



City Of Camarillo

601 Carmen Drive • P.O. Box 248 • Camarillo, CA 93011-0248

Office Of the Mayor
(805) 388-5307
Fax (805) 388-5318

RECEIVED
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

JUL 25 2003

July 23, 2003

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

Honorable Bruce A. Clark
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Judge Clark:

The City of Camarillo is pleased to respond to the 2002-2003 Grand Jury's recommendation number R-5 from report entitled *Intervention Programs for Delinquent Non-Violent Juveniles by the Sheriff and Probation Departments in Ventura County*.

Recommendation R-5 states: "If the Sheriff is unable to fund programs formally under his jurisdiction, contract cities should continue or add programs for youth at risk in their communities."

Camarillo has contracted with the Ventura County Sheriff for municipal law enforcement services, and has been doing so since incorporation in 1964. As the city has grown, we have implemented a number of police programs that are unique to our City and that are not reliant upon the uncertainty of County funding.

The following is a list of Camarillo programs directed toward at-risk youth:

Program Information:

School Resource Officers:

The City of Camarillo currently has two school resource officers. One officer is assigned to Camarillo High School and is funded jointly by the city and the Oxnard High School District. The other officer is solely funded by the city and works at the middle and elementary schools.

The role of these officers is to be visible on campus and assist as needed. They also create and administer several programs on and off campus (see below).

Camarillo Police Explorer Post (Affiliated with Learning for Life)

Police Explorers participate in non-hazardous police work and do community service type work. For example, they provide station tours to citizen groups, provide traffic control at city functions such as the Christmas Parade, do "Bicycle Rodeos" for children and participate in other duties as deemed appropriate by Explorer advisors who are Deputy Sheriffs.

In exchange for their hard work and effort, the Explorer Scouts are able to participate in Explorer competitions against other posts from around the western United States. They are also treated to weekend trips and short summer vacations.

Explorer Scouts are eligible to receive up to 10 high school credits for their participation in the program.

The Explorer Post receives \$2000 annually from the city for expenses. Additional money needed to run the post comes from participating in fund raising events.

Parent Project:

This is a ten-week program designed to assist parents in dealing with "Strong willed" children. The classes are three hours, once a week, for three hours, and are held for ten consecutive weeks. Instructors for the program are primarily from the Camarillo Police Department and have attended a 40-hour facilitator program in order to teach the class.

The Camarillo Police Department is in the process of utilizing instructors from the school district because the classes have been so successful.

This is an ongoing program and is funded by the Camarillo Police Department. The only cost to the participants is in the form of a required workbook, which costs the participant \$20. In the event of a hardship and the participants are unable to cover the cost of the workbook, the Camarillo Police Department will donate the workbook.

Diversion:

Our Youth Services Deputy administers this program for those juveniles who are first time offenders. When juveniles are arrested for certain offenses, they may participate in this program.

The program consists of attending an evening program, one time, with a parent. During the program, the juveniles are assigned community service hours that they must complete. There are also guest speakers, usually juvenile inmates from the local detention center, who talk about consequences of their actions and how to stay away from trouble.

By successfully completing this program, the juveniles will prevent their case from being forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for review and possible filing in criminal court.

Anger Management:

This is a seven-week program administered by the Youth Services Deputy with the assistance of the county Probation Department. The meetings are held for one hour per week at the Camarillo Police Station.

Juveniles are assigned to this program as a result of their violent demeanor toward someone or something. Attendees can be assigned to this program by officers, or at the request of their parents.

STEP (Sheriff's Truancy Education Program):

The Camarillo Youth Officer administers this program in cooperation with the District Attorney's office. This is a four-step progressive program that attempts to get students to attend school. The steps include Saturday school for first time offenders and can lead all the way up to arrest for both the juvenile and his/her parents if the juvenile continually fails to attend school.

R.M. Pyles Boys Camp:

This is an outdoor camp that was founded in the late forties by R.M. Pyles, a then local oilman. The camp was created in order to work with troubled youth and help them turn their lives around.

The Camarillo Police Department has worked with this organization for many years. The Police Department's role in this program is to act as selectors for the camp. Over the years, many of Camarillo's youth have been referred to this program.

There is no cost to the families or the Police Department.

STOMP (Anti-Smoking Campaign)

This program was created jointly in cooperation with the Camarillo Police Department, Pleasant Valley School District and the Camarillo Boys and Girls Club. In this program, the Police Department brings an Anti-Smoking campaign to the Boys and Girls Club. After hearing the anti-smoking message, the children participate in pick-up basketball games with Deputy Sheriffs and participate in other fun activities at the club, including a dance with a live DJ.

This event was initially funded through a small grant but has grown so much that it is now self-funded. The event is held monthly on Friday nights, at the Boys and Girls Club.

Reading Program:

The School Resource officer in the elementary schools administers this program. In this program, deputies volunteer to go to designated schools and read to first through third grade students.

This is one of the most sought after programs in the schools as it puts deputies in the classrooms with the children and gives the children to opportunity to see and speak with these deputies in a non-threatening manner.

Kid Print:

The Camarillo Police Department's Crime Prevention Bureau administers this program.

Citizen Patrol Volunteers use a computerized fingerprinting system to create "credit card" sized ID cards for children. The cards contain a picture of the child along with a fingerprint and a physical description. The "Kid Print" events are scheduled at special events throughout the city and are conducted at least once per month. Additionally, on the first Tuesday of every month, Citizen Patrol members set up the Kid Print system at the police station between 1230-1630 hours. The initial system was purchased through a grant. The only ongoing expense is for the blank cards that the information is printed on.

As you can see, the City of Camarillo, through the direct operation of youth directed programs, or in partnership with other governmental agencies, is very proactive in assisting our youth in enjoying a high quality of life.

Ventura County Grand Jury Report
Recommendation Number R-5
Page Five

The City is not aware of any at-risk youth programs operated by the Sheriff within the City of Camarillo. Therefore, should the Sheriff be forced to eliminate county programs, due to decisions by the Board of Supervisors to cease funding, we do not anticipate Camarillo to be impacted.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Craven". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Charlotte Craven
Mayor