



Altadena

Town Council

730 E. Altadena Dr.
Altadena, CA. 91001

May 8, 2020

Alex Villanueva, Sheriff
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Hall of Justice
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: *Closure of Los Angeles County Altadena Sheriff's Station*

Dear Sheriff Villanueva,

On behalf of the over 47,000 residents of the unincorporated community of Altadena, the Altadena Town Council (ATC) is sending this letter in strong opposition to the upcoming closure of the Altadena Sheriff's Station with which we have forged a strong working relationship, as they have prioritized the safety and well-being of our growing community.

Public Safety at Risk

It is important that you respect our community's extreme concern about your decision to close the station. Over the years, Station captains and deputies have been valuable partners and a vital community resource in building relationships to keep our community safe. We feel that closing the Station, and most certainly eliminating this critical collaboration, will jeopardize the public safety of our residents.

We have received countless calls, emails, texts, letters, and social media communications from Altadena residents expressing their deep concern about your decision and the consequences it will have on the safety and peace of Altadena. Residents are also extremely concerned that such a closure would increase crime in Altadena as it did in the 1990's when the station was last closed.

Local Partnerships

The closure of the Altadena Sheriff's Station will severely damage the years-long relationships built by the Station, the ATC, local schools, community businesses, faith-based organizations, and its residents, which have created a significantly safer Altadena. This closure goes beyond a financial budgetary decision, as it affects the safety of the community and the relationships that will cease to exist.

As the Novel COVID-19 crisis descended upon the nation, the Altadena Sheriff's Station played a critical role in ensuring the public safety of Altadena supermarkets, businesses, parks and trails, and its residents. Closing the station in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis seems to be careless and puts Los Angeles County residents and business owners at risk.

Our Recommendation

The Altadena Town Council strongly recommends that you work with Supervisor Kathryn Barger and the Los Angeles County CEO to look at alternative solutions to address your budget shortfall and ensure that the Altadena Sheriff's Station remain open with its existing level of support. We appreciate our law enforcement and their commitment to protect and to serve, and the ATC respectfully reminds you of *your* commitment, as an elected official, to make decisions without putting the safety of the Altadena public at risk.

Finally, the members of the ATC would like to express our willingness to work with you and the County of Los Angeles leadership to find alternative solutions to keep the station open. If you have questions or would like to discuss our concerns, please contact the Altadena Town Council Chair, Billy Malone, at billy.malone@altadenatowncouncil.org

For Altadena, what is at stake here is beyond the closure of a station. The well-being and safety of our community is our utmost concern and we ask that you strongly reconsider your decision for closing the Altadena Sheriff's Station.

Sincerely,



Altadena Town Council
Billy Malone, Chair

Councilmembers:

Patricia Sutherlen, Vice-Chair

Antonio Becerra

Okorie Ezieme

Victoria Knapp

Jennifer Lee

Diane Marcussen

Jeff Simmonds

Dorothy Wong

Veronica Jones

Gloria Sanyika

Nick Santangelo

Dr. Sandra E. Thomas

Arron Tschida

Sylvia Vega

Dr. Reginald Wilkins

CC: Congresswoman Judy Chu
State Senator Anthony J. Portantino
State Assemblymember Chris Holden
Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Altadena Town Council Members
County of Los Angeles, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
Marjory Jacobs, Captain, Altadena Sheriff's Station
Chris Johnson, Acting Captain, Marina Del Rey Sheriff's Station
Todd Deeds, Captain, La Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station
John Perez, Chief, Pasadena Police Department