



# Staff Town Hall

## Featuring Captain Don Rubio

13 July 2020 / 2:00PM / Zoom Meeting

### Updates

- **As we continue with our Black Lives Matter series this Summer, this week's joint Town Hall meeting we welcome Captain D. Rubio to answer direct questions from our concerned students, staff, and faculty members.**

### Q&A

**Q:** Captain Rubio, we don't feel safe with police on campus. Police shouldn't be the first responders to unhoused students on campus looking for shelter. Also, we cannot trust you as a whole because you do not hold your coworkers accountable and are encouraged not to do so. How will you make sure you are not involved in student affairs?

**A:** If you're speaking about a specific situation that I don't know about, I would love to hear about it. When there have been Free Speech areas, we always stay away from those areas unless there are no proper permits. We definitely want to keep the learning environment safe. If there are individuals on the campus who are not allowed to be there without a permit, we do everything we can to remove them safely. We are contracted to keep the students safe and to work with them. We want you all to feel comfortable to talk to us, report incidents, and ask questions. I'm all ears to take suggestions and be proactive. We're here to protect you, I understand there is sensitivity when it comes to policing right now but understand that police are here to keep you safe. If we aren't on campus, you'll be waiting hours for a response when help is actually needed.

**Q:** What are you doing at LACC every day?

**A:** So, as you know, we have what's called a check in and check out point of entry because of COVID-19. Unfortunately, in March, we had to shut down all our campuses and LACC was a very difficult one because there's so many outskirts that people can walk into. So, we've had a very challenging time securing the campus because we obviously want to stop the threat of the spread of COVID-19 and we also respect the residents as well. Each and every day, starting at 6am, we have our officers arrive, along with their devotees and they'll make sure that someone's at that check in point and usually two or three officers will be at the checkpoint. Every campus for that matter, has about 102 personnel come on to the campus, and so those are the main people that are on the campus currently and sometimes there will be administrators there as well. During that time or officers have a timeframe in which they need to patrol a certain area of the campus, whether you the gym area, the Student Center, the actual track, and field, etc. In addition to the patrolling we obviously answer phone calls. We also take crime reports. We also have cameras in our station that monitor all of the various areas throughout the campus. Most of our classrooms are closed however we still do random checks of classrooms and make sure they're closed because unfortunately sometimes services may not lock them all and that's okay.

**Q:** Is LACC reopening in the Fall? It is unsafe with Coronavirus. Mary, what will you do to make sure our students are safe?

**A:** We are planning to have all classes in the Fall fully online and remote, we are not planning to have any classes on campus. We are not cleared yet to have any classes on campus. We made plans, preliminarily, to bring back those few classes that couldn't be converted online in the Spring, but we have not even been authorized to do that. We are awaiting guidelines for the LA County Department of Public Health. For some courses that require in person classes that are deemed essential by the Department of Public Health for Higher Education, when we are able to return, PPE will be provided to both faculty and students so that everyone is protected. The same PPE will be used for faculty and students. But to be clear, we are NOT planning any in person activities in the Fall.

**Q:** Captain Rubio, what are you doing to hold fellow officers accountable? Can you go through the process in detail?

**A:** We definitely hold our staff accountable. We have an internal affairs unit that properly investigates officers. We relieve them of duty or put them on desk duty separate from the campus while an investigation is conducted.

**Q:** What do you all wearing Khakis make a difference to us?

**A:** We have been listening to and discussing the concerns that we've heard over the last few weeks. One of the complaints was that we looked too militant and threatening, so I suggested that we change our uniforms. The polo shirt look was mentioned, and some people in our department already wear those uniforms. So that's why I'm making that change, it'll make civilians feel more comfortable.

**Q:** What kind of technology do you use for crime prevention?

**A:** We have a crime analysis who uses data to keep record of the types of crimes that are happening. For example, if the data shows that there have been 30 reports of vandalism in a parking lot, we are going to move our focus to that parking lot and respond.

**Q:** What exactly are the crimes you are referring to? Can you be specific to what the crimes were and exactly how they were handled?

**A:** We have a wide range including sexual battery, robberies, grand theft, auto theft, hit and runs, vandalism, petty theft. We have a slew of crimes that occur on campus and next Town Hall I can go into more detail.

**Q:** Do you teach how policing in the US rooted in slavery (during the process of becoming a Sheriff)?

**A:** No, there isn't any discussion. We have various types of training that last for 5 months. We take our profession very seriously. This is an 8 hour job but it's not who I am. Each decade, policing has changed dramatically. I remember being afraid of police when I was young. I know that there are bad police officers but once I joined I learned that these officers are individuals who care about their communities. Bad apples have been rooted out of our department.

**Q:** What portion of the District's budget goes to the Sheriff's department?

**A:** The portion of the budget that goes to the sheriff's department is 0.03% so it's not 1% it's less than 1% it's .03 percent of the district's budget is the sheriff's contract. When we contract with the Sheriff, we get their personnel as well as

access to additional resources if something big happens and a response is needed (helicopters, bomb sniffing dogs, response squads, etc.)

**Q:** Classified Staff is part of this campus. How are you protecting our staff?

**A:** When a staff has an issue, we respond as swiftly as possible. We protect them anytime there's an issue, rather it be stalking, trespassing, etc. We care about everyone on our campus. If you call and need assistance rather it be walking to your car, taking a report, etc., we will help.

**Q:** Do you see the Department ever coming up with Rules of Engagement (ROE's) to engage students and or civilians?

**A:** We have to have probable cause to engage with an individual. Our rule of thumb is to never enter a classroom to interrupt it unless a disturbance is made to where the learning environment isn't conducive. We do have cameras on us and will be filming encounters from this point on. Plain and simple, we won't contact someone unless a true crime has been made.

**Q:** Since there is a single door to the Sheriff's office for check-in/check-out, can there be a hand sanitizer dispenser station setup at that door or can that door be left open during these Covid concerns?

**A:** We will make sure we get this question to facilities and have them put in a dispensary right away. Thank you for this suggestion.

**Q:** Are all calls to the Sheriff reported? I have been on campus and found unauthorized individuals, called the Sheriff, but no report is filed. How can I feel safe if I don't feel there is transparency or a process.

**A:** Only time a report is filed is when there is a crime. We do have a Campus Incident Report where we document odd behavior, etc., but unless a crime is committed, a report will not be filed. If a call is made about an individual, we will respond but we also keep in mind that people have rights. We aren't looking to arrest anyone just because another person says that they don't belong there.

**Q:** Can you please go over all 3 instances of use of force that were used this year?

**A:** 1. Valley college, an individual stole a golf cart, not a student. We put him in the backseat of the squad car, he popped his head out of the window and we had to

put it back in. It was not rough but even that is considered using force. This was captured on camera.

2. Highschool, a person drove into the campus. She was somewhat mentally ill and was running through the parking lot. The car was determined to be stolen, so we had to detain her, and she tried to wiggle away from the officers. The officers had to control her and that was considered force. This incident was also captured on camera.

3. City College, an interviewee was detained and tried to pull away from us and we had to detain them using minor force.

Each instance was with an individual who was not a student and all incidents were recorded.