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Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station serves the City of Pico Rivera and Unincorporated area of West Whittier. Pico Rivera Station personnel provide Law Enforcement services to approximately 101,000 residents in a 13.5 square mile area. The station serves a primarily Hispanic service population within a very diverse socioeconomic area. Pico Rivera Station currently has 110 sworn personnel and 35 professional staff members serving the community. The station has a very active Reserve Company, with 18 uniformed reserves donating hundreds of hours per month. The station boasts a core of 70 active civilian volunteers, as well as an active Explorer Post.

Enforcing state, federal and local laws is one of the primary responsibilities for any police agency. In 2008, Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station employees arrested over 5,100 people for various crimes, responded to over 32,000 calls for service, and wrote over 13,000 citations.

The City of Pico Rivera and the surrounding unincorporated area has historically been home to a large population of active gang members. Gang related violence has been the scourge of many area neighborhoods in the past, and has been the primary driving force behind historically higher than average crime rates. While efforts to mitigate gang violence in the past have been successful, the Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with city and county officials, created a targeted approach to dealing with gang violence. The station has addressed this issue with some success using a three prong approach: Enforcement, Prevention and Community involvement.

Additions to city and county field deployment levels over the last two years, combined with the development and deployment of several new targeted policing teams, has helped to drastically reduce Part 1 crime throughout the station policing area. Reductions in overall Part 1 crimes, down 7% in 2008 over the previous year, were matched by a similar decline in violent crime. Homicides in 2008 were at a fourteen year low, with only four murders (64% decrease over 2007), and gang related crime was down over 27% from 2007.

Enforcement:

The Problem Specific Policing Team is a highly specialized and elite investigative unit comprised of six detectives and a Sergeant. The team's primary responsibility is to identify specific criminal conduct, determine the underlying cause, then develop and implement a comprehensive and long term solution to eradicate it. The PSP Team is dedicated to addressing all quality of life issues and special needs in the City of Pico Rivera. It plays a significant role in station crime suppression efforts.

The city of Pico Rivera contracts for a pair of two deputy dedicated gang enforcement units. These units do not respond to calls for service. Their mission is to provide zero

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tolerance crime enforcement toward gang members. Since January of 2008, deputies assigned to these units have arrested well over 740 persons for various crimes.

The Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station Vandalism Enforcement Team (VET) is a collaborative effort between the City of Pico Rivera, the County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Community Based Organizations. The team consists of four deputy sheriffs, a deputy district attorney, a deputy probation officer, and a Sheriff's Sergeant. Utilizing an internet based commercial graffiti tracking system, VET Team members focus their efforts on the most prolific taggers and/or gang members who are committing acts of vandalism in the city of Pico Rivera and the unincorporated West Whittier area of Los Angeles County.

Since it's inception in January 2008, the VET team has made over 400 arrests. They have experienced an unprecedented 100% filing rate with the District Attorney's Office as well as a 100% conviction rate. In addition to arresting vandals and seizing vandalism paraphernalia, the VET team has also seized numerous firearms and a significant quantity of illegal drugs, including methamphetamine and marijuana. In addition, thus far, over \$100,000 in restitution has been ordered by the court to be paid to the city of Pico Rivera and the County of Los Angeles.

Realizing that solely arresting juvenile offenders is not going to solve the growing problem of graffiti vandalism, the VET team strategy also involves intervention. The VET utilizes a deputy probation officer to work with juvenile offenders and their parents, encouraging them to enter into voluntary conditions of probation and to seek parenting and juvenile behavior classes in an attempt to change behavior before the first court appearance. Area Community Based Organizations (CBO's) provide free parenting classes to parents and free anger management, peer group counseling, mental health, and career development classes for juvenile offenders. Close to 40% of the juvenile offenders and/or their parents have voluntarily entered into these conditions of probation. None of those participants have been rearrested for additional acts of vandalism.

The Vandalism Enforcement Team has been successful in not only reducing vandalism, arresting graffiti vandals, and holding parents accountable for the acts of their minor children; they have also been credited with a significant decrease in violent crime in their targeted area. During the first year of the team's existence, significant reductions in overall violent crime and, specifically, gun violence, were noted. Team members are recognized as graffiti crime experts and are regularly sought out as presenters in various training classes for other law enforcement agencies.

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Intervention:

In 2007, a group of Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station staff and members of the station Clergy Council began discussing new and innovative approaches to addressing the scourge of gangs, drugs and juvenile crime plaguing the community. Noting that many of the young people involved in these crimes often started out as troubled Intermediate School aged kids, who were out of control and behaving badly at home and at school, the group began developing a program to assist these troubled teens. Out of this collaboration the P.R.I.D.E. program was born.

P.R.I.D.E. stands for **P**ico **R**ivera **I**ndividual **D**evelopment in **E**thics. It is a nine-week program designed to educate, mentor and guide troubled youth in the decision-making process every teen experiences. Special speakers, trips and activities are offered during the course, each designed to focus the attention of participant's on the positive or negative impacts life choices have on their future. For instance, to demonstrate the impact poor life choices have, participants hear experiences from former gang members, gang investigators and drug users. They tour such places as a local mortuary, police station, County Jail and Skid Row to see the results poor life choices played in the lives of others.

To contrast the negative, the second part of the program focuses on the positive aspects of good life choices. Speakers include local businesspeople, sports figures and others who have been successful as a result of avoiding drugs and gangs. Trips include tours of Rio Hondo College, U.S.C., and major businesses in the area. Participants also take part in group activities to foster team building and highlight the positive aspects of team sports. Upon completion of the nine-week program, the teens participate in a formal graduation dinner with family and friends.

To date, the P.R.I.D.E. program has held six classes, with over 150 graduates. This year, the P.R.I.D.E. program received it's 503c tax-exempt charitable status. The program found a permanent home at a local school and launched a parent component designed to teach parenting skills to the parents of children involved in the program. The P.R.I.D.E. program formula is also being utilized by other stations in the area, who will soon begin offering their own version of this successful crime prevention program.

Community Programs

In the spirit of Community Policing, employees of the Sheriff's Station make a concerted effort to interact with members of the community they serve in non-traditional police roles. Several members of the station participate as active members in local service club chapters. Members of the station are active in neighborhood watch programs throughout the community, and regularly participate in various community events. Captain Rothans organizes a monthly "Coffee with the Captain," at city hall. This is a

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time where members of the community can interact directly with the city's "top cop" and express their views on law enforcement services, crime and community issues.

The Sheriff's Station has an active Community Relations unit which constantly responds to requests from the community for speakers at events, group tours of the station, etc. Last year, as a part of the city's Halloween Celebration, the station jail was closed and decorated for the first annual "Haunted Jail."

Uniformed deputy sheriff's assigned to Pico Rivera Station regularly interact with local pre-school and elementary aged children at two venues. Deputies conduct "Sheriff's Story Time" at city sponsored daycare and after school programs at city parks several times a week. Deputies also participate in "Story Time" at the local library every Friday afternoon.

In 2007, employees at Pico Rivera Station decided to give back to the community by sponsoring the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station Public Service Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes local high school seniors who have distinguished themselves by a demonstrated commitment as a public service volunteer, and who plan on pursuing a career in a public service profession. In 2008, the station presented six local seniors with \$1,000 awards toward their college aspirations. Our goal for 2009 is to provide scholarships to seven worthy students.