

Community Focus Statement D: Enhance public safety by improving communication and coordination with law enforcement.

Action Statement D.1: Establish an open forum with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department (e.g., community open talk night, “Coffee with a Cop”) to discuss local law enforcement issues.

D.1

Benchmark: Quarterly events between the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department and the Phelan Piñon Hills community.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$500 per event, \$2,000 annually



Coffee with a Cop event held in Phelan. Photo source: Phelan Chamber of Commerce

To improve communication and coordination with local law enforcement, a casual and open forum with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department could be held on a regular basis to discuss local law enforcement issues. The officers who routinely engage with and patrol the community are the most familiar with local issues and community public safety concerns and would be involved. The forums would be held in local, central locations to ensure accessibility.

A popular way to hold open forums with law enforcement is “Coffee with a Cop,” a casual meeting of deputy sheriffs and community members to share concerns over a cup of coffee. The nature of these events (normally held at a coffee shop or restaurant) allows honest conversation and offers the opportunity for citizens to get to know local law enforcement officers. A Coffee with a Cop event is easy to plan and could be held on a quarterly basis; it would require coordination between a champion in the Phelan Piñon Hills community and the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department to schedule. These forums could help facilitate trust between the Sheriff’s Department and community members, with both groups working together to enhance public safety.

Coffee with a Cop events have been held by the Phelan Chamber of Commerce (most recently on Monday, October 3, 2016, from 9 to 11 a.m.). Because these programs have been well attended, there is room for expansion into the future for the Phelan Piñon Hills community as a whole. Depending on community needs, a combination of Coffee with a Cop and other more formal open forums could be held on a regular basis to improve communication and coordination with law enforcement. Timing of events should vary (such as holding events in the evening or on weekends) so diverse groups also have the ability to attend.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact residents and community leaders to organize a liaison group between the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and the community.	Champion	Month 1	Coffee with a Cop https://CoffeeWithACop.com/
2. Designate regular quarterly meeting dates at convenient times that allow diverse community groups to participate.	Liaison Group, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department	Month 2	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/home.aspx
3. Find local sponsors for quarterly meetings, and encourage local businesses to participate.	Liaison Group	Quarterly	Phelan Chamber of Commerce http://phelanchamber.info/
4. Market events through email, newsletters, Facebook, etc., to the community.	Liaison Group	Quarterly (3 – 4 weeks prior to each event)	Coffee with a Cop http://coffeewithacop.com/
5. After each event, solicit input from participants on how to expand, improve, or otherwise better the forums.	Liaison Group, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department	Quarterly (immediately following each event)	