



County of Ventura
Supervisor Linda Parks

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING (VIP)
SERVICES FOR OAK PARK
APPROVED BY
THE VENTURA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AND BY THE CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS**

Contract Approved Extending VIP services

VENTURA COUNTY, CA At meetings of the Board of Supervisors and the Thousand Oaks City Council held on February 26, a contract was approved extending Volunteers in Policing (VIP) services into Oak Park from Thousand Oaks in the coming months. The Ventura County Sheriff's Department will provide the VIP services as part of an expansion of similar services already provided to the City of Thousand Oaks. The VIP program will enhance public safety within the Oak Park Community in a cost-efficient manner. Volunteers patrolling neighborhoods will increase the visibility of law enforcement generally and serve to reduce criminal activity.

The VIP program will use Ventura County Sheriff trained volunteers to perform support functions that include vacation house checks, observing and reporting suspicious/criminal activity, writing routine reports, assisting officers with various traffic related matters, crime scene security, and completing field interviews. Having volunteers provide these services enables sworn personnel to concentrate on activities requiring a higher level of training, thus providing a greater overall level of public safety services to the community.

Funding for the VIP program will be from the existing revenue of Community Service Area No. 4 in Oak Park, which is funded by property taxes in Oak Park. The estimated cost of the VIP services is \$25,000 annually.

Before the VIP services commence, the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) will review recommendations on the specific duties of the VIP in Oak Park. Oak Park MAC meetings are open to the public and are generally held the fourth Tuesday of the month in Oak Park at the Oak Park Library. The meetings deal with issues of concern to the Oak Park Community as well as providing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on land use, public safety, and governmental issues.

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Contact

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