



**Palmdale Sheriff's Station  
Community Advisory Committee  
CAC 1<sup>st</sup> Report**

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## **Introduction**

Public trust and support is vital to ensuring the success of the mission of the Palmdale Sheriff's Station. To gain that public trust and support, we must foster a collaborative relationship with the public in determining the best course in achieving community order. While we must continually seek new and innovative ways to develop cooperative relationships with the communities we serve, direct community input can be best encouraged through the use of a local Community Advisory Committee.

The Palmdale Community Advisory Committee is intended to build a better understanding between the public we serve and the Palmdale Sheriff's Station through education and communication. In addition, the committee will provide the Palmdale Sheriff's Station with direct input from the public regarding local community issues and concerns and establish a true partnership between the community and the Palmdale Sheriff's Station. Additionally, direct interaction between community and police provides greater insight into local conditions, circumstances and events of interest to law enforcement.

The committee is not employed by the Sheriff's Department. They are community members who volunteer their time.

The Palmdale CAC is authorized by Palmdale Unit Order 14-07 and Los Angeles County Field Operations Directive 93-5.

Per the Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement the CAC produces regular reports. This is the first report produced by the CAC and covers their work to date in 2017.

## CAC Members

### **Kamal Al-Khatib**



Kamal has been a resident of the Antelope Valley since 1989. He is a local businessman who is familiar with the Antelope Valley educational, safety, financial, and budgetary issues. He has always believed public safety is a priority. Kamal is the founder, and Executive Director of the “The Guidance Charter School” in Palmdale. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of “Buymehome.Com. Inc” and “K.A. Commercial Properties” Kamal is involved in several community groups, such as the American Islamic Institute of Antelope Valley, the A.V. International Heritage Festival, and the AV interfaith Council, and the former Antelope Valley Human Relations Commission. In his spare time, Kamal is a volunteer soccer Coach for AYSO.

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### **Atherine Blanco**



Atherine has lived in Palmdale for the past 20 years with her husband Juan. They have 4 adult daughters and 3 grand-daughters. In August 2016, she celebrated 40 years with AT&T and is currently a Construction & Engineering Manager. Atherine has been doing volunteer work for the last 30 years. Volunteering many hours in community services and with AT&T community groups. She was honored the last three years with President Obama’s Volunteer Service Award for the volunteer hours work. 2013- Silver Award, 2014- Bronze Award & 2015- Gold Award. It was recently announced that she would also be receiving the 2016 President Volunteer Service award. Atherine is currently doing volunteer work with: \*Community Network of Los Angeles Chapter (An African American Telecommunication Professionals organization – A board of director’s member since 1988 to present. An organization of dedicated AT&T employees and retirees dedicated to assist: \*Worthy public, community organization and other diverse community events \*The underprivileged in employment opportunities \*Assist African-American employees of AT&T based on their specific needs. \*Heart Walk Chairperson \*Antelope Valley NAACP Member \*Women of AT&T \*Citizens of Palmdale – Organization Formed 2015 by my Husband Juan Blanco, with the community involvement form to acknowledge the improvement within Palmdale Sheriff Department in the Palmdale Station.

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## Lilia Galindo



Lilia was born and raised in Mexico where she obtained a degree in Economics from National Polytechnic Institute (IPN) in Mexico City. In 1991, she married an American and they came to the United States in 1997. Lilia learned English in a six month total immersion class and subsequently earned a Master Degree from California State University Northridge (CSUN).

Lilia has held position's as Assistant Director for a Head Start program, and Human Relations manager for the Antelope Valley Schools Transportation Agency. In 2010, Lilia started her own radio program, "Café con Leche". Over the years, She has interviewed Congressmen, State Senators, Assemblymen, the Mayors of both Palmdale and Lancaster, Sheriff McDonnell, and many others. Her listeners are allowed to address all guests with questions and commentaries.

Lilia was appointed by Governor Brown to be the director of the 50th District Agricultural Association. She is also the Secretary of the Antelope Valley League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). She is the Vice-Chair of the Board of the Antelope Valley Community Clinic and a member of the Community Advisory Committee of the Antelope Valley Hospital.

In 2014, Lilia founded a nonprofit organization named "Café Con Leche Immigration and Educational Services" and through it She has organized informational forums regarding AB 60 in partnership with the Mexican General Consulate of Los Angeles.

Lilia was awarded the "2013 Woman of the Year" by the 36 Assembly District. She and her husband Ed received the Freedom Fighter Award from the NAACP AV Branch.

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## Bishop Henry Hearn



Henry served in the U.S. Army in Korea, has been in the Antelope Valley for over 45 years serving on the Lancaster City Council, as Vice Mayor and Mayor, as well as being involved in boards and committees such as United Way, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Housing and Urban Development Community Development Act Board, American Cancer Society, Advisory Board for the Boys and Girls Club, and Program Sponsor for the Antelope Valley Black Infant Health Program.

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### **Nigel Holly**



Nigel is the newest member of the Committee. He resides in Palmdale. Nigel is the Program Director of Pathways for Success, and an avid activist for the underserved members of his community; Nigel helps organizational leaders with their short- and long-term goals, as well as with the restructuring of their companies' missions and visions through the implementation of strategic organizational management. A more in-depth biography is pending.

### **Emmett Murrell**



Emmett is the Founder and current CEO and Director of The Emmett Murrell's Farm and Boys Home, has served as Chairman of the Board of Black Infant Health, Director of Youth Employment for the Los Angeles Urban League and Special Project Coordinator for the Southern Area Boys Club. He is a current member of The Community Action League and Elder/Minister at the Living Stone Cathedral of Worship.

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### **Dr. John Porter**



John presently serves the Palmdale School District as the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student services. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Superintendent, John served the PSD as a Special Education teacher, a Special Education Program Specialist, an Assistant Principal and Special Education Director. In the area of Student Services and alternative education, John has worked with other PSD leaders to reduce student expulsions by over 85% in the last several years and has been the guiding force to build an Alternate Education school that is based on restorative discipline – building the student skills necessary for success in school and life in a non-punitive, positive teaching environment. That school's motto says it all, "We Teach Success." John (like his father, the late Dr. Carl Porter, who served for many years on the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross and the AV Board of Trade) is active in the community and serves on the boards of directors for the Kiwanis Club of Palmdale West (where he is serves as the immediate Past-President) and the Lancaster Performing Arts Center Foundation. Additionally, he is a lifetime member of the Friends of the Palmdale City Library (and a former director), a member of the Palmdale Sheriffs Boosters and is a former Board of Directors member of the Antelope Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross and is presently a member of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian-Military Support Group. He also serves the Association of California School Administrators (ACDA) as a member of the statewide Student Services/Special Education Council, where he is presently President-

elect. John lives in Palmdale with his wife Susan, who is the Regional Manager for the United Way of Los Angeles County/Antelope Valley office. They have four grown children and eight grandchildren.

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The CAC has positions for two youth members that are currently unfilled. The previous members were not able to make the time commitments the CAC requires. The CAC is currently looking to recruit and replace these members.

## **CAC Activities 2017**

CAC members meet monthly as a committee and quarterly with the public. They also regularly attend community events and meetings throughout the year to meet and engage with members with the community. Each member of the CAC was chosen in part on their involvement with different demographics of the community we serve. This allows the CAC members to have interactions with community members and gather concerns they can bring to the attention of Palmdale Sheriff's Station.

### **CAC Monthly Meetings**

The CAC meets monthly at Palmdale Sheriff's Station with Captain Kneer and other members of the station to discuss community concerns. Our monthly meetings are scheduled for 6pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. On occasion they are adjusted due to scheduling conflicts. Below is a list of the meetings that have occurred in 2017. Agendas and minutes are saved from each meeting.

1/9/17

2/13/17

3/6/17

4/10/17

5/8/17

6/12/17

7/10/17

8/14/17

9/11/17

In addition to the monthly meetings the CAC has participated in meetings with the monitoring team. They have also participated in conference calls with the Department of Justice.

### **Concerns, Follow-Up and Items Addressed at Monthly Meetings**

The Palmdale CAC assisted in the creation of a traffic stop informational flyer. The purpose of the flyer is to educate the public on the expectations a Deputy has of them as well as their rights in regards to a traffic stop. The flyer was made in English and Spanish. It is distributed throughout the Antelope Valley at community events and meetings.

Below are some highlights of concerns brought forth at monthly meetings:

- Bishop Hearn requested information regarding marijuana legalization effects in Palmdale. Lillia Galindo requested information on Hate Crimes in Palmdale if up or down. **These were both concerns brought to them by the community.**

*CAC attended Palmdale City Council meeting on 01/04/17 to discuss marijuana legalization, permitting and zoning issues.*

*Captain Kneer presented crime stats including Hate Crimes at CAC meeting on 02/13/17*

- Nigel Holly stated he was approached by a community member who is receiving a settlement regarding the section 8 lawsuit. The community member was confronted by people in her neighborhood about the settlement. Nothing criminal stated or occurred, however was wondering if this information is public.

*Sgt Cartmill enquired with the Monitoring Unit and verified that this information was not public. Relayed this information to Nigel Holly and requested the citizen to make a police report if they felt threatened.*

- Lilia Galindo asked what the departments policy on immigration enforcement.

*Captain Kneer explained department's policy (MPP 5-09/271.00)*

### **CAC Quarterly Public Meetings**

The CAC organizes quarterly public meetings to meet with the community and discuss concerns. At each meeting the CAC presents a summary of the settlement agreement, the monitor's semiannual report and the work done by the Sheriff's Department to comply with the agreement.

The meetings were moderated by "Days of Dialouge," Raneta Valree. The moderator was chosen by the CAC to assist in facilitating productive engagement between the public, the CAC and Sheriff's Department personnel. Each meeting is opened with a message from the Captain Dennis Kneer, a summary of the settlement agreement and an update on the Sheriff's

Departments progress in achieving the items listed in the agreement. The participants are them broken into small groups with a moderator in each group.

**Topics discussed include:**

Stops, Searches, and Seizures, Use of Force, Policies and Training; Citizen Complaints, Supervision; Housing, and Community Engagement

Below is a list of the quarterly meetings that have occurred in 2017 and their locations:

03/14/17, 39221 22nd St W, David G Millan Middle School

06/27/17, 3850 East Ave S, Oasis Recreation Center

**Advertising of Quarterly Public Meetings:**

Each quarterly meeting is advertised to the public to encourage public involvement. A flyer is made for each meeting. Approximately 1000 flyers are printed and distributed by community Deputies, school resource Deputies, station volunteers CAC members and other members of the station and public. Flyers are hung in strategic high traffic places throughout the city and passed out at community events in the weeks prior to the event. A press release is issued with all the details and purpose of the meeting. Often times the local newspaper (AV Times) will publish it in their paper. Our local cable news network (Spectrum News) has also aired the event in the past. We post the event to all our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Nixle and Next Door). CAC Member Lilia Galindo advertises the CAC Town Hall meetings to the Latino Community through her Radio Show Café Con Leche. Targeted outreach is also done in the area of the event. This is typically achieved by distributing extra flyers in the area. To give a specific example of this we had a Town Hall Meeting at a Jr High school. We passed out flyers to the students and their parents at drop off and pick up times at the school. The school district also added our event to their events calendar and initiated a robo-call to advertise the meeting to their students and their parents.

**Concerns and Follow-Up from Quarterly Public Meetings:**

At many of the meetings a common concern from community members is regarding traffic stops. These concerns range from how traffic violations are enforced to how high risk extractions are performed and why.

- *In collaboration with the monitoring team, the Department, and CAC an educational traffic stop flyer was produced and is being distributed to the public.*
- *The other issues raised about traffic stops are answered by CAC members, Captian Kneer, or Deputies who explain department policy and case law to members of the public. The issues raised are typically addressed by educating members of the public and*

*explaining police procedures. Members of the public are very receptive of the answers provided and no further follow-up is needed.*

Community members have applauded the Sheriff's Department on our community engagement efforts. One of the requests that has been received at numerous meetings is asking Deputies to have a "softer" uniform appearance at community events.

- *We have experimented with allowing Deputies to wear the bicycle patrol uniform (white Sheriff Polo and Green Shorts). So far public feedback is positive. We plan to continue to incorporate more bicycle patrol at the community events.*

Use of force questions and concerns are a common theme at the meetings as well. These concerns are typically sparked by an incident seen in the news and rarely involves the Sheriff's Department.

- *Deputies address the concerns by educating the public on case law regarding the use of "reasonable force" as well as the assessment of force with the advantage of "hindsight." We do not attempt to justify all incidents seen in the news however we explain our policy as it applies to those incidents. Explanations provided to community members are received well and they are satisfied with the answers provided by Deputies.*

### **Feedback from Quarterly Public Meetings**

Feedback is collected by having participants produce a pre and post survey along with informal interviews. Data from the surveys is then analyzed for improvements to be made at future meetings. Below is a summary of the data collected from both Quarterly meetings this year. Photos and quotations were taken by the "Days of Dialogue" staff.

## CAC PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY RESULTS

### Pre-Event Survey

***Gender:***

Male -36                      Female – 46                      Prefer not to answer – 2

***Ethnicity:***

Asian – 2                      Black/ African-American- 21      Hispanic/ Latino – 30  
Caucasian – 25                      Other- 0                      Prefer not to answer - 1

***Age:***

13 and below: 1                      14-20: 2                      21-35: 7                      36-45: 11  
46-55: 24                      56-65: 13                      65-75: 8                      over 75: 1  
Prefer not to answer - 2

***Affiliation:***

Business: 8                      Parent: 14                      Educator: 5                      Religious group: 8  
Law Enforcement: 8      Student: 4                      Non-profit:18      Interested community group: 36  
Prefer not to answer: 0

***Is Law Enforcement adequately addressing the concerns in the community?***

Not at all: 8                      Somewhat: 26                      Quite a lot: 34                      Completely: 8  
Prefer not to answer: 2

***Do you believe that Law Enforcement Officers treat any of the following groups less fairly?***

Gender: 8                      Ethnicity: 29                      Socio Economic Conditions: 30  
LGBT: 5                      Other: 9

### **Post-Event Survey**

*Have your opinions changed as a result of this dialogue?*

Not at all: 18                  Somewhat: 27                  Quite a lot: 16                  Completely: 3

*Do you think the process of a dialogue is beneficial in addressing the important issues in our community?*

Yes: 61                                  No: 1                                  To some degree: 6

*Is Law Enforcement adequately addressing the concerns in the community?*

Not at all: 7                  Somewhat: 27                  Quite a lot: 28                  Completely: 3

*Do you believe that Law Enforcement Officers treat any of the following groups less fairly?*

Gender: 3                  Ethnicity: 27                  Socio Economic Conditions: 21

LGBT: 6                  Other: 14

*What if any action(s) do you expect to take as a result of this dialogue?*

Establish a relationship with local media to encourage better reporting: 20

Participate in community policing activities: 47

Create or sign a petition: 5

Register to vote- and vote: 11

Advocate for reforms in police training: 23

Advocate for diversity in Law Enforcement hiring: 19

Support the use of Body Cams: 27

Determine a methodology for collecting and public review of police incident data: 25

Other: 4

**“Please continue to have town halls and similar events where dialogue and honest conversation can be had.”**



**“We need to give our future generation areal perspective on our law enforcement.”**



**“We need to give our future generation a real perspective on our law enforcement.”**



**“Law enforcement and citizens both need to take part in bettering the relationship between the two. It can't be one sided. ”**

