



LANCASTER SHERIFF'S STATION 2023 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

ENGAGEMENT

Lancaster Station has been working on exciting new event ideas to engage with all members of the community! Two new concepts were introduced, and it sparked multiple events!

FINISH READING ON PG. 2

SUCCESS

Lancaster Station's new Townhall meetings allow for more conversation between deputies and the community, "Rollin with a Deputy" got us onto high school campuses and expanded our community outreach!

FINISH READING ON PG. 5



CAPTAINS' MESSAGE

BY PAUL R. BARTLETT AND JOSEPH F. FENDER

Lancaster Sheriff's Station is unwavering in its dedication to serving our communities in the Antelope Valley. We are guided by the principals of the 21st Century Policing model to ensure we depict our core values in everything we do; Lead with compassion, serve with humility, and courageously seek justice for all.

In 2023, Lancaster Sheriff's Station focused on furthering relationships with community members. We adapted to community needs and adjusted community events to serve those who commute for work, and we found ways to allow more members of the community to have their voices heard.

In 2024, Lancaster Sheriff's Station strives to advance our partnership with the community. As long-time residents of Lancaster, both Captains strive to provide policing services fabricated to the needs of the community, enriching the community's trust.



GOALS

To address our opportunities, we have plans to create a community response plan for major incidents, expand our CAC, and continue outreach to the African American and LGBTQ+ communities.

FINISH READING ON PG. 4



OPPORTUNITIES

Connecting with the LGBTQ+ community continues to evade us despite our efforts. Our CAC needs help anchoring their connection with the community and identifying ways to help members of the community who face hardships during major incidents.

FINISH READING ON PG.3

ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS & RELATIONS

TURKEY GIVEAWAY

Lancaster Station personnel have noticed the economy's effects on the community and recognized ever-growing food distribution lines. This Fall, Lancaster Station partnered with Costco to provide turkey dinners for Thanksgiving. Local school districts assisted in selecting families. Boxes filled with numerous food items were delivered to the families the week before Thanksgiving. The selected families were truly surprised and excited about their turkey dinners, and even a few tears of joy were shed.



ROLLIN' WITH A DEPUTY

Lancaster Station joined Palmdale Station and the Antelope Valley Union High School District to kick off "Rollin' with a Deputy." Although we couldn't make it to Spirit Week to wish each team good luck for their homecoming game, we arrived in November and handed out hundreds of cinnamon rolls to students at each high school site. In December, we did the same for alternative sites in Lancaster's jurisdiction.

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

Lancaster Station put on its annual toy drive with the help of Lancaster Target. The citizens of Lancaster showed up and donated hundreds of toys for local children. Additionally, PetSmart provided two pallets of stuffed animals. On December 20, 2023, Lancaster Station Deputies went to Deputy Pierre Bain Park to begin the toy giveaway. Facebook Live was utilized to announce their location. The toy giveaway lasted for approximately two hours. All the children who came to the park got a toy for

Christmas!



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Lancaster Station continued our partnership with the City of Lancaster to expand the neighborhood watch program. There are now 36 neighborhood watch groups in Lancaster. We re-established our West County Neighborhood Watch in Antelope Acres and improved our Lake Los Angeles, East County Neighborhood Watch programs. We changed the East County Neighborhood Watch to evening hours to allow commuters to attend. This was a winning idea, gathering 59 East County members (up from 12 members at the previous meeting) to voice their concerns.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

Lancaster Station provided domestic violence presentations to the Valley Oasis Women's Shelter and the Antelope Valley Female's Center (AVL). The presentation provided information on what happens from when dispatch receives the call to when deputies arrive on the scene, how an investigation is completed at the time of the call, and what happens when a detective receives the case and files the case with the District Attorney's Office. On top of the presentation, attendees were also involved in an open Q&A on domestic violence-related topics.

LGBTQ+ WORKSHOP

Lancaster Station hosted the LGBTQ+ awareness workshop, which provided deputies with the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate and serve members of the LGBTQ+ community and cultivate an inclusive workplace. Members from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Lancaster Station's CAC members facilitated the training. Deputy personnel who attended the training were provided valuable tools to help better serve the LGBTQ+ community.



EVENT OBSTACLES WE OVERCAME

Last year, Lancaster Station listed community attendance, locations for events, and funding as challenges that needed to be tackled in 2023. During 2023, we utilized social media to advertise our events, which showed little improvement. In staple events like “Coffee with a Deputy” at Crazy Otto’s, we created advertisements and placed them on tables throughout the diner. With a generous donation from our Sheriff’s Boosters, signs were made to advertise “Coffee with a Deputy” that were placed on a patrol vehicle along the street to bring in and remind patrons.



EVENT OVERHAULS

We also expanded our night events so citizens who commute to Los Angeles for work could converse with us. Under a new direction, Lancaster Station’s community relations team hit the streets and contacted small businesses and nonprofit groups to find new and exciting locations to host events. Lancaster Station hosted events at new businesses and local high schools to reach different portions of the population where outreach efforts were missing the mark. Lancaster Station continues to partner with small businesses to expand our footprint in the community. Funding remains challenging; however, Lancaster Station is looking into different grants and fundraising to help.



LGBTQ+ OUTREACH

In our journey to strengthen our bonds with our communities, we attended an event at the LGBTQ+ community center. We strive to enhance our relationship with the LGBTQ+ community, and Lancaster Station will continue to pursue efforts to reach members of the LGBTQ+ community.



CAC IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Despite Lancaster Station’s Community Advisory Committee’s best efforts, the community’s reach has been insufficient. More feedback from the community is needed. Community members have stated that the CAC is not accessible to all members and that they do not know who is on it.



RESOURCE INTRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

After a few of Lancaster Station’s major incidents, it was asked why no emergency response or counseling services were available for family members. Additionally, Lancaster Station patrol deputies often run into community members who could benefit from services offered by our local nonprofit organizations. However, information on what services each nonprofit offers, contact information, and guidelines for determining if someone qualifies for services are often not provided to the front-line patrol deputies, who could directly impact lives in the community.

INCORPORATING RESOURCES DURING CALLS FOR SERVICE

After a critical incident between deputies and a community member, Lancaster Station personnel identified an area where we believe we can provide outreach to community members in a tough situation. Lancaster Station is currently working on establishing a faith-based leader list to respond to families of person(s) involved in significant crimes (ex, murders, shootings, kidnappings). This would help provide immediate counseling to the families and help care for their well-being. Additionally, Lancaster Station will hold more in-service briefings, reminding deputies of the LA County Office of Violence Prevention and the resources provided to victims of crime and their families. Too many times, deputies encounter citizens in the field who are in dire need of help. The needs of the community members can range from food to shelter to clothing and beyond. Short of the deputy purchasing whatever is needed, deputies are unaware of what services are available. Lancaster Station is compiling a non-profit resource list to help deputies address issues they encounter in the field. The list will include nonprofit contact information, times the nonprofit can be notified, and specific resources provided.



ADVANCEMENTS TO OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Lancaster Station is taking action to recruit and expand our Community Advisory Committee. We are committed to recruiting hard-working and motivated citizens in Lancaster to help identify and address the many concerns of our constituents. Lancaster Station is working on establishing a Youth Advisor Council (YAC). We feel it is important to provide a separate, safe space for youth to speak their mind, provide feedback, and exercise their constitutional rights without ridicule from adult community members. The YAC will focus on

issues youth face at and outside of school. The YAC will be comprised of youth in both Lancaster and Palmdale jurisdictions. We are working with the City of Lancaster to host these events at local parks.

OUTREACH EXPANSION



Lancaster Station has recognized the need for more outreach to minority communities, specifically African Americans and LGBTQ+. We will explore this opportunity this coming year by utilizing the resources available to build a better relationship.

Lancaster Station plans to work with our resources, minority church leaders, and new CAC members to create a strong foundation with the African American community. Lancaster Station plans to reach out to established groups in Los Angeles to assist with the outreach to the LGBTQ+ community. Additionally, Lancaster Station is working with CAC members to set up a meeting with local LGBTQ+ members to provide a hate crime/hate incident workshop so members in this community can correctly identify if they are a victim of a hate crime and what to expect from responding deputies and filing procedures with the District Attorney's Office.

Additionally, Lancaster Station has changed the community relations team this year. We will continue to evaluate our outreach efforts and ensure that the correct personnel are in the position to deliver the best community outreach possible.



TOWNHALL IMPROVEMENTS

Lancaster Station and the CAC revamped the town hall meetings for the quarterly report. The meetings were reconstructed to provide the settlement agreement update and then break out into groups where multiple topics would be discussed. This new town hall meeting structure allowed more community members to discuss their concerns and provided additional time for Q&A.



NEW EVENTS GAINING TRACTION

A new event was created to focus on connections with the Hispanic community, bringing resources to the Hispanic community, and assisting small Hispanic businesses with crime reduction by utilizing the deputy's presence. The event was a success for Lancaster Station. With our second event in November, we could fill the dining room, and it was a step in the right direction. As more community members learned about the event, they showed interest in joining us for another one. The businesses that hosted the event were also very enthusiastic about future events and helping those in their community.

BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE YOUTH

"Rollin' with a Deputy" was a massive success with the students. We reached our first goal of having positive contact with students. Many parents used social media to post pictures of their children with their cinnamon rolls or even with the deputies. Parents were delighted that deputies took the time to reach out to the youth.



FRIENDLY COMPETITION

Student groups and principals at each school competed to have the best welcoming entrance for the event. Quartz Hill High School had their cheerleaders and rolled out the red carpet. East Side High School had cheerleaders and their band hyping the students up as they passed through the entrance to the school. Antelope Valley High School cheerleaders and music welcomed students to grab a cinnamon roll. Lancaster High School had cheerleaders welcoming students in, posters lining the entrance, members of school groups helping to hand out cinnamon rolls, and even made a huge wooden display painted with "Rollin' with the Deputies."

