Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review & Outreach
Community Advisory Council
Community Engagement Committee

Report Date: February 28, 2017

Committee Members: Kirstyne Lange, Emilia Carbajal
Meeting Dates: None
Attendance at Committee Meeting(s) since Last Report: N/A

Narrative:
CAC members Kirstyne and Emilia agreed at the February 6th meeting to participate in an impromptu community engagement effort to collect stories from community members regarding current issues of concern related to the Sonoma County Sheriff Department. Member Emilia generated a feedback form (attached) with the goal of obtaining stories at the February 8th Community Engagement Circle held at El Verano Elementary School (El Verano ES). Because of a tight agenda, Emilia instead left the forms in the care of Mario Castillo, Community Organizer for La Luz Center, to make them available for completion at the El Verano ES Community Center. Emilia reached out to Mario on February 8th and February 13th to arrange a time to pick up the feedback forms if any were completed. Emilia is still awaiting a response and has attempted contact with Mario by way of a voicemail message on February 27th. As of February 28th, no response has been given.

Emilia also attended the Schools as Safe Havens Forum held on February 26th where she collected information from concerned high school students, teachers, superintendents, and school board members from Sonoma County. All participants and presenters agreed that schools should serve as safe havens and not voluntary cooperate with ICE on school property. Cooperation occurs upon a court order signed by a judge. The concern and fear is real. Jeanne Acuna, the Principal of Cali Calmecac in Windsor, CA, expressed the extraordinary challenge of teaching children who are in constant physical and emotional pain because of fear that their parents and friends will get deported. Windsor School Board Members Esther Lemus and George Valenzuela validated and agreed with Ms. Acuna that separation of families and the impact on children when agencies voluntarily cooperate with ICE in order to execute deportation is wrong, and much more its occurrence on school property. The Windsor schools recently passed a resolution of voluntary non-cooperation with ICE. The sentiment has also been expressed by two DACA students, who anonymously expressed that fear, concern, anxiety, and depression has impacted the immigrant community to the point where people do not open their doors, they do not call police in emergency and sometimes abusive situations for the fear that such contact can lead to deportation.

Both Kirstyne and Emilia attended the Community Engagement Circle on February 8th, in which over 40 Spanish-speaking community members from Sonoma Valley engaged conversed with deputies, sergeants, and various other Sonoma County Sheriff Department Staff about community concerns. The feedback received by Kirstyne and Emilia from resident participants were fears of deportation and collaboration with ICE.

Though, many Sheriff Department staff responded that they do not function on behalf of ICE, some community members expressed worry about collaboration with ICE post contact with officers. Residents also expressed interest in attending a workshop that would provide the ‘How To’s of interacting with police officers to ensure safety for both parties e.g. What to do if stopped while driving, when to show ID, when to decline providing answers if asked about immigration status, etc. To conclude, overwhelmingly, members of the public have expressed that they do not want agencies voluntarily cooperating with ICE.

Pending Action
1. Emilia to obtain stories from Mario Castillo, La Luz Center, if any.
2. Emilia to and Kirstyne to continue efforts to collect stories from Sonoma County residents.
Issues: None at this time.

Accomplishments:
1. Both members Kirstyne and Emilia attended the Community Engagement Circle on February 8th at El Verano ES. [http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/IOLERO/News/IOLERO-to-host-Community-Engagement-Circle/](http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/IOLERO/News/IOLERO-to-host-Community-Engagement-Circle/) to obtain information regarding Sonoma Valley resident community concerns.
2. Member Emilia attended the Schools as Safe Havens Forum to obtain information regarding Windsor, Cotati, Santa Rosa community concerns about students, parents, teachers, school board members, staff, and the community in general.

Recommendations:
1. The CAC needs business cards listing the IOLERO agency, CAC as a board, an office phone number, website address, social media logos, and a short sentence or phrase to pass out at community events should individuals seek more information or need to provide feedback.
2. This committee should be formalized and other CAC members invited to participate.
3. This committee needs a strategic community engagement plan, ideally reflecting SMART goals.
4. This committee needs to meet prior to the monthly CAC meeting in order to increase efficiency at CAC meetings.

Goals not yet met:
1. Collect community stories...

Budgetary Cost: $0 at this time.

Attachments: (1) Feedback form