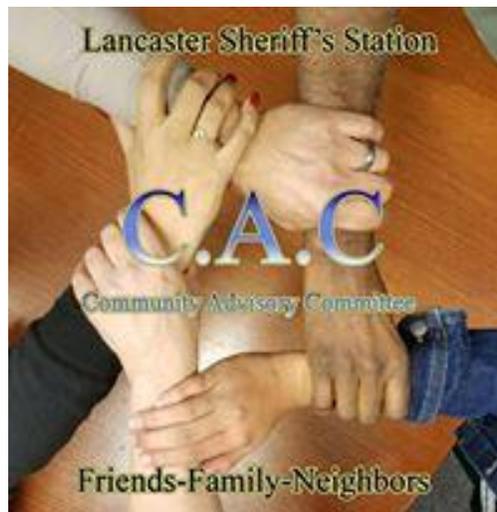


**LANCASTER SHERIFF'S STATION**  
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
***SECOND ANNUAL REPORT***  
**October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**



## **Table of Contents**

Introduction - 3

CAC Members - 4

CAC Activities - 8

    Committee Structure - 8

    Monthly Meetings - 10

    Concerns and Follow-up Addressed at Monthly Meetings - 10

    CAC Quarterly Public Meetings - 16

    Advertising Quarterly Public Meetings - 16

    Concerns and Follow-up from Quarterly Public Meetings - 16

    Feedback from Quarterly Public Meetings - 17

## **Introduction**

The Lancaster Sheriff's Station Community Advisory Committee was established to promote a better understanding between the public and the Sheriff's Department. It was created to be a bridge to building trust and promoting dialogue between local law enforcement and the community. The CAC functions to bring concerns and issues from the community to the Department and to address those concerns, establishing a partnership with the local community in the process. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department benefits from this two-way dialogue by gaining a greater understanding of the issues of concern in the communities they serve.

The CAC is composed of community members who volunteer their time to act as representatives of various constituencies. Committee members are not employed by the Sheriff's Department and do not receive any compensation for their time. As per the terms of the Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, the CAC produces regular reports. This is the second annual report produced by the CAC and covers their work for 2017-2018 (October 2017-June 2018).

**CAC Members:**

Christian Aligwekwe – Student, Antelope Valley College, (661)-471-5473,  
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Allison Blaylock – OUTreach Center, (818)-288-7158, allison@outreachcenterav.org

Brian Johnson – Pastor True Life Community Church, (661)-902-3805,  
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Cynthia Lehman – Professor, Antelope Valley College, (626)-689-3002,  
clehman@avc.edu

Manuel Magana - Retired (Active LASD VOP), Lake Los Angeles (661)-264-4134/  
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Dave Mashore - CEO Catalyst Foundation, (661)-948-8559 davem@qnet.com

Liza Rodriguez - Director S.A.R.S./Valley Oasis, (323)-336-1880, lrodriguez@avdvc.org

Tae'lor Ross (Moore) - Student, Antelope Valley College, (661)-585-0619,  
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Shunnon Thomas – President NAACP (AV Chapter), (661)-492-5355,  
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Lynde Williams - Community Activist/Neighborhood Watch Captain, (661)-547-9412,  
lyndewilliams@yahoo.com

## CAC Member Biographies:

**Christian Aligwekwe** – Christian Aligwekwe is an Antelope Valley native and student. He's a young man who believes and strives for equality and fairness for the citizens and residents here in the valley. He is a person who believes in the government working harder to provide for the struggling people, hence his current study of political science. Through this, his ambition is to get into law school and become an attorney, becoming an official voice and representative of the people here in Los Angeles County. He also believes that law enforcement and the people have much more in common than not, and wants the bridge between them to get shorter so as to help everyone's trust on both ends. Christian has a huge interest in politics as well. He is currently Safety Chair for the Lancaster Sheriff's Station CAC and also Treasurer for the AVC Pre-Law Club.

**Allison Blaylock** – Allison is a graduate of Quartz Hill High School. She got her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Colorado Tech and is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. She has served as a volunteer in the LGBT+ community since 2015, and has run support groups, helped various campaigns, and lobbied for LGBT+ rights. She is an advocate for the entire LGBT+ community with special focus on transgender related issues. In 2016, she began writing an advice column for *The Gayly*, again specializing in transgender issues. Allison has been involved in LGBT+ community in Oklahoma and Southern California.

**Brian L. Johnson** grew up in Lancaster, CA and Torrance, CA. As a young man, he searched for identity in a divorced family, and was raised for many years by a single mother. As a teen, getting involved in gangs and drugs became a lifestyle. After losing many friends to violence and poor decision-making, he turned to drugs and alcohol to numb the past and current pain.

Still lost in the world, distant from his family and on the path of destruction, Brian remained in and out of trouble. Faced with one decision particularly, that would keep him away from home for years, Brian sought refuge in Live Again Recovery Home; A Christian-based camp. Asking for Grace and Mercy, Brian's path began to change as he began his walk with Christ. In the 10 months of recovery, Brian developed a sober mind. Losing friends and some family, some days were harder than others; but steadfast and determined Brian stayed in the Lord.

In November of 2009 ordained a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and shortly thereafter, in April of 2010, planted a ministry with fellow laborers and installing it as Promises of God Ministry. In September 2012, the Sr. Pastor left sending the Assistant Pastor at the time, Brian Johnson, into steadfast and fervent prayer, Brian Johnson stepped into his call and responsibility as Sr. Pastor of Promises of God Ministry (now known as True Life Community Church), at the congregation's request. Pastor Johnson serves his community not only as a pastor, but also as a mentor to other young men and women who are seeking to change their lives. His church provides outreach to the homeless and to others who are in need.

**Cynthia Lehman** is a History Professor at Antelope Valley College, where she teaches African American History. As an undergraduate student, she participated in a summer internship program at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta GA. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in African American Studies from Temple University in Philadelphia PA. Her research interests are social protest movements and the history of the Black Women's Club Movement.

**Mr. Manuel "Manny" Magana** is a long time resident of Lake Los Angeles. He is married and has ten children, 25 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He is a retired railroad and farm worker and currently serves as Vice President on the Board of Trustees for the Keppel Union School District. He is very involved with the community, and has worked with numerous non-profit and community organizations dedicated to improving the lives of local residents such as Latinos Americanos En Accion.

Mr. Magana is a Volunteer on Patrol with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He created the current monthly Lake Los Angeles Business, Neighborhood Watch, and First Five Program groups geared towards our Spanish speaking community of Lake Los Angeles. Additionally, he assists in the coordination of the Annual Lake Los Angeles Cinco De Mayo Parade and Heritage Festival.

**David Mashore** is a resident of the Antelope Valley and CEO of the Catalyst Foundation. Through Catalyst, David works with many of our communities most at risk populations, those who are homeless, suffer from mental illness, and/or struggle with drug and/or alcohol dependency issues. He is the creator of the Lancaster Community Garden and is a Community Activist. David created a program in which he mentors State Prisoners at California State Prison, Los Angeles County. The goal of the program is help the men in the program address the issues that caused them to become incarcerated while they are in prison, so they can align themselves with the supportive services they need upon release.

**Liza Rodriguez** has been an Antelope Valley Resident for the past eight years and is currently Program Director of the Valley Oasis S.A.R.S. (Sexual Assault Response Services) program. She has an extensive background in combating public safety issues, such as human trafficking and domestic assault, and continues to have an active presence in a number of committees that work to protect the safety of the Antelope Valley community. In addition to serving the Lancaster Sheriff's Station, both as a member of its Community Advisory Committee and station volunteer, Rodriguez is the Board President of Vita Illuminatus, a non-profit which fosters awareness and prevention of human trafficking in the Antelope Valley.

Rodriguez is also passionate about helping protect and educate Antelope Valley youth. She is a member of an Antelope Valley Hospital sub-advisory committee, which provides information regarding making appropriate choices with drugs and alcohol to middle school-aged children.

Rodriguez lives in Lancaster, and is a proud mother of seven and grandmother of two with her late husband Michael.

**Tae'lor Ross (Moore)** is an Antelope Valley resident and student. She is someone who believes in justice and the maintenance of fairness within our criminal justice system. In order to achieve this ideal, she is a college student studying Sociology and she intends to become a lawyer. She wants to make a difference in the criminal justice system and ensure equity for all persons prosecuted. One of her primary concerns is the disparity between the abysmal numbers of Black lawyers versus the vast number of people of color being prosecuted.

**Dr. Miguel A. Suarez-Coronado**, a resident of Lancaster since 2004, is an educational/political/social justice activist, as well as a public speaker. He holds an Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies from Victor Valley College; a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from the University of California Riverside; a Masters of Arts in Educational Counseling from California State University, San Bernardino; and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership Higher Education Administration from Argosy University, Orange County.

Dr. Coronado is the Founder of Dr. Suarez Coronado Agents of Change Inc., a 501 c3 academic organization focused on recruitment, retention, graduation and transferring students to 4-year universities, with a community service component.

Dr. Coronado is actively involved in the community, serving on the Lancaster Sheriff's Station Community Advisory Committee; Antelope Valley Hospital Advisory Board Member; Chairman of the Antelope Valley Hospital Sub-Committee on Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Project; and Chairman of the Lancaster School District Measure L 63 million dollar General Obligation Bond.

Presently, Coronado serves as a professor of academic counseling for the Los Angeles Community College District.

**Shunnon Thomas** was born in South Los Angeles (formerly South Central) in the late 1960's. He credits desegregation bussing as the reason he escaped the tragic end that many of his friends met due to drugs and gang violence. In high school, Shunnon began his performing career as a professional dancer, studying jazz, ballet, singing and gymnastics -- wherever the jobs took him. Having landed in New York City, he would have to return to California a few short years later, due to a back injury. After years of struggling to get his life back together -- through periods of depression, military service, mental hospitals, homelessness and unemployment -- Shunnon, along with his mother, settled in Lancaster in 1996. By October of 2000, he found a full-time job repairing computers, which he did for 11 years until the store went out of business.

Shunnon began his community service endeavors while employed in the computer repair business. In 2004, he was the victim of a racially motivated knife attack -- by a man whose father was running for mayor. Community representatives rallied together to get the candidate to drop out of the race. One of the supporting groups was the Antelope Valley Branch of the NAACP (AV-NAACP). Shunnon has been an active member of the branch ever since, currently serving as branch president. During the legal proceedings which followed the attack, Shunnon pursued legal courses at Antelope Valley College to better familiarize himself with law and justice protocols. He eventually received his A.A.

in Administration of Justice. Shunnon went on to earn his B.A. in Criminal Justice, and then his Masters in Public Administration at CSUB in 2014. He has since been substitute teaching for the Antelope Valley Union High School District and in the Juvenile Detention Centers, and is currently working on an M.S. In Educational Counseling at the University of Laverne.

Besides his volunteer work as AV-NAACP branch president, Shunnon is also a member of the Lancaster Sheriff Station Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Volunteer Mediator for the City of Lancaster, and participant in both the Lancaster School District and Eastside Union School District African-American Advisory Committees. A former board member of Community Alternative Law and Mediation (C.A.L.M), Shunnon helped bring Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG) to the Antelope Valley.

**Lynde Williams** has been a resident of the Antelope Valley for over thirty years. Born into a military family, Lynde was exposed growing up to numerous cultures and experiences. Over her lifetime Lynde began noticing what she perceived to be "social injustices." Whether they were big or small, they would slowly gnaw at her and she felt she had to do something, Lynde became a neighborhood watch block captain and community activist. She began attending city council meetings, town hall meetings, and began speaking for those whose voice she felt were not being heard. She advocated for the LGBTQ community and educated members of the community who were seeking resource information. She went to the Sheriff's Department on numerous occasions to seek information regarding patrol practices, file complaints against personnel she felt had not acted appropriately, and also to commend those deputies she felt were doing a good job in the community. Lynde continues to work with community groups and organizations such as Paving the Way Foundation, which assists people who are on probation or parole with successful re-integration into the community and supportive services. The organization also serves community members who are homeless and/or who have mental illness.

# CAC Activities

## Committee Structure

The Lancaster CAC formally established an administrative structure to more efficiently assist the Sheriff's Department in their collaboration and dialogue with our local communities.

Chairperson:	Shunnon Thomas
Vice Chairperson:	Liza Rodriquez
Secretary:	Cynthia Lehman
Station Liaison:	Tae'lor Ross Manny Magana
Activities Chairperson:	Brian Johnson Miguel Coronado
Safety Chairperson:	Christian Aligwekwe Dave Mashore
Sergeant at Arms:	Allison Blaylock

## Duties of Officers:

### Chairperson

The Chairperson acts as the committee's leader and ensures that they function as a team. The Chairperson does not run the committee but spends time considering all assignments to make sure that all of the work of the committee is effectively delegated for completion. The Chairperson conducts the monthly meeting.

### Vice Chairperson

The Vice Chairperson assists the Chairperson in executing the committee's mission and takes over the functions of the Chairperson when absent, in addition to other functions and duties required by the committee.

### Secretary

The Secretary records the minutes of the committee and maintains all correspondence, both internally and with public organizations, as required. The secretary attends to all correspondence of the organization. Additional duties may include issuing notices of meetings, preparing the agenda and other documents for the committee.

### **Station Liaison**

The Liaison coordinates all dissemination of committee information to public venues, including publicity for upcoming Town Halls and public meetings. The Liaison may also respond to questions and concerns from the community that are directed to the Committee.

### **Activities Chairperson**

The Activities Chairperson informs the committee about current and potential opportunities for the CAC to engage with the community, such as with Days of Dialogue, Open House and other community events.

### **Safety Chairperson**

The Safety Chairperson informs the committee of potential safety issues related to the community such as during holidays, special events and weather-related incidents.

### **Sergeant at Arms**

The Sergeant at Arms ensures that the meetings begin and end on time.

### **Administrative Appointment Terms:**

All positions will be evaluated every six months and the committee can determine any additional offices and/or reappointments by majority consensus.

### **Quorum:**

A quorum will be established with the presence of half the committee plus one in attendance.

### **Voting:**

Majority consensus will determine the decisions made by the committee.

### **CAC Monthly Meetings**

The CAC meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:30 pm. On occasion meetings are rescheduled due to time conflicts.

Monthly meetings in this reporting period include:

10/03/2017

11/07/2017

12/05/2017

01/02/2018

02/06/2018

03/06/2018

04/03/2018

05/01/2018

06/05/2018

## **Concerns and Follow-up Addressed at Monthly Meetings**

**October 3, 2017** – In Attendance: Capt. Weber, Lt. Harris, Sgt. Molidor, Sgt. Dawson, Dep. Scott, Brian Johnson, Shunnon Thomas, Miguel Coronado.

Discussion centered on whether or not community members were bringing inquiries or complaints about Sheriff's Department policy or procedures. There was committee conversation about the benefits of increased community involvement from the Station. It was suggested that the Department hand out materials in the local schools and community.

A member raised the question about local demographics and if the Station personnel statistically reflect the local population. Concern was brought up about the small number of African American deputies at Lancaster Station and if their numbers reflect their proportion in the local community.

Another discussion point was in regards to increased engagement with area youth. It was noted that there is a need for more involvement with younger people in the community. Perhaps Midnight Basketball or working with a local community center would provide an outlet for outreach.

**November 7, 2017** – In Attendance: Capt. Weber, Lt. Harris, Sgt. Dawson, Dep. Scott, David Mashore, Christian Aligwekwe, Brian Johnson, Tae'lor Ross, Lynde Williams.

Capt. Weber talked about the positive impact of the "Booldv" and Field of Drafts events. Hundreds of people attended and the Department received positive comments from the city of Lancaster and the public.

Discussion was made about the upcoming Days of Dialogue on December 5, 2017. The event will allow the public to talk about high profile issues with LASD in a less formal format than a public debate.

A committee member questioned the response times from deputies at the station in regards to a recent burglary in his neighborhood. He mentioned it took deputies a little over 3 hours to respond to the call. Capt. Weber explained response times and how calls are prioritized for service.

There was some discussion in regards to the recent church shooting in Texas. The committee asked about the local open carry laws and whether guns could be brought into a church.

As a follow-up discussion to the previous month's meeting, the committee talked about the importance of cultural diversity in recruiting deputies to the Lancaster station.

**December 5, 2017** – This meeting was conducted as a Town Hall. It will be discussed in the Quarterly Public Meetings section of this report.

**January 2, 2018** – This meeting was canceled due to the holiday.

**February 6, 2018** – In Attendance: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Scott, Allison Blaylock, Manuel Magana, Brian Johnson, David Mashore, Tae'lor Ross, Christian Aligwekwe, Miguel Coronado.

Capt. Weber provided a detailed discussion of the recent use of force incident in Lake Los Angeles. The incident occurred on February 4, 2018. After the suspect was apprehended, he passed away from undetermined causes. Capt. Weber read the homicide report to CAC members. He explained LASD policy regarding use of force and tactical protocols. He also discussed Internal Affairs procedures while investigating an incident of this type. He spoke on ESS services made available to the deputies involved in the incident. Two committee members expressed the desire to be informed as quickly as possible after an incident of this type.

Capt. Weber also talked about how the Jake Karedjian shooting and other incidents of that magnitude can impact a Station. The group talked about the need for better communication, possibly by group text. Miguel Coronado mentioned that he heard a video existed of the shooting but no confirmation could be given to its existence. Capt. Weber gave the committee his cell phone number and shared details about the Nixle app.

A future Days of Dialogue was discussed with Antelope Valley College as host, tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2018.

The Committee was reminded of the upcoming Open House at the Station on May 19, 2018 from 10am-2pm.

Manuel Magana discussed his concerns over the erratic driving around the school on 180<sup>th</sup> East and Ave O in Lake LA. He requested more signage be posted around the school. He was referred to the LLA Rural Town Council and Parks/Recreation Office.

**March 6, 2018** – In Attendance: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Dawson, Dep. Scott, Lynde Williams, Tae'lor Ross, Christian Aligwekwe, Shunnon Thomas.

As a follow-up discussion to the previous month's meeting, Capt. Weber confirmed that no video exists of the use of force incident in Lake Los Angeles.

Capt. Weber provided a detailed discussion with the group on the recent homicide that occurred on Division/Ave J at the gas station. A reward is being offered in the case for possible leads. He explained that usually once a reward is offered, the Department Tip

Lines and investigators are flooded with calls with information. Often this information is not accurate and it takes considerable time to sort through all the potential leads.

Tae'lor Ross asked for information about potential racial disparities in the way in which rewards are offered for a murder in the community. Capt. Weber discussed the manner in which rewards are offered. He explained that the money does not come from within the Department, but usually is offered by a non-profit related to the victim's family. Tae'lor requested information to see if unconscious bias plays a role in how decisions are made to process the offer of rewards for homicide investigations.

Capt. Weber spoke about how we can use current statistics to evaluate the more probable racial patterns of homicides. He said he would look into a tracking system related to the issuing of rewards for crimes committed. Dep. Scott mentioned that Crime Stoppers is an example of a non-profit that offers reward monies for any crime, regardless of race or level of offense.

Sgt. Dawson confirmed that the next Days of Dialogue would be hosted at Antelope Valley College on March 21, 2018. The college requested that the event be a closed forum for students only, due to space limitations and security issues.

Sgt. Dawson also talked about the updated training on Constitutional Policing and Implicit Bias that all deputies in the AV have now received. The committee asked about the content of the training and Capt. Weber referred them to look at Bryant T. Marsh as an example of implicit bias teaching. Capt. Weber and Sgt. Dawson both explained how everyone has bias and the training provided to deputies was to underscore how they can identify biased perceptions.

Sgt. Dawson led a discussion on the Youth Diversion Program that will be implemented shortly. She and Dep. Scott and Shunnon Thomas recently attended a workshop on the program. This program is in the early stages of development.

Sgt. Dawson also brought up the idea for a mentoring program between African American youth and LASD. A new community center is in the process of development and could be used for this purpose.

A new form was created by Sgt. Dawson which will allow the CAC to track information provided by the community in regards to crime and quality of life issues. She stressed the importance of Crime Stoppers as a means to target and stop crime in our neighborhoods.

There was discussion about using social media to further advertise the activities and upcoming events of the CAC.

Dep. Scott provided follow-up to Manuel Magana's concerns about traffic around the school in Lake LA from a previous meeting. A grant was secured that will allow increased signage and traffic signals in that area. Also, additional patrols will be

dispatched to the area while the signs and signals are in the process of being installed.

It was announced that the next Community Academy will begin on March 20, 2018.

The committee asked for information in regards to active shooter scenarios. Capt. Weber explained how the Department was responding to the recent threats made against several local schools.

**April 3, 2018** – In Attendance: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Dawson, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Scott, David Mashore, Lynde Williams, Brian Johnson, Allison Blaylock, Shunnon Thomas.

Capt. Weber discussed the Baker to Vegas event. This year's race was dedicated to Detective Mitch Speed. Lancaster Station won their category. Sgt. Dawson spoke about the "21<sup>st</sup> Century Report on Policing" and described how team events such as these help to alleviate stress and maintain good physical fitness for our deputies. These events encourage teamwork and a positive mental state. Sgt. Dawson also mentioned the upcoming Memorial Run on May 20 and the Torch Run for Special Olympics in June.

A good deal of this month's meeting was devoted to a discussion of the structure and purpose of the CAC. Sgt. Dawson stressed the importance of attendance at every monthly meeting. She reminded the committee of the need to stay involved with the group. There is an understanding that sometimes conflicts arise and some members may not be able to attend every meeting but it is important that every effort be made to actively participate in the group.

Committee members shared their own personal insights into how they believe this committee and the Department are effecting positive change in regards to how the community views LASD. Lynde Williams mentioned that she sees people in her community working together to combat crime and social issues. Brian Johnson stated his desire for the Department to reflect the diversity of the community it serves. He noted that the conference, "Repairers of the Breach", might be an avenue for more diverse recruiting.

Capt. Weber noted that it is up to the CAC to determine how best to break through to the community. He said there are biases on both sides that should be discussed and addressed. Discussion included suggestions of a youth day, inviting the public to our meetings, and a sports tournament to bring people together with the Sheriff's Department.

Sgt. Dawson suggested that the Station serve a meal at the homeless shelter to foster a sense of community. Allison Blaylock recommended pairing with a local organization to do this rather than just a Station endeavor.

Sgt. Dawson talked about creating a calendar of upcoming events so we can track future plans without any overlap of events.

**May 1, 2018** – In Attendance: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Scott, David Mashore,

Lynde Williams, Allison Blaylock, Miguel Coronado, Tae'lor Ross, Christian Aligwekwe, Shunnon Thomas.

Capt. Weber talked about the Men's Conference, "Repairers of the Breach", which was held at Pastor Brian Johnson's church. He spoke to attendees about the CAC and the positive effects the committee has made with the community.

Most of this month's meeting was devoted to the discussion around the recent event at Starbucks in Philadelphia PA. The Station had planned a Coffee With a Deputy at one of our local Starbucks weeks ahead of the recent incident. Due to the backlash nationwide against Starbucks, the decision was made by Lancaster Station to cancel the event that had been scheduled. The CAC agreed that the cancellation was the right decision.

Some of the comments made by the committee reflected a belief in wanting to wait and see how Starbucks handles this event before we make any decisions about partnering with them in the future for events. Additional comments centered on individual observations of racism, both nationally and locally and how this may affect our own efforts to bridge the gap between the community and the Department. The feeling was that the Station could not risk eroding the gains we have made with the local community because of an association with an organization under fire for racial bias themselves.

**June 5, 2018** – In Attendance: Capt. Weber, Sgt. Molidor, Dep. Scott, Lynde Williams, Brian Johnson, Tae'lor Ross, Christian Aligwekwe, Shunnon Thomas.

Capt. Weber provided follow-up to the prior month's discussion of the incident at Starbucks and the cancellation of our planned Coffee with a Deputy. The CAC noted that Starbucks quickly addressed the racial bias behind the incident and the backlash appears to have subsided against the organization. Lynde Williams expressed the belief in trying to reschedule an event with our local Starbucks since the company has handled the incident in a progressive manner.

Capt. Weber talked about his attendance at a mixer at the OUTreach Center and how he now had a better understanding of LGBT concerns.

There was discussion about the recent shooting at Highland HS. The law enforcement response was swift. First units arrived within four minutes. A high caliber rifle was used (SKS type). The suspect was found a short distance away at a shopping center. The committee talked about our school safety plans. It was also mentioned how wonderful the outreach to the community was in the aftermath of the shooting.

Shunnon Thomas talked about the upcoming Youth and Law Enforcement Day. This program is a good way for area youth to relate to law enforcement and learn about careers. It can also help to break down barriers. Shunnon asked the CAC to try and bring youth to the event. Hopefully about 50 kids could be directed to the program through committee members.

Shunnon also discussed his plan to reach out to Eastside HS to collaborate with the Department.

The CAC examined the upcoming Station Open House and the possibility of expanding the event to a bigger space. Lynde Williams mentioned that Palmdale Station had a bigger open house and larger attendance because it seems the non-profits helped to get the word out and advertise the event.

There was some discussion at the meeting about local events of interest to the committee, such as the proposal to teach African American History in the local schools, the need for volunteers at the homeless shelter, and the upcoming Torch Run for Special Olympics.

### **CAC Quarterly Public Meetings**

Quarterly public meetings in this reporting period were held on 12/05/2017, 03/21/2018, 06/26/18.

On December 5, 2017 a Town Hall was held at American Heroes Park in Lancaster. The topic of discussion was an update on the progress made by the Department towards compliance with the Settlement Agreement. A dialogue followed on the subject of community relations with LASD. Approximately 40 community members and 20 Sheriff's Department personnel were in attendance at this event.

On March 21, 2018, Antelope Valley College hosted a "Days of Dialogue" for students at the college in Lancaster. The topic of this meeting was "Bias Free Policing." Approximately 60 students and 30 Sheriff's Department personnel were in attendance at this event.

On June 26, 2018, an informal presentation and dialogue was held at the homeless shelter. Deputies from Lancaster Station accompanied by CAC members Shunnon Thomas and Lynde Williams, presented the quarterly report to the homeless community at the shelter on Avenue I. Approximately 80-100 homeless community members attended the event.

### **Advertising of Quarterly Public Meetings**

For all station events (including the CAC public quarterly meetings), the Lancaster Station Community Relations staff generates a press release with all the details and purpose of the event/meeting/dialogue. This is sent to both English and Spanish speaking press and radio stations that have registered with the Department, as well as with the Departments Headquarters Media Unit. Additionally, Lancaster Station staff post the event to all social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Nixle. Approximately 1000 flyers are printed and distributed by patrol deputies, school resource deputies, CAC members, and station volunteers. The flyers are posted in areas throughout the city where residents may not receive traditional and/or multimedia information sources. Targeted

outreach is also done by CAC members and Sergeant Dawson, who notify special interest groups such as the NAACP, T-CAL, and LULAC. These groups have a vested interest in community development.

The CAC maintains its own Facebook page in which the committee has the freedom (within reason) to post whatever information they feel would be of interest to the community. All Lancaster and Palmdale Station community events and dialogues are posted on the CAC's group page as well as through the NAACP's newsletter, and individual CAC member contact lists.

## **Concerns and Follow-up from Quarterly Public Meetings**

As a follow-up to the March 21, 2018 “Days of Dialogue” at Antelope Valley College, Sgt. Dawson visited a class at the college on May 21, 2018. The class (HIST 111) that she visited was one of the classes from which students attended the March public meeting. The class visit was an opportunity for students to ask additional questions and express concerns about the Sheriff’s Department. CAC member Cynthia Lehman was present.

Some of the topics which were brought up by students, were related to racial profiling, individual rights during traffic stops, and perceptions of law enforcement and the relationship with the local community. Sergeant Dawson and the students exchanged dialogue on expectations of both community members, and police officers during traffic stops. Law Enforcement asking for cooperation and compliance with safety commands, and students asking for deputies and officers to treat them respectfully and to act within the law. Students did express their feelings that they want increased opportunities to dialogue with the Sheriff’s Department and they prefer those discussions to take place in their classrooms, where they feel more comfortable. Sgt. Dawson answered all the student questions and concerns.

## **Feedback from Quarterly Public Meetings**

Most of the post-survey forms submitted from the Quarterly Public Meetings do not have any specific comments of concern against Lancaster Station. Almost all forms indicate either that the views of the attendees did not change at all or were somewhat changed towards LASD after attendance at the event. A few respondents indicated they appreciated the information provided and the meeting was a good start to improving relations with the community.

The post-surveys from the March 21, 2018 “Days of Dialogue” at AVC showed a greater increase in changed attitudes toward the Sheriff’s Department. There was a significant number of responses that indicated perceptions were quite a bit or completely changed after the event. The student surveys contained more feedback than what was received from the December 2017 Town Hall.

The students were very appreciative of the Sheriff’s Department coming to the college to talk with them. This attitude was also expressed verbally to the Instructor in the courses from which students were invited to the Dialogue. Student comments expressed support for body

cameras, increased outreach to the community and youth diversion programs. Lancaster Station has increased their outreach to Antelope Valley College as a result of the success of the March 21, 2018 public meeting.

In regards to the dialogue at the shelter on June 26, 2018, while this may have seemed a non-traditional approach, we (CAC) felt it was important not to overlook this important segment of our community. This segment of the community often have negative contact with law enforcement just by their sheer circumstance. As our group served the men and women that day, there was a rare opportunity for the deputies to hear the individual stories of the people in the shelter and the sometimes tragic events which led them to their current circumstance. The shelter residents were able to express their fears such as crime, shelter, food, access to health care, as well as negative interactions with community members and law enforcement. The deputies walked away with a better understanding of the complexity of the issues facing these community members which they might never have had the opportunity of hearing in such a neutral environment. Because of this dialogue the people at the shelter were given the opportunity to hear from the deputies. The deputies spoke about the complex roles law enforcement often faces when dealing with issues involving members of the homeless community and members of the general and business communities. The CAC and the station have several events plans in the oncoming months to continue this relationship and dialogue.