# PALM DESERT CITIZENS ON PATROL 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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LOUISE KELSEY

LYNN BELL

**EARLE WOLFE** 

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

Palm Desert's Citizens on Patrol (COPS) is a group of citizen volunteers that serve as the eyes and ears of the City and the Palm Desert Police Department. COPS volunteers conduct proactive non-confrontational patrols in business districts and residential neighborhoods. They watch for crime, safety hazards, parking problems, ordinance violations, suspicious activities, and other potential problem areas, reporting potential problems to the police department or the city. In addition, COPS members may be assigned to provide traffic control for special events and assist the police department when needed with traffic accidents and DUI checkpoints. They are equipped with police radios, cellular telephones, and highly visible vehicles for patrols. Their activities enhance the individual and collective safety and general welfare of all people of the City of Palm Desert.



SAM PICKERING LOUISE KELSEY

### KAREN SUMMERS JEFF LISTON

### **COMMENTS FROM THE CAPTAIN**

I am immensely proud of the strides the Palm Desert Citizens On Patrol Program made in 2023. Our second full year back from the shutdown from the covid pandemic saw our membership rise from 19 members to 27 members, a whopping 42% increase! This personnel increase has allowed us to greatly increase our patrol presence and cover more positions at the special events. Our Patrol Division has continued to add to our Policies and Procedures handbook and developed advanced training procedures. They are adding several new Field Training Officer positions in 2024 to assist the Training Sgt. and Lt. handle the increase in Our recruits. new Administrative Division has moved most of our files to the "cloud". In the past, when an Officer resigned from the program, many of their files were only on their personal computer. By moving them to the cloud, future access will not be affected by personnel changes. They have also updated our inventory procedures to keep a closer watch on our equipment. A new pop-up tent and tablecloth with our logo and contact info on them has enhanced our recruiting presence at City events.



Of course, none of these advances would be possible without the dedication of our volunteer members. Volunteering in the COPs program is vastly different from most volunteer programs. Members must not only be able to interact with the community in a positive manner but must also be able to handle the difficulty of working in the dangerous environment of traffic control on busy streets while maintaining their own safety. This is not a volunteer program for most people. It takes dedication and courage, and our members excel in this. I am so proud of them! You will meet many of our members throughout this report.

We also wish to thank the City of Palm Desert and the Riverside Sheriff's Department for their continued support and look forward to another great year working with them in 2019.



**MIKE DECKETT** 

**KURT DAVIS** 

ALAN ADAMS

# **BY THE NUMBERS**

### PALM DESERT CITIZENS ON PATROL REPORT - 2022 VERSUS 2023

MANPOWER AND INCIDENT PREPORT	2022 YEAR-TO-DATE*	2023 YEAR-TO-DATE	YEAR/YEAR % CHANGE			
1. Total Hours Patrolled (Patrols are usually 4-6 hours):	5522	6506	18%			
2. Total Number of Patrols Conducted:	453	536	18%			
3. Numbers of Members in Program:	19	27	42%			
A. Requests Received from Sheriff's Dept. Dispatch for Assistance:	31	83	168%			
B. Number of Incidents Responded to From Scanner and Via Observation:	182	173	-5%			
C. Number of Incidents Reported to Sheriff's Dept. For Action:	38	64	68%			
D. Number of Incidents Reported to City For Action:	517	516	0%			
C.+ D. = Total Number of Incidents Reported to City, Sheriff, etc.:	553	522	-6%			
E. Number of Citations Issued / Yellow Warning Citations Issued:	216	192	-11%			
F. Number of Flyers/Posters/Banners Removed from City areas:	192	213	11%			

This display highlights the main items that we track each month. Both the total hours patrolled and the number of patrols increased due to our increased membership. Our best improvement though is the "Number of Request Received from the Sheriff's Department for our Assistance". We had been pushing for the Sheriff to use our assistance more and it is now happening.



JEFF LISTON

**DAVID BENDELL** 

## **VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR THE YEAR**



Our members are required to put in at least 20 hours per month if they are not working or 10 hours if they are still employed. Some members are gone for the summer so their total hours may not be as high as others. Please note the high number of hours put in by our Patrol Lieutenant and Training Sergeant. This is due to the large number of new members who joined. In Lt. MacFarlane's case, he likes to tell us he puts in a lot of hours because "His wife married him for better or worse but not for lunch every day!"



**GEORGE AVANS** 

JUDY GARLAND

**BRIAN MAHER** 

## **CITIZENS ON PATROL HISTORY**

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#### **ORIGINAL SIGN-UP SHEET**

#### **CURRENT VIMS ONLINE SIGN-UP**

The current version of the COPs program began in approximately 2005. Frankie Riddle was the city representative overseeing the program. She convinced Saul Roisenthal to join the program. He was appointed Captain. Our original offices were on Joni Drive. We moved to our current offices in approximately 2013.

Originally, the form on the above left was used to schedule patrols. This form was passed around at our monthly members' meeting at which time they would line up their patrols for the following month. They would fill in their dates and those who wished to patrol with that person would sign up at the same time signifying their desire to join that member. As you can imagine, signing up a month in advance caused a lot of changes and cancellations. Frankie got involved with a gentleman named Art Femister, who taught Amy Lawrence and Earle Wolfe the inner workings of the VIMS (Volunteer Integrated Management System) program. Incorporating the VIMS program was a tremendous asset to the COPS program.



PHIL CURIA TOM NIEHAUS SHARON- STEWART PICKERING

LLOYD DOOLITTLE

# **EVENTS THE COPS ASSIST AT**





**CHRISTMAS SHOP WITH A COP** 

**GOLFCART PARADE** 



PALM DESERT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



HALF MARATHON



### PAULINE MORRISSEY LYNN BELL DAVID BENDELL ERIC MORRISSEY

## **MORE EVENTS THE COPS ASSIST AT**



### **FASHION WEEK**

COFFEE WITH A COP







**DUI/DRIVERS LICENSE CHECKPOINTS** 

#### **CONCERT IN THE PARK**



LORI RICHERSON

**PURNELL DAVIS** 

HARRY STONE

## **CLOSING STATEMENT**

The Palm Desert COPS are an effective program for the city in regards to police budget reduction, public safety and enhanced city image. They are a great group of people who prove the old adage –

You do not have to have a lot of time to volunteer,

just a lot of heart!