

DELANO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF MARK P. DEROSIA, ED.D.

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Dear residents of Delano,

Over the last couple of months, the city has been plagued with shootings. Without going into specifics, as some of our investigative efforts as a case may be jeopardized by releasing specific information, the Delano Police Department is working hard to get to the bottom of what is going on.

Most of these shootings are a direct result of gang activity and gang retaliation. The police department has responded to these crimes with increased patrols, surveillance programs, targeted patrols, additional officers being placed on the street, increased investigative staff, and joint efforts with other law enforcement agencies. What Delano is experiencing is not specific to just Delano. In fact, almost every city in Kern County has experienced the increase in gang violence. Irrespective of what is going on in other cities, we are working hard to bring these criminal acts to a stop as we believe any sort of crime is unacceptable.

The violence being experienced in Delano is not specific to one location within the city, although some locations have had more activity than others. We maintain a high visibility in these areas, but law enforcement must provide services to the entire city. We take crime and your safety very seriously.

I am asking each of you to do a few things to help in this situation. Of course, we do not encourage any resident to attempt to make citizen arrests or apprehended criminals, but instead be a good witness. In all but one of our shootings, we have had uncooperative victims who refuse to provide us information as to who the shooter might be, or the reason for the shooting. In one shooting, residents observed the shooting and provided enough information to us that we were able to make a solid arrest, and that person is still in custody pending trial for his crimes. If you think something is out of the ordinary, you should call the police and report the information. If you do not belong to a neighborhood watch group, you should join. If you have children, know who they are with and what they are doing when they are away from the home. Be aware of your surroundings and alternate your routes so that you are not establishing patterns.

Our city is one that each of should be proud of as we have a diverse history and a diverse melting pot of cultures within our city. We have a long tradition of helping others and doing the right thing. We are a city that should stand up and say enough is enough, and crime is not welcome in our city. We all need to be great witnesses, and get involved. If you would like to start a neighborhood watch program, please contact Community Service Officer Eddie Aguil at 661-720-2278.

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I know that each of you want to be a part of the solution and will do your part to help reduce these incidents within our city. I look forward to working with you to help accomplish a "crime-free" Delano. Stand up and be noticed—this city is worth all of us giving it our best!

Very sincerely,



Mark P. DeRosia
CHIEF OF POLICE