

February 2016

Birthstone: Amethyst
Flower: Violet or Primrose

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



As your City Manager, I want each of you to know that while the City has experienced a high number of unprecedented homicides over the last 15 months, that your City Council and I stand united with Chief Martin and the men and women of our Police Department in their quest to solve these unanswered and senseless crimes.

As leaders of this community we are outraged and frustrated with these tragic events; however, we must all remain resolute in our convictions and fight against these types of incidents. We must remain positive and not let them shape us nor intimidate us from doing what we do best – providing exceptional public service.

Our Police Department is working on these cases full-time. Our Police Department is here to protect and to serve - and they are doing a yeoman's job in this regard. We have redeployed personnel in our Police Department to make solving these crimes a high priority, while at the same time, increasing patrols throughout the City.

We went from having five officers in our detective bureau to over a dozen, we've re-hired retired officers and detectives to assist in these matters, and we're also working with outside agencies to assist in these investigations. Patrol shifts have been adjusted to have more police officers out patrolling our City streets, and more surveillance cameras will be deployed throughout our City.

I have full faith and confidence that the Police Department is doing everything within its ability to solve these cases and continue to make our City streets safe. We are also joining efforts with the school districts, faith-based and non-profit organizations, concerned citizens as well as other outside agencies to help find meaningful and practical solutions to these ever-growing acts of violence with the goal of protecting the youth in the community and saving lives. However, you need to realize that Santa Maria is not alone in this matter as other medium- to large-size cities are also seeing a spike in violent crimes.

So I ask that you, my fellow City employees, as well as the public, be patient and supportive of our Police Department as they continue to work their way through these investigations. We all must be vigilant and aware of our surroundings. Having said that, many of you drive throughout the City during your daily workday, and in doing so, I ask that you please keep a lookout for any suspicious activities and if you see any, report it immediately to the Police Department.

Rick