

News Release

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Rancho Cordova Community Alliance Award

Unique Partnership Between City of Rancho Cordova and County Probation

On October 24, 2013 the City of Rancho Cordova is being honored by the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers for the "Most Innovative Program in 2013". Rancho Cordova was selected for their unique collaboration with the Sacramento County Probation Department called the Rancho Cordova Community Alliance.

In March of 2011, the Sacramento County Probation department approached Rancho Cordova to suggest a pilot program that would house two Probation Officers with Code Enforcement and Animal Services under the Department of Neighborhood Services. The intent was they would work with Code Enforcement staff and the Problem Oriented Police Officers (POP) to work on joint concerns within the community. The offer was eagerly accepted and Deputy Probation Officer Derek Casebeer and Senior Deputy Probation Officer Matthew Mitchell began working exclusively with the City of Rancho Cordova. One of the positions is funded through the City of Rancho Cordova's Code Enforcement budget and Probation funds the second position.

Having two probation officers available to assist code enforcement staff in the field has been extremely beneficial to the City of Rancho Cordova. One of the first cases the team worked on together is typical of the type of issues they work on regularly. On their first case the team was called to a home due to blighted conditions and a dog being tethered in a front yard. Officer Casebeer found the resident was on formal probation and Code Enforcement, Animal Services and Probation visited the property together. In addition to numerous housing code violations, a large quantity of methamphetamine was found and a six year old child living at the property tested positive for methamphetamine. In the end, two children were placed with responsible family members and both parents were sentenced to five years in prison. Since then, the team regularly handles cases with similar positive outcomes.

The officers' duties also include:

- Presentations to a variety of agencies and community based organizations.
- Conduct searches, effect arrests and oversee tactical operations to ensure compliance of probationers and AB 109 offenders.
- Assist law enforcement agencies with the investigation and prosecution of offenders in Rancho Cordova area.
- Assist probationers and citizens to access appropriate community resources.

The City of Rancho Cordova has contracted to retain the two probation officers for another two years and believes this collaborative model could successful be in other jurisdictions.

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