

# **ACONA Meeting Notes 1/25/2011**

## **Introductions and Welcome**

### **ACONA Website preview**

Elliot showed some screen shots from the ACONA website, <http://www.aconaonline.org>, and invited feedback. Nancy Rothwell: PSARA has already linked back to us from their website. Holly Rundberg, McNally NW suggested having a crime log on the ACONA website. Dick Smoak: Altadena Blog has a link to crime reports. Elliot prefers linking to someone like the Altadena Blog that already has this service.

### **CHP: speed limits in Altadena**

CHP officers Thomas Miller and Ming-Yang Hsu presented a slide show on speed limit enforcement in Altadena. CHP does not get any revenue from traffic tickets. Their budget comes from the vehicle license fee. Thoroughfares must be surveyed (Engineer Traffic Survey, ETS) for radar and lidar to be used. For maximum speed limits (freeways, e.g.) they don't need a survey to use radar or lidar. Speed limits tend to go up when an ETS is done. There is a federal map on CALTRANS that shows the different types of roads ([http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tsip/hseb/crs\\_maps/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tsip/hseb/crs_maps/)). Guidelines for how speeds are set is determined by the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. In Altadena, the county surveyed the streets incorrectly. How an ETS is done: engineer from Public Works goes out to the location and surveys the speeds, counts vehicles, looks at the number of collisions, the number of driveways opening out to that street. Speed is determined by what 85% of traffic is doing on a road. School zones are automatically lower. Lincoln Avenue just got raised from 30 to 35 MPH. Question: How short a segment of road is involved when they set a speed limit? Officer Miller: They usually do the whole road unless it goes into another jurisdiction (county into Pasadena, for example). Example: Woodbury is 40 in county, 30 in Pasadena. "Who you gonna call": If a citizen sees an incident, including a traffic accident, call the Sheriff's Station first. If it's a traffic violation, the Sheriffs will inform the CHP.

### **Altadena Sheriff's Station: Training teens to talk to Sheriff's deputies when stopped**

Sgt. Randenberg showed an Allstate video filmed in Chicago called "The Law and You" showing what happens during traffic stops, loud parties/alcohol, shoplifting and drug involvement — correct and incorrect behavior. The film is directed at youth and is shown in schools. The message is that there should be mutual respect, cooperation and honesty. The Altadena station is working on its own video focusing on our community. The script is in progress. There's going to be role playing, and the kids are going to have an opportunity to be deputies, to see things from the other side of the badge.

- o Keith "Sarge" Gibbs suggested that the kids that should be in the video are the kids he deals with in his boot camps, that have been in the situations that the video is dealing with.

- o Michael Trotman: His goal with neighborhood kids is to build respect and camaraderie. He fears that young kids may be curious and get in the way and make a bad situation worse.
- o Gang activity in Farnsworth Park has decreased because of increased law enforcement presence.

**Open discussion:**

- o Police blotter and crime reports: Need to see arrests.
- o Video: wants to see more scared straight stuff.
- o Need more community relations events. Referred to a hot dog event, deputies coming to neighborhood block parties. Sgt. Randenberg spoke about a San Dimas police practice of going to block parties, hitting the lights and the siren, having the helicopter do a fly-over, then chatting with the neighbors.
- o Kids are afraid of the police. Need to change that.
- o Need more dialog between law enforcement and the kids that are getting into trouble.
- o Police should go to the schools and talk to the kids. VIDA program addresses kids 8-17 to try to keep them straight.
- o Natalie Salazar: The video and improving community relations are ongoing projects. March is Safe Communities Month.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 22 at 7 PM.