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Introduction

The Lancaster Sheriff's Station Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was founded in 2011 with the goal of enhancing communication and understanding between the public and the Sheriff's Department. Serving as a vital bridge, the CAC fosters trust and facilitates dialogue between local law enforcement and the community. By conveying community concerns and issues to the Department and actively working to resolve them, the CAC helps forge a strong partnership with the local community. This collaborative approach also enables the Sheriff's Department to deepen its insight into the specific challenges and needs of the communities it serves.

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) consists of dedicated community members who volunteer their time to represent a diverse range of constituencies. These committee members are not affiliated with the Sheriff's Department and do not receive any payment for their service. In accordance with the Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement (2015), the CAC prepares regular reports. This annual report created by the CAC details their activities from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

CAC Members

The Lancaster CAC consists of a varied representation of the demographics of the Antelope Valley, particularly the Lancaster area, as evidenced by our members.

Terrie Shanks

Community Advocate

Allison Blaylock

The OUTReach Center and The Los Angeles LGBT Center

Adriana Gomez

Wage Theft Coordinator, SALVA

Joshua Stiles

Young Adult Pastor, Transform Church AV

Daniel Iles

Program Manager, The EmpowerTHEM Collective

Nicole Matthews

Psychiatric Social Worker I, Department of Mental Health

Teri Harrison

Co-Founder/Chief Operating Officer, Voices of Our Youth

Amaka Donn

Professor, Antelope Valley College

CAC Structure

The Lancaster CAC has implemented an administrative framework to enhance support for the Sheriff's Department in engaging with the local community more efficiently and effectively.



Terrie Shanks - Chairperson & Liaison to The Monitoring Team and the DOJ
Allison Blalock - Vice Chairperson & Liaison to The Monitoring Team and the DOJ
Adriana Gomez - Secretary
Joshua Stiles - Station Liaison & Social Media Coordinator
Daniel Iles - Activities Chairperson & Social Media Coordinator
Nicole Matthews - Sergeant at Arms / Parliamentary
Amaka Donn - College Liaison
Teri Harrison – Annual Report Writer

Communications

The communications section of our report discusses our regular CAC monthly meetings and quarterly town hall meetings. These events provide us with chances to connect with the community, listen to their issues or feedback, and acknowledge any positive feedback received. Additionally, they allow us to address any previously raised concerns.

CAC Monthly Meetings

Our monthly Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month at Lancaster Station, located at 501 W Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, CA 93534, running from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

CAC monthly meetings in this reporting period were held on the following dates: July 02, 2024; August 06, 2024; September 03, 2024; October 01, 2024; November 12, 2024; December 03, 2024; January 14, 2025; February 04, 2025; March 04, 2025; April 01, 2025; May 06, 2025; and June 03, 2025.

CAC Quarterly Community Meetings

Our quarterly community meetings are held on various dates throughout the year. These meetings provide a platform for the community to engage in round table discussions with law enforcement officers on issues that are important to them.

The quarterly community meetings in this reporting period:

The Community Meeting took place on 08/18/2024, at American Heros Park, where various groups such as the MET/HOST teams, Traffic/Fatal on the Rise, Lancaster PD, and Critical Incidents/Captain's Table participated in table discussions. The open floor public discussions revolved around concerns regarding public perception of the Sheriff's Department and a former CAC member who used the community meeting as a platform to express her grievances publicly. There was a total of 38 attendees at the meeting. There were also 5 deputies in attendance plus community relations and compliance unit personnel.

The Community Meeting took place on 12/17/2024, at American Heroes Park, where we changed up the meeting style to focus on the retail theft task force. We had a round table discussion with a back-and-forth question and answer session. There was a total of 4 attendees at the meeting. There were also 2 deputies in attendance plus community relations personnel.



The Community Meeting took place on 03/11/2025, at Lancaster Community Center, where we focused on Immigration and the LASDs role in immigration which was a hot topic for the community due to current legislature changes. Salva and their attorney put on presentations, and then we held an open discussion, question-and-answer session. There was a total of 8 attendees at the meeting. There were also several deputies who stopped by the meeting, plus members of the community relations team.

The Community Meeting took place on 06/03/2025, at Lancaster Community Center, where we focused on mental health, school resources, and call for service coordination. There was a total of 9 attendees at the meeting. There were also 3 deputies in attendance plus members of the community relations team.

Engagement

Trust and transparency between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve are essential for maintaining community stability, ensuring officer safety, and promoting effective policing. Community engagement plays a crucial role in fostering this trust and can significantly contribute to building positive relationships between law enforcement and the community.

Community Events

Community engagement events are a wonderful opportunity to unite local communities and foster stronger connections among individuals. These events offer a range of benefits, including economic, social, and cultural advantages.

By engaging in the community, we can enhance awareness and comprehension of important issues, empowering individuals to voice their opinions on matters that impact their daily lives. Moreover, community engagement events facilitate the development of robust and trusting relationships between communities and public entities.

July 2024 – 15 Events

- **07/11** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Otto's on W Ave I
- **07/11** Farmers Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **07/11** Angels Baseball Game w/ Voices of Our Youth – Angels Stadium
- **07/18** Community Healing Peace March – Lancaster Library
- **07/18** Farmers Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **07/23** Little People's Daycare Station Tour
- **07/24** Coffee with a Commuter – Lancaster Metrolink
- **07/25** Coffee with a Deputy – Starbucks on 10th W and K
- **07/25** Business for Breakfast – AM Cafe
- **07/25** Farmers Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **07/27** Antelope Valley Young Marines Station Tour
- **07/30** Snow Cone with a Deputy – El Dorado Park
- **07/30** Snow Cone with a Deputy – Samaritan's Purse Park/El Dorado Park
- **07/30** Coffee with a Deputy – McDonalds on Valley Central Way
- **07/30** Coffee with a Deputy – McDonalds on W Lancaster Blvd.

August 2024 – 14 Events

- **08/01** National Night Out – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **08/03** Lancaster Station Open House & Car Show – Between Lancaster Blvd & Jackman
- **08/07** Snow Cone with a Deputy – Jane Reynolds Park
- **08/08** Snow Cone with a Deputy – Deputy Pierre W. Bain Park/Eastside Pool



- **08/08** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **08/08** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **08/13** Coffee with a Deputy – McDonalds – Challenger Way
- **08/15** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **08/20** Game Changers Event – Sgt. Steve Owen Memorial Park
- **08/22** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **08/23** Food Distribution – Lancaster School District
- **08/27** Coffee with a Deputy - Starbucks
- **08/27** Strollin with the Sheriffs – Jack Northrop Elementary
- **08/29** Coffee with a Vet – McDonalds on W Ave L

September 2024 – 8 Events

- **09/12** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **09/12** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **09/13** Lunch with a Deputy – Costco
- **09/14** Hispanic Heritage Celebration – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **09/19** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **09/24** Rollin with a Deputy – Quartz Hill High School
- **09/24** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **09/27** Coffee with a Deputy – Coffee Bloom

October 2024 – 16 Events

- **10/01** Rollin with a Deputy – Eastside High School
- **10/03** Rollin with a Deputy – Lancaster High School
- **10/03** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **10/10** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **10/10** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **10/12** National Faith in Blue Peace March – Living Faith Cathedral to Jane Reynolds
- **10/17** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **10/19** Haunt at the Hanger – Lancaster National Soccer Center
- **10/20** Fallen Heroes – Harley Davidson
- **10/24** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **10/26** Trunk or Treat – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **10/26** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **10/26** Trunk or Treat Village Lake LA – Stephen Sorensen Park
- **10/27** Harvest Festival – Central Christian Church
- **10/28** Veteran's Town Hall – City of Hope
- **10/31** Rollin with a Deputy – Soar Prep High School

November 2024 – 18 Events

- **11/01** Farmer's Market – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **11/05** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **11/07** Red Ribbon – Greg Anderson Academy
- **11/12** Strollin with a Sheriff – Valley View Elementary
- **11/12** Strollin with the Sheriffs – Valley View Elementary
- **11/13** Coffee with a Deputy – Starbucks on W Ave I
- **11/14** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **11/14** Coffee with a Deputy – Lancaster Target on 10th St W
- **11/15** AV Youth Summit
- **11/19** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I



- **11/20** Rollin with a Deputy – Phoenix High School
- **11/20** Cookie with a Deputy – Stater Bros on E Ave J
- **11/21** Marauder Food Distribution – Antelope Valley College
- **11/21** Coffee with a Deputy – 7 Eleven on Sierra Hwy
- **11/22** Recruitment Event – Lancaster Station
- **11/25** Turkey Giveaway – Boeing Plaza
- **11/26** Thanksgiving Meal Distribution - Costco
- **11/26** Café Con Conchas – Vallarta on E Ave K

December 2024 – 19 Events

- **12/03** Café Con Conchas – Vallarta on E Ave K
- **12/05** Coffee with a Deputy – Sagebrush Cafe
- **12/05** Coffee with a Deputy – 7 Eleven on E Ave I
- **12/06** Toy Drive – Target
- **12/06** Lake LA Christmas Tree Event – Stephen Sorensen Park
- **12/10** Toy Drive – Lancaster Costco
- **12/10** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **12/11** Toy Drive – Walmart
- **12/14** Christmas Giveaway – 7 Eleven
- **12/14** Christmas on the Boulevard – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **12/15** Toy Drive - Target
- **12/17** Café Con Conchas - Vallarta
- **12/18** Toy Drive – Walmart Valley Central Way
- **12/23** Toy Distribution – Samaritan's Purse Park
- **12/21** Holiday Whobilation – Wayside Center
- **12/24** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **12/24** Lake LA Bike Giveaway – Lake LA Sub Station
- **12/31** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **12/31** Toy Giveaway – Wayside Center

January 2025 – 7 Events

- **01/09** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **01/14** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **01/21** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **01/27** Basketball Game – Quartz Hill High School
- **01/28** Lunch with a Deputy – Chik Fil A on Ave K & 15th St W
- **01/29** Coffee with a Deputy – Target on 10th St W
- **01/30** Cookie Cocoa & Cops – Little People's Childcare

February 2025 – 6 Events

- **02/05** Coffee with a Deputy – 7-11 on Sierra Hwy
- **02/05** Coffee with a Deputy – Starbucks on W Ave I
- **02/13** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **02/22** Coffee with a Deputy – 7-Eleven
- **02/22** Black History & Leadership Celebration Event – on Lancaster Boulevard
- **02/27** Coffee with a Deputy – McDonald's on W Ave N

March 2025 – 15 Events

- **03/03** Read Across America – Joshua Elementary
- **03/03** Read Across America – El Dorado Elementary



- **03/04** Read Across America – Enterprise Elementary
- **03/05** Read Across America – Monte Vista Elementary
- **03/05** Read Across America – West Wind Elementary
- **03/06** Read Across America – Miller Elementary
- **03/07** Read Across America – Quartz Hill Elementary
- **03/12** Coffee with a Deputy – 7-Eleven on E Ave I
- **03/13** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **03/17** Football March Madness – Lancaster High School
- **03/19** March Madness – Amargosa Creek
- **03/20** Cookie with a Deputy – Stater Bros.
- **03/25** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **03/26** Coffee with a Deputy – 7-Eleven
- **03/28** Something on a Stick Day - Wienerschnitzel

April 2025 – 10 Events

- **04/01** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **04/02** Walk in Nature Day – Prime Woodland Preserve
- **04/03** National Burrito Day – Burrolandia
- **04/09** National Chinese Cookie Day – Little Szechwan
- **04/10** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **04/12** Dancing for a Difference Youth Day – Wayside Center
- **04/18** Glow in the Dark Pep Rally – Lancaster High School
- **04/21** Teen Talk – Antelope Valley Union High School District
- **04/22** Coffee with a Vet – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **04/26** National Pretzel Day – Lancaster Cinemark

May 2025 – 11 Events

- **05/06** Taco with a Capo – Sagewind Ranch
- **05/07** Coffee with a Deputy - Starbucks
- **05/08** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **05/09** Student Summit – Puiet
- **05/14** Tip a Cop – Black Angus
- **05/14** Brunch with a Deputy – Karen's Kitchen Quartz Hill
- **05/17** AA Community Clean Up
- **05/22** Voices of Our Youth's Community BBQ – Wayside Center
- **05/27** Coffee with a Deputy – Amate Coffee on J and 20th W
- **05/28** Cookie with a Deputy – Stater Bros. on J and 20th E
- **05/29** Easter Seals

June 2025 – 8 Events

- **06/10** Coffee with a Deputy - Target
- **06/12** Coffee with a Deputy – Crazy Ottos on W Ave I
- **06/12** Iced Coffee with a Deputy – K and Challenger
- **06/18** Shop with a Deputy – Sprouts
- **06/21** Pride Parade – Cedar and Lancaster Boulevard
- **06/24** Hotdog with a Deputy – K and Challenger
- **06/26** Coffee with a Deputy – Senior Center
- **06/27** Coffee Social - Bellamar

Throughout this reporting period, a total of **147 events** took place.



Event Analysis

Analyzing events and their outcomes is important because it allows us to learn from past experiences, identify areas for improvement, make informed decisions in the future, and ultimately achieve better results by understanding what worked well and what didn't in previous situations.

Key reasons for analyzing events include identifying patterns and trends, assessing the impact of actions, enhancing decision-making, adjusting to evolving situations, ensuring accountability, and promoting transparency.

What did we do well?

The Sheriff's Department effectively expanded their outreach efforts by collaborating with a diverse range of businesses for events in communities that could benefit from increased police visibility. Their innovative approach to event planning also contributed to their success.

What could we improve?

The CAC should organize independent events separate from those they co-host with the Sheriff's Department. This approach will enable reaching a broader audience within the community, particularly individuals who may be hesitant to engage with the CAC when law enforcement is present, especially on sensitive topics. By expanding outreach efforts in this manner, the CAC can foster greater trust and rapport with the community.

What are challenges we faced?

During this reporting period, we encountered several challenges. One of the challenges was adjusting to a new Sergeant leading the community relations team, which required some time for her to settle into the role. Additionally, one team member was placed on light duty, reducing the number of deputies available for field work in an already understaffed department. Towards the end of the reporting cycle, we welcomed a new bilingual deputy to the community relations team. We are hopeful that this addition will contribute to smoother operation in the upcoming reporting period.

Another obstacle we encountered was the lack of timely event notifications. Often, we would only receive event information a day or two before or even on the same day as the event. This made it difficult for us to attend these events ourselves or inform the public in time for them to participate.

Furthermore, community meeting notifications, such as town halls, were not consistently posted or promoted to the public. This led to low turnout and the same individuals attending these meetings repeatedly.

What changes should we consider for the future?

In the future, it would be beneficial to implement various strategies to enhance the impact. These may include consistently promoting events to boost attendance, offering a diverse range of event types to prevent monotony, building trust with the community to establish credibility, and expanding the CAC membership to bring in fresh perspectives and insights for our future direction. Additionally, the CAC aims to engage more with the Sheriff's office and potentially utilize our platforms for outreach purposes.



Community Policing

Community policing is a proactive approach to crime prevention that involves law enforcement, working with the community to identify and address potential issues before they become major problems.

Promoting Community Partnerships

Community partnerships are crucial in community policing as they aim to enhance trust, problem-solving efforts, resource sharing, and communication between law enforcement agencies and the community. By fostering collaboration and transparency, these partnerships contribute to a safer and more cohesive society where members can voice concerns, contribute advice, and take action to address these concerns.

We recognize the importance of building strong community partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders. These partnerships can include collaboration with schools, health and human services organizations, probation and parole departments, support groups, issue and advocacy organizations, faith-based communities, volunteer groups, and local media outlets such as newspapers, television stations, radio channels, and bloggers. Additionally, partnerships can be formed with the small business community, large corporations, and local chambers of commerce and visitors' bureaus.

We have partnered with a variety of organizations that provide a wide array of services. These collaborations play a vital role in supporting our community's outreach efforts and events. During this reporting period, we collaborated with the following organizations:

H.E.L.P.E.R. Foundation

SALVA

Voices of Our Youth

NAACP Antelope Valley

Up Lift Foundation

Little People's Daycare

Southern California Special Olympics

Lancaster School District

Community Advisory Committee

AV Youth Advisory Committee

AV Community Coalition

Tarzana Treatment Center

City of Hope

Antelope Valley CERT

AV Search and Rescue

Lancaster Police Department

Los Angeles County Fire Department

Antelope Valley CHP

Policy and Education

Staying up to date on the sheriff's department policies and procedures is essential. That's why the CAC is dedicated to participating in training sessions on policies and protocols whenever they are available. During this reporting period, the CAC did not receive any training sessions.

Community Issues and Concerns

Community engagement involves discovering the issues and concerns of your community to develop and implement solutions that address those needs, fostering collaboration and positive change within the community; essentially, it's about actively listening to community members to identify issues and work together to find solutions.

Through various channels, we have identified the following community issues and concerns:



Youth Violence

Youth violence is prevalent in schools, as highlighted by various acts such as bullying, fighting, weapon use, gang violence, and sexual violence. In addition to these, other concerning behaviors like threats with weapons, electronic aggression, physical assault, robbery, and verbal threats contribute to the alarming landscape of youth violence.

The consequences of youth violence are grave and far-reaching, encompassing deaths, injuries, disabilities, long-term health issues, mental health challenges, and increased rates of school dropouts.

School Campus Fights

School campus fights are a concerning issue involving students engaging in physical altercations on school grounds. This behavior can involve various individuals, including students, teachers, and even parents.

Minibikes

Minibikes are being misused by youths, posing a threat to neighborhoods and streets. They disregard traffic laws and safety measures, weaving dangerously through traffic without protective gear. This reckless behavior is a ticking time bomb for serious injuries or even fatalities.

Sexually Violent Predators

The Antelope Valley is increasingly used as a placement site for sexually violent predators, like the notorious "Pillowcase Rapist." It is crucial to raise awareness and gain knowledge about the laws and protocols concerning these offenders and their reintegration into society. Empowering ourselves with this information is vital in safeguarding our communities.

Homelessness

The rise in homelessness is evident in our community, with some individuals displaying behavior that can be unsettling. This can cause discomfort for families during routine activities like shopping. Additionally, the litter left by the homeless not only affects the area's appearance but also raises health issues.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a prevalent issue in the Antelope Valley, often involving individuals known to the victims rather than strangers. It is crucial to raise awareness about this problem and take action to combat it. By educating ourselves and our communities about the signs of human trafficking, we can better recognize and report suspicious activities.

Immigration

With the constantly changing laws and uncertain global climate, undocumented families are experiencing heightened fear and anxiety. They are hesitant to report crimes, attend work or school, and send their children to school out of the worry that ICE may appear and deport them or a loved one. This leaves them in a state of distress, unsure of what the future holds and how to navigate their daily lives.



Recommendations

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has put forth a series of recommendations to strengthen the connection between the Lancaster Sheriff's Station and the local community. By collaborating closely with the station, the CAC proposes measures to tackle issues raised by the public, fostering a more harmonious and effective relationship.

Community Connections: Staying Updated

We suggest organizing information sessions, such as Q&As and PSAs, where a representative from the Sheriff's Department is interviewed by a member of the CAC regarding community issues as they emerge. These sessions should be shared across all platforms to provide timely and relevant information to the community on important topics.

