

Lakewood Station

CITY OF ARTESIA

During 1998, the City of Artesia, assisted by its law enforcement team, continued to employ innovative community policing strategies to impact crime within the city. To better familiarize the residents with the Sheriff's Department, a Law Enforcement Expo was held in February. This event, the fourth annual for the City of Artesia, has become somewhat of a tradition. The event was well attended by the public and featured numerous Departmental displays. The highlight, as it has been for the past three years, was the performance of the "GT Bike Air Show." A very popular group of young people put on an impressive aerial demonstration with their special bikes. Of course the bike helmet give-away was a highlight for the children. This give-way was made possible from grant funds received by the city from the State Office of Traffic Safety.

The City of Artesia is a small community with a little more than 15,000 residents living in about a one square mile area. The traditional public safety service demand amounts to about 21 calls each day. However, like any community, the focus on quality-of-life issues is at the foundation of the city's policing efforts. A project commissioned in 1997 was completed this year; the state-of-the-art Mobile Community Law Center was completed. This vehicle

moves throughout the community, stopping at parks, business locations, etc. Wherever it stops, it becomes a place to do business. Staffed by the Special Assignment Officers, residents can report or get information concerning public safety issues. This vehicle carries on board a state-of-the-art computer, a fax machine, a cell phone and a suspect information data base, just to name a few items. The vehicle will be used in the city as a mobile command post during any natural disaster or tactical event.

Augmenting the field force (deputies in the radio cars), the city has four Special Assignment Officers. This team, working closely with city staff, is responsible for illegal vendors on one day and robbery surveillance the next. The team also conducts operations, and develops strategies to address crime and community issues. The following is a sampling of those successful operations:

The special assignment deputies, working with TRAP, conducted several "bait car" operations which resulted in numerous arrests.

The SAO team formulated numerous surveillance operations for robbery suspects in the business district, as well as gathering evidence to abate problem locations.

The SAO team also conducted a DUI check point operation and an undercover sting operation, in conjunction with Alcoholic Beverage Control agents, checking if local stores and dairies would sell alcoholic beverages to minors.

Working with the city as well as school district officials, a school safety plan was formulated to use federal grant money to fund extra patrol around the elementary schools for traffic control.

The results of the team's efforts continue to reduce crime in the city. Since 1995, Part I crime has decreased 25%. Specific crimes such as robbery, burglary and auto theft have dropped 30%, 31% and 29% respectively in the same time period. It is said that "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." Team Artesia has some very good habits.



TEAM BELLFLOWER

Community Policing . . . much has been written in the past century on this topic. But when you look at the core of the concept, the development of community partnerships, the city of Bellflower's policing plan is a reflection of the concept. The city's community policing program is aimed at the causes of crime. The program targets a broad spectrum of "quality-of-life" issues, including daytime loitering by minors, drinking in public, abandoned and stolen shopping carts, nuisance abatement, landlord-tenant issues, illegal

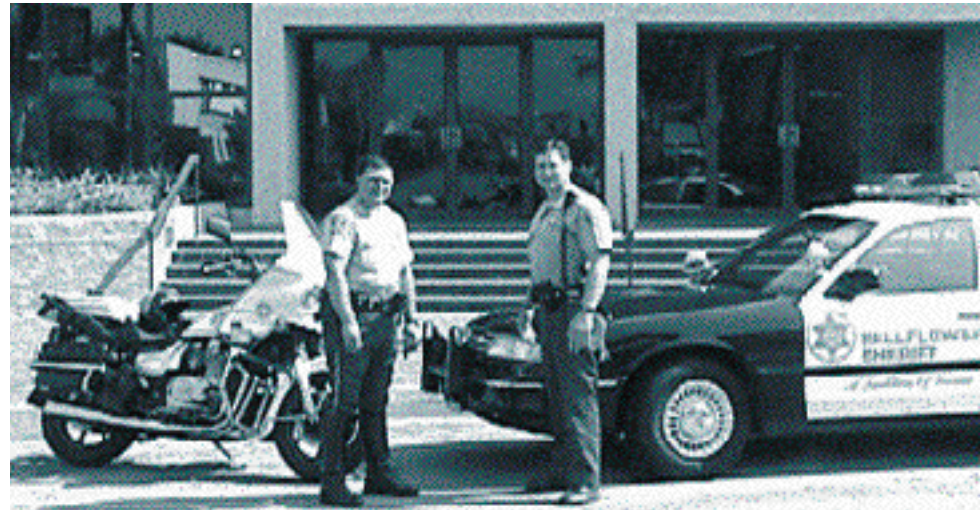
vendors and traffic safety. Representatives of the Public Safety Department and the Sheriff's Department meet regularly with the staff of the Community Development Department, and participate in meetings of the City's Development Review Board and Planning Commission. Add in the city's Neighborhood Watch leaders and you have a "problem solving team."

The city's Neighborhood Watch program is based on the concept of "neighbors helping neighbors." As the extra eyes and ears for the deputies, neighborhood watch members report criminal activity and other unusual activity in their neighborhoods. Their efforts have contributed to numerous arrests, and helped make Bellflower a better and safer place. Presently, more than 200 block watch captains are active in the program. Just three years ago, this program had only 27 active groups. The expansion of this program has made a significant difference in crime prevention.

One of the most successful components of the policing program has been the Corridor Enrichment Project. This project targets a one-half square mile high-crime area containing high density housing with a population of 10,000. Because of the high population density, the area had become a magnet for gang and narcotic's activity. To combat this activity, the efforts of a deputy district attorney, assigned to the policing team through the District Attorney's Strategies Against Gang Environments (SAGE) program, deputies, neighborhood watch members and city code enforcement personnel have been combined to address crime and quality-of-life issues. The Project also assists and encourages landlords and tenants to work together to improve living conditions, to evict tenants engaged in criminal activity and to attract better tenants. As a result of this innovative team



Captain Marvin O. Cavanaugh
Lakewood Station



approach, calls for service within the corridor have been reduced by 85%, and arrests have increased by 205%. The program was responsible for evicting 140 problem tenants. In addition, 20 buildings have been upgraded, eliminating community blight. More than 50 apartment owners and managers have been trained on how to keep the area safe and attractive to prospective tenants. To sum up, the program's success is visible daily. On any day, you can drive up the street and see children playing and families visiting outside in "their neighborhood."

The Domestic Violence Intervention Program was another program instituted in 1998. This program was made possible by developing a community-based partnership with a local crisis and support group. The program is designed to intercede on behalf of domestic violence victims. A response team is made up of Domestic Violence Intervention Counselors from the Su Casa Family Crisis and Support Center. The focus of this program is to intervene on behalf of the domestic violence victim and her children immediately after the deputy's arrival at a dispute. The goal is to provide support, counseling and comfort, and, in some cases, relocation for the victim and her chil-

dren. An additional benefit of this type of intervention is a more successful prosecution of the abuser, due to the support the victim receives during the criminal justice process.

Many special operations and community identified "mission specific" assignments were very successful in 1998. These included seven prostitution stings, gang and parolee sweeps that netted almost 50 suspects, the arrest of 284 drunk drivers, the recovery of 800 abandon shopping carts, the arrest of 74 suspects, and the arrest of 117 illegal vendors.

Through the efforts of the Bellflower Policing Program, the city and the community, the crime rate is at a 20-year low. Part I crime decreased by 18% in 1998. Specifically, violent crime was down by 26%. Crime in the city has recently been trending downwards. During the past three years, Part I crime in the city has dropped 28%. Specific crimes such as assaults, burglary and grand theft auto were down 27%, 35%, and 42% respectively.

Community policing is not simply a concept in the city of Bellflower. . . it is alive, vibrant and it has a community spirit. Oliver Wendell Holmes once

said "The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we are. . . but in what direction we are moving." The city of Bellflower is constantly moving toward a safer community for families.

CITY OF CERRITOS

During 1998, the Cerritos Local Station celebrated its first full year in operation. This state-of-the-art police facility provides more than 27,000 square feet for the operation of the city's public safety services. The building reflects the city's commitment to providing innovative, high-quality public safety services. The local station offers a full range of police services to the city's 55,000 residents. The City of Cerritos fully embraces innovative concepts, and has provided station deputies with the most modern equipment available to aid them in their daily duties. Cerritos deputies perform their various duties with the aid of fiber optic communication systems, individual computer work stations, Internet access, laptop computers for field use, night vision/recording equipment, and other unique items. The City's commitment to the deputies and city employees is also reflected in the provision of the best equipment at the station's physical fitness center.

Programs and community partnerships are the foundation of the Cerritos policing plan. The city's highly regarded IMPACT (Intercepting Minors with Positive Attention Care and Training) Program remains immensely popular amongst middle school students.



The program is designed to bolster the self-esteem of at-risk youths. This year, 580 students participated in the IMPACT program. Additional programs include a state-of-the-art crime analysis unit, a motorcycle traffic program, a park patrol program and a team of Special Assignment Officers; the city's problem solvers. The station has a strong contingent of volunteers who, collectively, contributed more than 8,700 hours of dedicated service to the community.

Cerritos placed into service the Department's first Hybrid patrol car. Hybrid patrol cars are not equipped with the traditional overhead emergency light bar. Instead, the Hybrid vehicles use high intensity strobe lights, mounted around the vehicle for emergency lighting. These vehicles are deployed by SAO deputies engaged in targeted crime suppression and traffic enforcement missions.

On the horizon, in 1999, the Cerritos Local Station will transition into a "full service" Sheriff's Station. While the Cerritos Station will not be a destination station, the enhanced operation at the facility will include receiving 911 emergency telephone traffic, dispatching field units, and maintaining station watch commanders on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This last operational evolution will complete the city's odyssey to establish a Sheriff Station in their community.

CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS

The City of Hawaiian Gardens returned to the Sheriff's Department family in late 1997, becoming the sixth contract city serviced by Lakewood Station. Throughout 1998, the original law enforcement team, consisting of nine (9) regularly assigned patrol deputies and two (2) special assignment deputies, remained in place. During the month of October, a civil abatement deputy was added to the team. The city's concentration is focused on public safety issues, quality-of-life issues, and the accessibility of deputies to the community. To that end, a local "Sheriff's Station" was opened inside city hall. The office is open during the same hours as those of city hall, and walk-in traffic has become common place. Deputies use the office to interview victims of crimes, distribute crime information, and counsel at-risk youth.

The special assignment deputies continue to work closely with State parole and probation officers. These deputies conducted numerous parole and probation sweeps, with outstanding results. The team made more than 650 arrests during 1998, and had the best response time to calls for service in the Lakewood station area.

The Special Assignment Officers work closely with city officials, business owners and members of the community, in an effort to curtail day-to-day problems. Those issues can run the gamut of the quality-of-life issues that any community must deal with.

Fiscal prudence is mandatory when providing any city service. To assist the city in locating funds to support law enforcement services, the team activity seeks Federal and State grant funds. In 1998, almost \$90,000 was identified to augment public safety services. Some of these funds made possible the addition

of a criminal abatement deputy. This deputy will work closely with city staff to root out public nuisances. These funds were also used to place a deputy, part time, on the campus of the city's only middle school. The deputy works closely with school officials on issues of mutual concern. The deputy is available to the students to answer questions and to help them out with their problems. "Cops and Kids" are a very natural combination. Nurtured, this relationship will benefit not only the children, but the people in the tan and green uniforms.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

Each year, the mayor delivers a State of the City message. In 1998, the message included a letter grading system for rating the various city services. As a result of a decrease in crime for the fourth consecutive year, public safety was awarded an "A" grade. These positive results continue to occur as a result of the dedicated team of deputies assigned to the city, the continued commitment of Neighborhood Watch groups, Sky Knight, and a number of innovative programs that were put into place during 1998.

The new public safety programs, funded by both state and federal grants, added four (4) deputy sheriffs to the team. These resources were deployed to reduce response times, create a higher visibility in the community and do a host of mission-specific projects. Some of those projects included patrolling the city's eleven (11) parks during the sum-



mer months, maintaining a burglary and robbery suppression unit for three months and during holiday seasons, and employing enhanced foot and bicycle patrol at the mall on weekends. These programs lowered Part I crimes for the fourth year in a row. During a four-year window, Part I crime has decreased by 27.32%. The more notable decreases were robberies, down 36.49%, burglaries, down 28.96% and vehicle thefts, down an incredible 40.29%.

In addition to the programs tailored specifically for the City of Lakewood, two other very important programs contributed to the success of Team Lakewood. Although Sky Knight is not new and has been in existence since 1964, this program is one that the residents of Lakewood and the other four neighboring cities are extremely proud of because of its service to their communities. In 1998, Sky Knight flew nearly 1,800 hours, assisting in 144 felony arrests and almost 5,000 calls for service. Airborne law enforcement services have become a critical component of each city's police delivery system.

The continued development of a Career Criminal Apprehension Program (C-CAP) has added to the city of Lakewood's success in making their community safer. This program has been in existence since July of 1995. Lakewood Station, in partnership with the cities of Lakewood, Artesia, Bellflower,

Cerritos, and Paramount, applied for and received from the State a three-year grant in the amount of \$600,000. As this program developed over the past three years, Lakewood Station was able to enhance the financial support from the State by another \$150,000. The combined total of this funding made it possible for staff to purchase and develop a state-of-the-art "electronic crime fighting" resource.

C-CAP was designed to assist in identifying, tracking, apprehending and prosecuting persons who met the definition of a habitual offender. During the three-year period in which the grant was in effect, 307 career criminals were identified and arrested. These suspects received substantially longer prison sentences than is usual, many as long as 15 years.

A unique component of the C-CAP operation is the "facial recognition" program, which was added in October 1997. This program generates computer composites of suspects. Once generated, the program is electronically linked to more than 200,000 booking photos of suspects, county wide. The program does a comparison of the suspect sought with the booking photos. This kind of law enforcement search capability was the first of its kind in the State, and probably in the nation. Fully operationally in 1998, Lakewood received inquiries and help requests from many



local police departments and from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on high profile cases. Many people came to view the operation, one from as far away as New South Wales, Australia. As a result of its contribution to the City of Lakewood and its surrounding communities, the C-CAP Unit received the Meritorious Service award from the City of Lakewood. The unit was also recognized for excellence by the California State Assembly, the California State Senate and the United States Congress.

While the enforcement of a community's laws is our traditional role, the city of Lakewood places a high priority on educating the community on critical issues. To that end, a series of public service announcements (PSAs) were produced and filmed by the local cable television program "Crime Stoppers." The PSAs were designed to inform the public on how the Department completes its public safety mission. It is no secret that what we view as a routine police procedure, can be viewed differently by the general public, and the general public can develop misconceptions and perceptions of mis-



conduct. This project has been successful in dispelling these misconceptions. The thirty minute PSAs were divided

into four segments. They focused on response times, traffic citations, detentions, and citizen arrests.

TEAM PARAMOUNT

The Paramount sub-station continues to be a community show piece and the core of operations for the city's policing services. The current facility, covering more than 10,000 square feet, just received a \$100,000 facelift. The most recent remodeling project included a new briefing room, community conference rooms, public lobby and detective bay. The new design allows for full interaction between city staff members and Sheriff's personnel. The Sheriff assisted in re-dedication of the facilities in February. The Sheriff was joined by the city's leadership and several hundred residents. Along with a new facility, the city created a new category of employee, Public Safety Assistant. This person will greet the public and direct them to the appropriate person to deal with their problem or concern.

In 1998, the focus of the policing effort was a continued commitment to quality-of-life issues. Additionally, the city renewed its effort to revitalize a citywide Neighborhood Watch program. To meet these goals, additional resources were added to "Team Paramount." The team acquired the assistance of a SAGE District Attorney (Strategies Against Gang Environments). This Deputy District Attorney teamed up with a Paramount Special Assignment deputy, and together they developed a landlord/tenant training program which was dubbed "GNP" (Good Neighbor Program). This past year we also invested in the services of a full time Community Relations Deputy, in order to rejuvenate the citywide Neighborhood Watch Program. A full court press on those quality-of-life issues identified by the community continued throughout the year. Efforts

were augmented by existing programs which include the city's deputy-supervised Crime Watch/Volunteer Program, full-time enforcement of illegal vendor issues and response to loud parties/noise violations throughout the city.

These programs, coupled with a positive can-do team spirit, have resulted in a very positive relationship with the community. In 1998, more than 1,400 residents were surveyed by phone soon after a police contact. Of these 1,400 community contacts, 99% reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall service they received. When we look at crime statistics, which is the traditional measurement of a policing plan's effectiveness, we can see that Team

Paramount, together with a community that is very much involved, can boast a 26% percent decrease in Part I crimes in 1998.

Reductions in specific crime categories include a decrease in homicides by 30%, robberies by 35% and assaults by 20%. Reviewing crime in the past three years, the city of Paramount has seen a 30% decrease in violent crime and another 18% decrease in property crimes. Summing up for 1998, it is fair to say that the combination of an involved community, a city's leadership that is committed to making public safety the number one priority, and a dedicated group of deputy sheriffs, has made a very positive difference in the city of Paramount.

