

# County of Santa Clara

## Office of the Sheriff

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## MEMORANDUM

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Laurie Smith  
Sheriff

DATE: May 17, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Laurie Smith, Sheriff *Laurie Smith*

SUBJECT: Off-Agenda Report relating to community meetings the Sheriff's Office is currently convening and reconvening bimonthly community meetings

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This Off-Agenda report is in response to a request from Supervisors Cortese and Chavez at the February 14, 2019 Finance and Government Operations Committee (FGOC) to receive an off-agenda report on the community meetings that the Sheriff's Office is currently convening and a request from Supervisor Ellenberg from the May 2, 2019 Public Safety and Justice Committee (PSJC) relating to the Sheriff's Office reconvening the bimonthly community meetings.

As an elected official, Sheriff Laurie Smith meets regularly with various groups in the community in addition to running one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the State. As the elected Sheriff, Sheriff Laurie Smith represents constituents countywide and serves on regional and state law enforcement boards and committees. Like the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff receives numerous requests daily to attend community events and to schedule meetings, and must prioritize those she is able to attend, send a representative to, or decline. This prioritization is necessary to ensure the Office of the Sheriff complies with the authority and mandates for the Sheriff to provide law enforcement services, which can be found in several state and local codes. For instance, the Government Code Sections 26600 - 26602 require the Sheriff to preserve the peace, to make arrests, to prevent unlawful disturbances, which come to her attention, and to investigate public offenses, which have been committed. In addition, the Santa Clara County Charter (Section 605) requires the Sheriff to provide the County efficient and effective police protection and to perform all the duties required of her by law.

Representatives from the Office of the Sheriff spend considerable time in the community working with constituents, victims, neighborhood associations, ethnic community groups, and community based organizations that provide education, mental health, religious, and/or spiritual services. This includes meeting with elected officials who represent parts of the County, such as member of the Board of Supervisors, City Councilmembers from San José, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Los Gatos, Palo Alto, Gilroy, and Morgan Hill. Additionally, the Office of the Sheriff provides contract law enforcement services for the cities of Cupertino, Los Altos Hills, and Saratoga and meets with their elected officials and/or executive managers.

The Office of the Sheriff also provides contract law enforcement services to other entities, such as the Superior Courts of California, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and Stanford University.

Meetings, which the Sheriff or her designees attend, occur daily, and are a priority for the Office of the Sheriff, in addition to daily law enforcement responsibilities and efforts to alleviate the County from the Court's purview as a result of the recently negotiated jail consent decrees. Time that is remaining is prioritized for attending staff squad meetings, graduations, swearing in ceremonies, meeting with labor unions representing Sheriff's Office personnel, advisory boards and the twenty-five reoccurring County public meetings, which the Office of the Sheriff has a formal seat on, seventy-five regularly scheduled internal County meetings with other departments, and approximately fifteen professional organizations or workgroups. This will be the continued course for the Office of the Sheriff for the near future.

CC: Chief Board Aides  
James R. Williams, County Counsel  
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer  
Tiffany Lennear, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors