



COMMUNITY RELATIONS EFFORTS

Throughout the year, Palmdale Sheriff's Station attended many events to bridge the gap between law enforcement and our community members.

Although at times the relationship can be strained, we showed our support to all members of the community. These events included walking with members of the LGBTQ+ community, speaking to responsible gun owners at the "Gun Safety Symposium," and holding "Business Watch Meetings" throughout the City of Palmdale.

CONTINUED ON PG. 2

Captains' Message

By Joshua A. Bardon and Richard J. Cartmill

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is committed to constitutional and 21st-century policing practices that further promote community trust, collaboration, transparency, and accountability.

In 2023, Palmdale Sheriff's Station participated in over 150 community engagement events. These opportunities play a vital role in fostering positive law enforcement-community relationships.

As we look ahead, we will continue to work with our community to address areas of concern, develop and enhance our community engagement efforts to enhance public safety, and strengthen the foundation of community trust and cooperation.



ENGAGEMENTS

Palmdale Sheriff's Station participated in over 150 events throughout 2023. Our goal was to better engage with the community. Events that were near and dear to the station deputies included "Rollin' with a Deputy," our annual "Trunk or Treat & Car Show," and "Dine with a Deputy."

CONTINUED ON PG. 3 & 4



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Embracing opportunity we have plans to utilize our social media platforms, double the amount of "Neighborhood Watch" meetings we host, and improve the way we conduct our personal outreach with the harder to reach community members.

CONTINUED ON PG. 6



OPPORTUNITIES

Although we have made many inroads with our community members, we plan a more vigorous outreach to the LGBTQ+ community, members of the African American community, and residents in our rural neighborhoods.

CONTINUED ON PG.5

COMMUNITY RELATIONS EFFORTS

In 2022, Palmdale Station hosted 32 community relations events. In 2023, the Palmdale Sheriff Station hosted 75 community relations events. These events brought the deputies closer to the community they serve.

Rolling with a Deputy

One event was the Rollin' With a Deputy. Deputies from Palmdale Sheriff Station assisted in providing breakfast at three local High Schools. Students were happy to see deputies there and speak to them about law enforcement careers while eating breakfast.

Shop with a Cop

Another community relations event the Palmdale Sheriff Station organized was the "Shop with a Cop" event, where deputies took 35 children from low-income families shopping for Christmas presents. This event aimed to foster positive relationships between the police and the community, especially the youth. The deputies engaged with the children by helping them pick out gifts, playing games, and even treating them to lunch. The Palmdale Sheriff Station plans to continue hosting the "Shop with a Cop" event annually to promote community policing and help families in need.

LGBTQ+ Pride Walk

Lastly, the Palmdale Sheriff Station assisted in an LGBTQ+ pride walk to celebrate diversity and promote inclusivity. The deputies engaged with the 150 members of the LGBTQ+ community by participating in the walk and interacting with the attendees. They also provided resources for LGBTQ+ individuals needing support, such as information on counseling services and safe spaces. The Palmdale Sheriff Station plans to continue promoting diversity and inclusivity through similar events.



ENGAGEMENTS

Community Advisory Committee

To strengthen community engagement, the Palmdale Sheriff Station established a Community Advisory Committee that holds quarterly town hall meetings that, on average, 20 community members attend. The members of the community brought topics up concerning the increase of graffiti. Palmdale Station deputies explained the partnership between Palmdale Station and the City of Palmdale on how to report graffiti, the resources provided by the City of Palmdale to clean up the graffiti, and how they use their tracking system. Recently, the town halls have been revamped to be more interactive.

Instead of a traditional Q&A format, the quarterly meetings are now round table discussions where attendees can engage in open dialogue about various topics. One notable topic of discussion was how to be treated during a traffic stop. The deputies worked with the public to provide insight into how to interact with law enforcement during a traffic stop and how to ensure the safety of both the deputy and the driver. The Palmdale Sheriff Station plans to continue hosting these town halls



and encouraging open community and law enforcement dialogue.

Community Dialogue

The Palmdale Sheriff Station also hosted a community dialogue meeting inviting the public to discuss their concerns with law enforcement. These meetings were a new way to engage with the community and hear their concerns. This community dialogue was a success, and there are plans to have two to three community dialogue events in 2024.

The main topic of discussion was deputy gangs and how they may affect the community. The deputies addressed the public to provide information about deputy gangs and how the agency addresses them. The meeting allowed the community to voice their concerns and for the deputies to further engage with them directly. The Palmdale Sheriff Station plans to continue hosting these community dialogue meetings to ensure community concerns are heard and to engage with the community to address them.

ENGAGEMENTS CONTINUED



Business Watch Meeting

In addition, the Palmdale Sheriff Station held a Business Watch meeting where deputies worked with multiple small businesses to promote safety and security. The meeting allowed the businesses to voice their concerns and for the deputies to engage them and address them directly. One concern was narcotics activities around their business. The deputies discussed crime prevention strategies and provided information on reporting suspicious activity to help address narcotics activity. The Palmdale Sheriff Station plans to continue hosting these business watch meetings to promote community policing and ensure the safety and security of local businesses.

Gun Safety Symposium

Another event where deputies engaged with the community was the gun safety symposium, which aimed to educate the public on firearm safety. Approximately 100 community members participated. The deputies engaged with the community by providing demonstrations on safe gun handling and answering questions from the attendees. They also offered free gun locks to encourage responsible gun ownership. The Palmdale Sheriff Station plans to continue hosting the gun safety symposium annually to ensure the community is well-informed about firearm safety.

Toy Drive

Another successful community engagement event was the station's toy drive, which collected toys for families in need

during the holiday season. This event provided a valuable service to the community and helped improve relations between law enforcement and residents. The toy drive was well-received and demonstrated the station's commitment to serving the community beyond law enforcement duties and engaging with them during the holiday season.

Trunk or Treat

The Palmdale Sheriff Station's Trunk or Treat event was also a big hit with the community. This event provided families with a safe and fun environment to celebrate Halloween and positively engage with law enforcement. The event included a car show, where officers showcased their patrol vehicles and emergency equipment, providing residents with a better understanding of their work. The Trunk or Treat event helped to build relationships between officers and the community and demonstrated the Palmdale Sheriff Station's commitment to community engagement.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Palmdale Sheriff Station acknowledges a lack of community trust, limited resources, and a lack of diversity within the department. To address these challenges, the station has implemented several initiatives to build trust and improve transparency, including increased outreach efforts, community forums, and officer sensitivity training. One such sensitivity training deputies attended was held on November 15th, 2023, by LASD personnel from the LGBTQ+ community. This training was to help LASD personnel understand some of the struggles members of the LGBTQ+ community go through daily. Palmdale Sheriff's Station plans to send more deputies to this sensitivity training in 2024.

Despite these efforts, areas of the community, such as minorities and the impoverished, are still hard to reach. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the Palmdale Sheriff Station are still working on reaching out to those groups. For instance, some community members may still feel hesitant to report crimes or interact with officers due to past incidents of police brutality and racial profiling. To improve trust, LASD and the Palmdale Sheriff Station can continue to engage with the community, listen to their concerns, and implement changes within LASD to address these concerns. This may include more community outreach programs, increased transparency in department practice and policies, and holding personnel accountable for an incident of misconduct.

In addition, LASD and the Palmdale Sheriff Station are working on building relationships with community organizations such as local Black Churches and leaders with the Black Community. By partnering with local groups and leaders, the station can better understand the Black community's needs and concerns and work collaboratively to address them. Working with diverse organizations also helps build trust and improve department and Black community relations. Overall, it will take continued effort and dedication from Palmdale Sheriff Station and LASD to build a trusting relationship with our community.

Although in 2022, we struggled to have our CAC Board members at full capacity, 2023 saw the CAC Board full, which led to new ideas such as the "Round Table" discussions at the quarterly CAC dialogue meetings, which the community members saw as a successful way to engage with the Palmdale deputies.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Looking towards the future, Palmdale Sheriff Station will continue to build upon its successful community engagement initiatives while also being mindful of unsuccessful or unnecessary events. One recommendation for building upon previous successes would be to expand the Coffee with a Cop program, which has become outdated. We have received feedback from community members that Coffee with a Cop needs to be revamped. We have looked at changing the format of the Coffee with a Cop to include Lunch and Dinner with deputies and involving our local businesses to have community meetings at their businesses to reach more community members. This would allow more community members to participate and build relationships with local deputies.

Additionally, the station will maintain an active social media presence and engage with residents online to keep them informed about community events and department news. The social media platforms the Palmdale Sheriff's Station utilizes to keep the community informed are Facebook and Instagram. Using social media, we will notify the community about upcoming events and public safety announcements.



Another obstacle we have faced in 2023 is community forum attendance. Some of these forums attracted few attendees. The station will consider hosting smaller, more targeted meetings with specific community groups or organizations to ensure their concerns are heard. Additionally, the station will partner with local schools or community centers to host events that are more accessible and welcoming to families and youth. Palmdale Station needs to be open to feedback from the community and adjust our engagement strategies accordingly. Palmdale Sheriff Station will also reevaluate events or initiatives that were unsuccessful or unnecessary in the past and consider alternatives.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE CONTINUED

The Palmdale Sheriff Station successfully engaged with the community through various events during the year 2023. These successes have left lasting impressions on the community members we have engaged with, including the deputies. Palmdale Sheriff Station acknowledges that we still have a long road ahead of us to gain the community's trust. We will remain transparent with our failures and strive to achieve more success.

