

Public Safety in Altadena – Community Value Statement

A collaboration of: SURJ Altadena, My Tribe Rise, DENA United

- 1. We believe in the inherent value of ALL community members in Altadena**, including and especially those of us most in need. This includes our neighbors facing houselessness and poverty, mental health challenges, addiction, and racism, as well as our neighbors who have joined gangs to meet their need for identity, connection, and protection. All people who live and work in Altadena are stakeholders in the project of public safety and must be at the table as we envision a future that centers care and basic needs over policing and punishment.
- 2. We cannot respond to violence by creating more violence.** Racial profiling, wrongful detainments and arrests, and racial fearmongering are forms of violence that add to, rather than resolve, violence in Altadena. Instead, we will only achieve public safety by changing the conditions—poverty, racism, addiction, joblessness, lack of community services—that lead our neighbors to commit violence.
- 3. Violence prevention means investing in Altadena community resources.** Because people commit harm when their basic needs are not met (needs like safety, connection, medical care, housing, employment, healing from trauma), we must invest in community resources if we want to keep Altadena healthy and safe.
- 4. Public safety must be envisioned and enacted by the community itself.** To the extent that policing is desired by the community, Sheriff's deputies must live in, understand, and reflect the diversity of the community.
- 5. No agent of public safety is above the law or free from accountability.** Public safety must be forged through relationships built on trust and mutual respect, not intimidation and harassment by Sheriff's deputies. To the extent that the Altadena community wishes to collaborate with the Altadena Sheriff's Station on issues of community safety, this partnership must be guided by the above values, prioritizing care of our community over submission to the Sheriff's authority.