Police and Community Together

Policing is challenging. Legislative changes in the last few years have presented new challenges to law enforcement in California that has resulted in a significant increase in property crime. Budgets have tightened, technology rapidly evolves, and there is a national distrust of law enforcement. The San Luis Obispo Police Department knows we must partner with the community to address those challenges. We cannot repair our damaged relationships without a community that is willing to engage openly and honestly in the process. We are incredibly fortunate to have a community in San Luis Obispo that understands this and whole-heartedly partners with us in this effort.

Our goal as a police department is to reduce harm. We reduce harm by reducing crime and victimization, reducing traffic collisions and increasing multi-modal safety, strengthening our regional partnerships, strengthening the health and well-being of our employees, and strengthening our relationship with the community we serve.

PACT Partnership

To meet our goal of reducing harm by strengthening our community/police relationship, we started the PACT (Police and Community Together) in January, 2017. PACT represents a committed and diverse group of community members/advocates that partner with law enforcement to affect positive social change through dialogue, education and understanding. Currently, PACT has representation from major groups representing the Jewish, Black, Latino, Muslim, LGBTQ, Interfaith, Student and Homeless/Mentally Ill communities. The police department has officers and staff that serve as liaisons to each of these groups. The liaisons connect with and learn about their respective communities, then serve as a conduit between the police department and the community. The community and law enforcement work together to develop training that is important for police officers and staff to experience, and in turn, training about policing that is important for the community to experience.

PACT 2017

This year, with an outpouring of community support, the PACT commenced! SLOPD hosted bimonthly meetings and heard from our community members on social justice concerns, current legislation, local project growth and education. This partnership played a instrumental role in our growth as a community and keeping San Luis Obispo safe!
HATE CRIME STATISTICS:

**FBI:**
- 6,063 Incidents
- 7,509 Victims
- 4,720 Persons crimes.
- 2,519 Property crimes.

**SLO PD:**
- 5 Incidents

PACT & PEACE

San Luis Obispo Police Department hosted several P.E.A.C.E (Police Education and Community Engagement) sessions. The sessions were 2 hour discussions touching on topics such as police protocols for use of force, police body cameras, complaint process, homelessness and mental illness. We extend a heart-felt “Thank You!” to PACT members who attended, brought a guest and helped spread education and awareness about your police department. Many of you who attended brought meaningful discussions which benefited the community.

“We are deluding ourselves if we do not see the parallel between intolerant or hateful rhetoric and it’s inevitable consequences.” - Simran Jeet Singh

Hate Expression

2017 brought forth several national high profile hate crime incidents. Media and authors opined on the topic of hate crimes. The common theme when analyzing trends was this: hateful expressions and behaviors lead to the inevitable.

In 2017 San Luis Obispo Police Department began to document hate expression. The goal of this added process is to analyze trends related with hate crimes, prevent hate crime through education and intervention, and document incidents of hate expression for future related cases. PACT’s involvement in this process has been a huge success. Through PACT, the community is being educated and encouraged to contact law enforcement to report hate crimes as well as hate expression.
I fondly reflect on 2017 as a year of relationships. It took TRUST for everyone to “come to the table” and fully effect the forming of PACT. I personally engaged in many meaningful conversations with my group and enjoyed seeing other groups and advocates reach out to their liaison officer. Equally, there was great joy in seeing the investment in our communities most intimate issues from each and every officer involved. This year, I want to encourage PACT members to seek a year of “Education.” Give input on which police “matters” need awareness in our community and to reflect on ways you might contribute to educating officers and contribute to educating our community about policing.

-- Suzie Walsh, SLOPD

2017 Quick Review:

⇒ Police Chief Cantrell met with advocates for vulnerable communities to form PACT.
⇒ Police Liaisons got to meet their community advocates.
⇒ Leaders in the community helped liaisons connect with their groups. Over coffee, formal meetings, and informal “meet & greets” important relationships were established.
⇒ PACT relationships quickly showed their value as we shared a joint response to community safety during large community rally’s, marches, and events.
⇒ PACT joined PRIDE in the Plaza with a booth and obtained signage for future community involvement.
⇒ PACT member Doug Heumann provided in service training to all police personnel on transgender persons.
⇒ PACT members provided valuable education media by email for the larger PACT group.
⇒ Valued communication between PACT members and their liaison led to investigations, hate expression documentation and increased community safety.