardino County Line and the communities of Littlerock, Pearblossom, Llano, Crystalair, Wrightwood and Big Pines, and south into the communities of Acton, Agua Dulce and Vazquez Rocks. Along with the previously mentioned communities, Palmdale Station also patrols along the Angeles Crest Highway.

Palmdale Station has approximately 200 sworn staff members. This sworn staff consists of lieutenants, sergeants, detectives, and patrol deputies along with one captain. Many of our dedicated members live within the city areas they patrol. They have a vested interest in their community and are frequently involved in many extracurricular activities.



Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC Town Hall meetings were a success in 2022. The 1st Quarter CAC meeting was held on January 24, 2022. There were approximately 50 community members in attendance. One topic which was discussed was illegal marijuana grows. Deputies answered the concerns from the community members by informing them of the enforcement which takes place on a regular basis from our Narcotics Division. Information was disseminated about how to report the marijuana grows. With the information provided, community members had an understanding on what details were needed for our station dispatchers, which then was forwarded to our Narcotics detectives for investigation.




Other topics of discussion were the nuisance of off-road vehicles on city streets. Palmdale Station brainstormed solution ideas with community members, such as creating a designated area for use. Community members were actively engaged and communicated possible solutions with everyone present. Surveys were also provided for those who wanted to participate but preferred a non-speaking method. The surveys were reviewed by Palmdale Station DOJ Liaison personnel, who logged the community's concerns and routed unresolved issues to the proper personnel for handling.

The 2nd Quarter CAC Town Hall meeting was held on April 18, 2022, and there were 40-50 members of the community who attended. Members of the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) spoke and provided vital information concerning mental health resources and programs. Several community members expressed their concern regarding how family members who suffer from Alzheimer's, Dementia, and other cognitive disorders may wander away from home. The MET team discussed our L.A. Found program, which allows family members to register their loved ones in a database and includes a GPS tracking bracelet. Deputy personnel are able to locate their family member, at a greater success rate, if they wander away from their homes.²

The MET team also told the community members that they doubled in size from four members to eight members, for the northern patrol area, to further assist patrol with calls for service related to people with mental illness. People experiencing homelessness were also a concern presented by our community members. The MET team explained how they can access community outreach programs.³ The MET team

² For more information regarding the L.A. Found Program, visit the following website <https://lafound.lacounty.gov/>

³ For more information regarding L. A. County outreach programs directed towards mental health and homelessness, visit the following website <https://homeless.lacounty.gov/street-outreach>



provided information about our H.O.S.T. (Homeless Outreach Support Team) unit, including their purpose. H.O.S.T. partners with other community programs offering resources to the people experiencing homelessness, such as shelters, food banks, and places where they can obtain hot showers and clean clothing. Deputies from Palmdale Station were also present at the meeting and talked with community members, provided contact numbers of resources for family members with mental illness, explained how to report crimes, and how to obtain help for non-emergency calls for service.

Our 3rd Quarter CAC Town Hall meeting was held on July 6, 2022. There were approximately 10-20 members of the community who engaged our deputies from Palmdale Station in a discussion. During this meeting several topics were addressed, such as the DOJ Settlement Agreement, ongoing crime trends related to catalytic converter thefts, and community concerns with mental illness. The DOJ Settlement Agreement was discussed at length and how the Palmdale Station can promote and strengthen partnerships within the community. A PowerPoint presentation on the settlement agreement was presented to the attending community members by Captain Shaffer.

During the open discussion with Palmdale Captain Shaffer, the community members did not bring forth any new recommendations or concerns, but in relation to the Hispanic community, the question arose regarding how deportation and immigration status would be handled by the Sheriff's Department. Captain Shaffer shared with the community members about the policies created by then-Sheriff Villanueva to improve public trust, such as not asking about immigration status. Having these direct discussions, we endeavor to strengthen our community's confidence in our department's ability to serve fairly and impartially by engaging more with community members at events such as Coffee with a Cop, and Neighborhood/Business Watch meetings.

Palmdale Station deputies provided community members with information on a newly formed Catalytic Converter Theft Team. This team conducted specific patrol checks in search of positively identified suspects and conducted follow-ups on information provided by the community. The team also hosted catalytic converter etching events, to help combat the rise in such crime. The deputies present at the meeting explained to the community members by having their converter etched with their vehicle license plate number and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) would help in the investigation and the return of their stolen property.

The 4th Quarter CAC meeting was held on October 17, 2022, at a local senior center with approximately 30-40 members of our community in attendance. One of the guest speakers, Laura Bettencourt, a crime analyst for LASD Palmdale Station, discussed crime statistics for the Palmdale Community and the importance of having accurate statistics to track ongoing crime data. Such statistics shared were theft, assaults, and auto thefts. Eight deputies from Palmdale Station were in attendance to answer any concerns regarding crime trends and scams. A community member presented an issue regarding current scams that targeted the elderly and dependent adults. Deputies responded by explaining to the community how criminals would tell elderly victims they were in default on utility bills and must use gift cards as a form of payment⁴.



Even though no concerns, input, or new ideas from community members were brought up during this town hall meeting, community members did praise deputies for how they handled the growing issue with squatting in vacant buildings. Palmdale Station had teamed up with the City of Palmdale to address the concern. Deputies were instructed to remain available during the town halls, to take community members ideas and input, if they arose. Surveys were also available to those who wished to participate and document their comments for future meetings.

Community Engagement Events

Throughout the calendar year of 2022, Palmdale Sheriff's Station strived to put community engagement into the forefront, by hosting 32 community engagement events such as Coffee with a Deputy, Coffee with Veterans, and multiple youth events. These events were hosted at various Palmdale coffee shops, restaurants, and local high schools.

⁴ For more information regarding victim resources, visit the following website - <https://lasd.org/victims>

In 2022, “Coffee with a Cop” events were extremely successful because they were easily accessible, direct, and informal setting to interact with our community. During such monthly events, deputies and community members were able to interact with each other on a one-on-one basis. An average of 8 to 15 deputies would be present with approximately 10-20 community members in attendance.



Deputies discussed local crime trends, disaster preparedness, holiday safety, residential/vehicle safety, and catalytic converter thefts. The goal of providing such information was to educate our community on how to avoid becoming a victim. During previous “Coffee with a Cop” events, the community expressed the above topics as concerns and found this discussion to be helpful.

A variation of “Coffee with a Cop” that Palmdale Sheriff Station deputies participated in was “Coffee with a Veteran.” An average of 25 to 30 local veterans met with deputies every Wednesday at Scramblez Café. Palmdale Station is dedicated to having meaningful conversations with those who have willingly sacrificed so much for our nation. Deputies were honored to speak with the veterans since many of our deputies are veterans themselves. Taking a moment to hear about their life encounters during their time in service has been enlightening. Some of the concerns shared by our veterans were related to public safety, such as veterans experiencing homelessness. The deputies discussed Los Angeles County programs⁵, such as the Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN), that were available.

Another exciting event that Palmdale Station attended, with representatives from the City of Palmdale, was the Park Connect event. This event was developed to bring community members together to discuss the quality-of-life issues while enjoying safe, friendly fun, and fresh air at our local parks throughout Palmdale. Such an event has drawn an average of 20-25 community members with their families. Palmdale Station had between 10-15 deputies available to engage with the community members attendance.

⁵ For further information regarding Los Angeles County Programs related to Veteran support, visit the following website <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/veterans>



The community witnessed their city officials and deputies in another light as everyone participated in games such as potato sack races, spoon races, tic-tac-toe, basketball and other outdoor activities designed to bring the community outside and into their local parks. Deputies utilized patrol vehicles, armored response vehicles, tactical bicycles, and the mobile command post RV as a catalyst to motivate active discussions.

These vehicles and tools were used to encourage the community to engage with the deputies in conversation about how and why we used the respective vehicles and equipment. Deputies explained that certain situations are considered extremely high risk. The armored response vehicle is brought to the scene for an additional layer of protection, not only for the deputies but to help protect the community while the situation unfolds. Conversations with the community were relatively short, due to other activities taking place.

A concern that was presented by community members was their safety while at the park and graffiti. Deputies addressed these issues by explaining how they have and will continue to conduct foot beats throughout the parks to promote park safety. They further explained how to report crimes of vandalism and graffiti removal.⁶



Palmdale Sheriff's Station participated in a youth event during the Fall of 2022, called the Teen Youth Driving Summit, with a focus on educating and preparing the youth of our community for their future. One of the most popular of the events was the Teen Youth Driving Summit held at the Palmdale Cultural Center, which focused on prepping teen drivers with the essential tools to prevent future unsafe driving habits.

⁶ We all can be a part of the effort to keep our community beautiful for everyone. You can report graffiti to be removed by the City of Palmdale by visiting the following website
<https://www.cityofpalmdaleca.gov/FormCenter/Maintenance-Division-5/Report-Graffiti-Online-56>

With the collaboration of the City of Palmdale, Los Angeles County Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, and non-profit organizations such as Street Racing Kills, this event continues to be successful. There were approximately 160 students that participated in this event from various high schools throughout the Antelope Valley.

Palmdale Station had at minimum 12 deputies in attendance to present statistics and information to help educate the teens on how certain choices related to driving can have a lasting effect. Students were not only able to hear first responders but from actual family members who had lost a loved one from a fatal DUI or street racing crash.



Several youths asked deputies about policing on the school campus. Deputies explained the reason for law enforcement presence on school campuses was to abate the potential for an active shooter(s), to reduce and provide a quick response to violence or narcotic related issues among students and provide first responder level first aid/care. The Teen Youth Driving Summit has provided a space to foster positive interactions between the youth and the deputies, which in turn has bridged a stronger relationship.

Community Relations Events



A Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff is more than just the badge on their uniform. They are a mother, a father, a son, a daughter, and a friend. Most of the deputies either live in the community they serve or close by and take their oath to protect seriously. During 2022, the deputies of Palmdale Station strived to reach out to their community by participating in numerous community relations

events such as meeting with The Boy Scouts of America, Read Across America events, school presentations, assemblies, and trick-or-treat events.

As an outreach to recruit those who might be interested in a career in law enforcement, deputies attended the grand opening of the 5.11 Tactical store in Palmdale. They responded with an armored vehicle and were able to showcase the Bearcat during the grand opening. This also sparked conversation with community members wanting to see the equipment up close and asked questions about high risk responses. The local Sheriff Explorers youth program also assisted and provided tours of inside the vehicle for community members in the area. Deputies were able to interact with customers while in long lines and helped serve food.

School Resource Deputies participated in "Read Across America." Multiple sheriff deputies responded to various schools and read books to children during the classroom session. They also explained the dangers of strangers, crossing busy streets, and calling 9-1-1 for emergencies. Children were able to speak with deputies and engage with them in a relaxed setting and outside of a call for service.

One event that stood out this year was Career Day held at Highland High School in October. Approximately 1500 students participated and asked questions regarding the daily work duties of a deputy sheriff, the requirements to become a deputy sheriff, the Academy experience, and the Sheriff Explorer program that prepares students for a career in law enforcement. Deputies were given the opportunity to instill into each student that the choices they make today could have an impact on their future career goals.

Palmdale Station Patrol and Community Relations deputies conducted numerous Toy Drives throughout the City of Palmdale, with the intention to reach less fortunate families within our community that needed help, by providing toys for their children during the holiday season. The joy on the children's faces as they receive their toy and appreciation in



the eyes of the parents, is more than enough for the deputies to keep pushing the toy drive for our community.

During these events, deputy personnel spoke with the youth in our community, highlighting things to stay away from, such as narcotics, graffiti, gangs, petty theft, and alcohol. Deputies explained how to report crimes properly to the Sheriff's Department

and also to call 9-1-1 if they need help, are lost or don't know what to do, and are scared. We also gave the youth information to participate in our Explorer program, Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives (VIDA), and Youth Activities League (YAL).

After the information was provided to the youths in attendance, an open dialogue was initiated between them and deputies to further the relationship with all parties involved. The young community members asked questions to deputies as to how the deputies felt about working in a minority community and why it appears that law enforcement has a higher propensity for getting into force or shootings with minorities. Deputies explained how they want to be a protector for all in the community no matter what race, gender, or religion. Deputies explained that they respond to calls for service reported by the community. Deputies arrive to investigate crimes and determine if law enforcement action was required.

Deputies do believe in staying proactive in an attempt to prevent a crime from occurring, however, deputies are not looking to harass our community members. In the discussion, deputies provided examples of some calls for service they have received from community members, such issues as the sales and use of narcotics or assaults with firearms. Deputies explained that calls like someone assaulting a person with a weapon (for instance as a knife, pole/bat, or firearm) bring forth a heightened sense of urgency and safety for the community. In these calls for service, the deputy is not looking to use force on anyone but is there to help. If the situation arises where the deputy has to use force on someone, his/her safety and the safety of all in the community, regardless of their race, is of the utmost importance.

Community Engagement Successes

Palmdale Station participated in numerous community events which had a higher attendance from both community members and deputy personnel than in previous years. Events such as our toy drives, National Night Out, and Love My Ride drew a larger crowd of community members.



The Love My Ride Car and Bike Show presented by Palmdale Station, took place in June of 2022, with approximately 18,000 in attendance. Even with record-high temperatures reaching over 105 degrees, community members did not let that hinder them from enjoying a day of fun, food, and tricked-out cars. This continues to be a success for Palmdale Station because each year the community spreads the word of

their positive interactions with the deputies, which ultimately draws out more eager members.

The Christmas toy drives were hosted at two of our large retail stores in Palmdale. Multiple community members assisted in “Filling a Bear Cat” with toys during the toy drives. Thanks to the local community members the Palmdale Sheriff Station had to get a second truck to haul all the toys being donated to children in need.



The deputies later selected designated neighborhoods and convoyed with multiple patrol vehicles and the Bear Cat while playing Christmas music on the PA system. Both deputies and community members came together to donate to approximately 300 kids in need. This amount of donations this year has been the greatest it's ever been. Deputies felt grateful to help the children, and the parents were very emotional and tearful after being completely surprised with toys from the deputies.

In 2021, an obstacle for Palmdale Sheriff Station was the low attendance at town halls and events due to Covid-19. Although we held virtual town hall meetings, the community craved face-to-face contact. However, in 2022 with the Covid-19 restrictions coming to an end, we had a rise in participation in events and requests for further meetings.

We participated in 146 community events for 2022. Community members wanted to continue to participate and engage with deputies regarding the safety of their community. Deputies were able to continue to speak with members of the community and be able to hear first-hand concerns from the community. They also were able to provide information regarding recent crime trends in the area such as vehicle thefts and burglaries. This provided community members with information and assisted in crime prevention.



The National Night Out was hosted at a local Palmdale city park. This event had a huge outpouring of community support. Over 1000 community members were in attendance, bringing together all age groups with our Palmdale Station's deputy personnel.




Community Engagement Obstacles

The Community Advisory Committee board was short one member. It was difficult to fill the position due to the demands of being a board member such as hosting town hall and community meetings and completing annual reports. These positions are non-paid and all work is voluntary. Many of our members have full-time jobs and/or other life obligations. The CAC continues to do their best to inform the community as soon as possible regarding community engagement efforts or news related to the Sheriff's Department. Members of the CAC have utilized platforms such as "Facebook" and "Instagram" to reach out to their communities, however it is still undetermined if the information being presented is reaching all parts of the community they represent.

The CAC is actively looking to include more members from various parts of the community. With the inclusion of additional members, the Sheriff's Department strives to see an increase in input/ideas presented by community members. With this form of open dialogue, it would help strengthen the relationship between Palmdale Station and the community we serve.

In previous years, an obstacle was building trust with youth and black community members. In 2022, this continues to be an obstacle, however, Palmdale Sheriff Station continues to strive to reach all members of our community. We participated in a teen summit that focuses on reaching out to our youth and providing them with information about what to do during a routine traffic stop. The deputies and young community members were able to understand each other's perspectives.

Palmdale Station understands the importance of having trust between the deputies and the community. Palmdale Station continues to have community events and meetings to provide the community with safety and local incident information, giving the community a comfortable place to communicate their concerns. Surveys are always on hand via the Palmdale Station website along with a paper QR code which community members can use with their cellular phones to participate in the survey. Palmdale Station



encourages the community to provide their input, ideas, or concerns with any method provided.

We are continually looking for ways to engage with the mentally ill and people experiencing homelessness as they are a part of our community. Both the Palmdale Sheriff's station and the City of Palmdale, along with multiple organizations, have continued to make an extreme effort to provide resources and assistance to these vulnerable community members. H.O.S.T. will also continue to help those experiencing homelessness with resources and transition to a better life. This concern has been voiced by members of the community during town hall meetings.

Recommendations And Plans For Future Improvement

After conducting numerous community events during Covid-19, members of the community informed us on how to improve the outreach provided by our community events. After discussing the successes of how our events are advertised and observing how we could improve upon them, we were able to narrow down a few areas we plan on using as new platforms to increase awareness of our future events.

Palmdale Station and the CAC are actively working towards providing additional community engagement events/meetings in areas of the community that will encourage a more diverse community participation (including, but not limited to, youth and communities of color). We look forward to participating with our community during the Juneteenth holiday in 2023.

While we already put significant efforts into keeping our Palmdale Sheriff's social media page current and engaging, we plan on also utilizing printed out flyers at venues prior to our events. Other plans are to host virtual events for those who cannot attend in person for various reasons. We are also pursuing the use of local radio stations to reach more members of our community.

We are also looking at hosting community events during different times of the day so those whose work schedules conflict with the times can attend these events and interact with our deputy personnel.

In relation to our CAC Town Hall meetings and community events, Palmdale Station plans on continuing to have pre-selected topics, however we plan to open up conversation related to issues, input and ideas related to the improvement of the Sheriff's Department and our relationship with our community.

Lastly, we plan on offering options, upon request of community members, for Spanish translation, so community members have more accessibility to our community events. The surveys provided are not only in English but there is an option for Spanish speaking community members.

One of the biggest changes we have implemented is the use of an online survey. Community members who attend an event are able to scan a QR code and submit a short survey which also gives them the opportunity to submit any concerns in their community. This information can be submitted anonymously, but most importantly, it gives our community the chance to have their voices heard in a different format. This information will also help Palmdale Station to better identify problem areas and focus on these areas of the community to better assist with Palmdale Station's community policing model.




The surveys are a new way to track the community concerns, however, it is still in the developmental phase with the intention to take the information provided and apply the SARA Model⁷ of problem-oriented policing, where possible. The goal of the survey is to find common issues in the community, notify specific resources, (such as traffic enforcement, patrol, HOST team, or Code Enforcement) and determine possible solutions. Even with the survey model being in its beginning stages, recent neighborhood watch results have shown the most common issue was high speed traffic in small residential streets. This information was passed on to our patrol and traffic deputies for directed traffic enforcement in the affected residential areas of concern.

In the past, community members have said they would like to see better collaboration with the LGBTQ+ community. Although there has not been a significant demand for this request, Palmdale Station strives to engage with all members of the community. We also plan on connecting with a representative from the City of Palmdale who holds events with the LGBTQ+ community. Although historically any member of the community can attend any event put on by the Sheriff's Department, the LGBTQ+ community is one area in which we would like to dedicate events specially geared to this community. In collaboration with a City of Palmdale representative, Palmdale Station plans on offering deputies the opportunity to attend events to further engage with our LGBTQ+ members of the community. The Palmdale Sheriff Station is planning on attending the AV Pride Walk in June of 2023.

The Community Advisory Committee is an asset to the Palmdale Sheriff Station. We are looking forward to having a full board for 2023. We are currently short one member, and

⁷ The **SARA Model** is a 4-step problem-oriented policing model that stands for **S**can (Identify and prioritize the problem), **A**nalysis (Use relevant data to pinpoint the root causes of the problem), **R**esponse (Identify and select interventions; develop and implement an action plan), **A**ssessment (Evaluate the effectiveness of the response).



the committee is determined to reach out to look for new members. The committee is tasked with a great deal of work and is extremely helpful during the town hall meeting. Palmdale Station works with the Community Advisory Committee by hosting and attending various community events throughout the year. Through these events, the CAC is afforded the opportunity to attend and reach out to community members who express an interest in becoming members of the CAC.

Palmdale Sheriff Station Community Relations Unit works with community members of youth and color by working closely with the Antelope Valley Union High School District and their annual events of Teen Challenge and multiple Career Fairs at various high schools throughout the district. The annual Teen Challenge event brings students from lower-income high schools and deputies together to foster relationships with the youth of color, LGBTQ+, and other minority youth groups. The station is committed to working with the youth and plans on continuing our efforts to engage with them throughout the year with various events.

Palmdale Station will continue to progress forward with our community engagement, and we look forward to bridging a strong bond with all members of our community.