

Unit Order #27 - Sheriff's Clergy Council

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

CRESCENTA VALLEY STATION

UNIT ORDER # 27

SHERIFF'S CLERGY COUNCIL

It is the policy of the Crescenta Valley Station to support and facilitate the activities of the Sheriff's Clergy Council, an interfaith and interdenominational body of local clergy and lay leaders organized with the concurrence of Sheriff Jim McDonnell. As certified civilian volunteers, the members of the Clergy Council are an integral part of Crescenta Valley Station's Crime Prevention/Community Relations team. Moreover, they are aware that it is a privilege to be a civilian volunteer, and they serve at the discretion of the Sheriff.

Created to augment the services provided by the Sheriff's Department, the Clergy Council is expected to help improve service and increase the level of understanding between the Department and the Community. The Clergy Council is in a unique position to provide the Department and the Community with the following benefits:

- A unified and supportive fellowship among local clergy and peacemakers in volatile situations by virtue of their office and presence,
- Spiritual guidance during crisis situations, emotional support for the victims of violent crimes, and visits to local family members of troubled youth,
- An extra pair of hands to provide continuing care for residents when time constraints prevent deputies from working out a complete resolution.

Clergy Council members shall be afforded every courtesy and shall adhere to the requirements delineated in the Manual of Policy and Procedures, Civilian Volunteer Program Coordinator's Manual and Volunteers on Patrol Manual. Equally as important, station personnel shall take every opportunity to develop and explore meaningful partnerships with the Clergy Council.

Guidelines and Responsibilities

United in religious dedication and committed to improving the quality of life in La Crescenta, La Canada Flintridge, and the surrounding area in every capacity possible, the Clergy Council's overall responsibilities include assisting and supporting Crescenta Valley Station by providing the following services:

- Providing on-call response to crisis situations (rapes, homicides, disturbances, etc.) at the request of deputy personnel,
- Maintaining open lines of communication between the Community and the personnel of Crescenta Valley Station.

Membership Requirements

Membership in the Crescenta Valley Station Sheriff's Clergy Council is predicated upon the following criteria:

- Must be an adult (18 years of age or older),
- Ordained or licensed minister/pastor and/or hold equivalent spiritual stature in his/her respective community,
- It is strongly recommended but not required that the member successfully complete the Crescenta Valley Station's Clergy or Community Academy or the clergy academy of a law enforcement agency recognized by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department,
- Completed background investigation,
- Approval of the unit commander.

Meetings

The Crescenta Valley Station's Sheriff's Clergy Council meets monthly.

Liaison

Functional oversight and liaison with the Clergy Council will be the responsibility of the Crime Prevention/Community Relations Sergeant and Deputy. All matters related to the Clergy Council shall be referred to them.

On-call Procedures

Capable of providing spiritual support during a crisis or defusing volatile situations, the members of the Sheriff's Clergy Council are available to visit local families, and provide deputies with an extra set of hands when time constraints prevent additional involvement. Sometimes the reporting party will need the services of the clergy as much as, or more than, he needs a police report.

If those needs are immediate, it may be beneficial to contact an on-call member of the Clergy Council. At the request of deputy personnel and with the concurrence of the Field Sergeant, the Watch Deputy will contact the available Clergy Council member.

Call-outs

The following is a list of the circumstances where the on-call services of the Clergy Council may prove beneficial:

- Crisis situations (rape, assaults, homicides, disturbance, etc.),
- Crisis intervention (a death in the family, a family or civil disturbance, etc.),

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- Spiritual counseling (death, divorce, loneliness, anxiety, etc.),
- Any clergy-related tasks that may help diffuse difficult situations.

Considerations

Notwithstanding their availability, on-call Clergy Council members shall abide with the following:

- Clergy Council members must follow directions given by the deputies at all times,.
- Clergy Council members cannot accompany a deputy into a private residence without verbal approval from the resident,
- Clergy Council members should be prepared to respond to Crescenta Valley Station, local hospitals, or the private residence of the reporting party,
- Clergy Council members shall not become involved in or interfere with any investigation by handling evidence, conducting discussions with the victim or suspects, or handling police equipment.

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Crescenta Valley Station

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Date Approved
