



Altadena

Town Council

May 6, 2020

Dear Concerned Altadena Community,

We share your shock and concern at the announced closure of the Altadena Sheriff's Station. The news came as a surprise to all. We are concerned that there will be numerous negative ramifications to our community. Altadena Sheriff's Station is a law enforcement agency and it is a part of the very fabric of what makes us who we are.

The Altadena Sheriff's Station maintains a strong and positive presence in our close-knit community. They help us to maintain public safety in Altadena and they engage in numerous community activities that have come to represent the relationship between citizens and law enforcement such as Town Council meetings, Coffee with the Captain, elderly welfare checks, school and business events, relationships with school administrators and students, station open houses, toy drives, library events, Citizen of the Year awards, National Night Out, Concerts in the Park, car shows, Christmas Tree Lane, and more.

The daily presence of the deputies and the captain represent public safety and a strong sense of community for Altadena.

We also know that Supervisor Barger is disappointed by this action. She and the other supervisors have suggested more cost-efficient cutbacks without the negative impact on the community. We agree as public safety is essential for Altadena.

Rarely does something happen around town without their involvement or presence. I have even seen them supply Santa Claus to a family in crisis and a station captain join the local quilting group. Yes, the sheriff's job is to keep us safe, but our local station and personnel are so much more an integral part of our community.

We are confident that our community wants the station to remain open and we want to take significant actions to ensure that it remains so. While on one hand, we feel the community should unify and develop a cohesive strategy and work together, we also realize it can be impactful if individual citizens, community groups, and community stakeholders also share their own concerns with the sheriff directly. The important thing is that we have a community voice and we make sure it is heard.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions and to working together to mobilize an effective response to this disrespectful action towards our Sheriff's station and community.

We hope that all the Altadena organizations reach out to us and each other and join the conversation.

In the meantime, if you are a citizen and do not know who or what to write we have included a sample letter to Sheriff Villanueva below. Feel free to copy/paste and add your personal touch, what this means to you, if you so wish.

Sincerely,

Billy Malone, Chair, Altadena Town Council
Billy.malone@altadenatowncouncil.org
Cell 626 893 0787

And

Doug Colliflower, President, Altadena Chamber of Commerce
doug.colliflower@gmail.com
call/text 626.524.4158

Send your comments via email/phone to Sheriff Alex Villanueva at:

Avillan@lasd.org

sibmedia24hrs@lasd.org

213-229-1850 and 213-229-1700

Or via online comment form at: [lasd.org/contact-us/](https://www.lasd.org/contact-us/)

(date)

Dear Sheriff Villanueva,

As a proud resident of the unincorporated area of Altadena, I am extremely concerned and saddened to learn of the closing of our community Sheriff's station. This station not only represents public safety in our close-knit community, but it also represents the drastic change in enhanced community policing because of the hard work between citizens and law enforcement.

Understandably so, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many lives in many ways and will continue to do so for quite some time. However, this is not the time to make drastic decisions without community input that directly affects public safety.

(I/we) implore you to work with the Chief Executive Officer to find alternative ways to mitigate the Department's budget deficit instead of directly hindering the communities you say you are here to protect and serve.

Thank you for taking the time to note my concerns, and I look forward to hearing an update soon.

Sincerely

(Name)