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of the
TOWN HALL MEETING
January 21, 2009 @ 7:00pm
LDPOA HACIENDA

Hosted By:

Supervisor John Gray - Tuolumne County Fourth District
Tuolumne County Sheriff-Coroner James W. Mele
28 N. Lower Sunset Dr., Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-5855 Fax (209) 533-5831

Moderator:

Lt. George Ruckman, Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department

Additional Speakers:

Lt. J. P. Jones, Jail Commander - Tuolumne County Sheriff's Dept.
Lt. Dan Bressler, Patrol Commander - Tuolumne County Sheriff's Dept.
Under Sheriff Keith Lunney, Tuolumne County
Deputy Sheriff Paul Tualla, Tuolumne County
(209) 533-5857 Fax (209) 533-5860
David Clevenger, Executive Director Tuolumne County Sheriff's Community Service Unit
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Special Guest:

Adam Christianson, Stanislaus County Sheriff-Coroner
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358
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Hacienda Pavilion: 7:03 pm

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, let's go ahead and get started, the hour is right. My name is George Ruckman, I am a Lieutenant with the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department. I'd like to start down the table; this is Sheriff Adam Christianson from Stanislaus County....

Sheriff Christianson: Good evening everybody

Lt. Ruckman: Lieutenant J.P. Jones, he's our Jail Commander in Tuolumne...

Lt. Jones: Good evening...

Lt. Ruckman: Lt. Dan Bressler is our Patrol Commander for Tuolumne County....

Lt. Bressler: Good evening.

Lt. Ruckman: Under Sheriff Keith Lunney

Under Sheriff Lunney: Evening.

Lt. Ruckman: Then there's Sheriff Jim Mele from Tuolumne County...

Sheriff Mele: Hello

Lt. Ruckman: and Fourth District Supervisor of Tuolumne County Mr. John Gray...

Supervisor Gray: Good evening.

Lt. Ruckman: How would you like to...?

Sheriff Mele: Well, what we'd like to do is, ah, why don't we start this....first of all, we want to thank you all for coming here tonight, this is actually a very good crowd that have come out here with us, I think our third time we've been down here, second or third time, and so thank you for coming down here. The word obviously got out and Ken Kennedy I want to thank you for your hospitality, the Hacienda, and for that, thank you very much.

LDPOA President Ken Kennedy: Our pleasure.

Tuolumne County Sheriff Jim Mele: I also want to thank Adam Christianson from Stanislaus County. Adam and I have a great relationship as we do with Mariposa also, and the last time we were down here, Jim Allen from Mariposa, who is now a supervisor, came down, and we had Mariposa County Sheriff here with us, but as we, this area here is with three counties, Stanislaus, Mariposa and Tuolumne County, so it's very important that we have a great working relationship and we do have a great working relationship with Stanislaus and Mariposa. The one thing that I can say about Stanislaus is that they train our deputies that are coming to our, to us, as lead deputies. They have an academy down here is a very well run academy and Adam runs that, and so what he's teaching there our deputies, and where his people are, it's mirrored. So it's the same, it's a great working relationship so I appreciate him being here tonight and coming down. But what I'd like is, George could be the moderator and we will open it up to questions whatever questions that you may have, I brought and I invited Supervisor John Gray, I think this is the first....

Supervisor John Gray: Well, since the campaign (laughter)

Sheriff Mele: Since the campaign end... (laughter) a couple of weeks ago I thought "why not throw him into the fire right now" (laughter)

Supervisor:Great place to be,

Sheriff Mele: OK, thank you, and so we're appreciative that you were so willing to come down here and to meet with you and I'd let him give a little intro to himself and what not and also to add, but I'd also like to recognize the CSU, our volunteers that are here. They come to all of our meetings they do a wonderful job and I'd ask them, how many hours did you, have you done for us?

(Unknown individual answering): In 16 years, 250,000 hours of volunteer (audience gasp with mumbling comments of surprise)

Sheriff Mele: 250,000 hours of volunteer, each year, they ask for a raise and I keep cutting their pay (laughter) so, if you don't mind Adam if you don't mind giving a little spiel about yourself, a little bio about yourself and how long you've been in law enforcement and what they can expect from the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department.

Stanislaus Sheriff Adam Christianson: Sounds good, well thank you Sheriff I appreciate the invitation to be here it's always an opportunity to demonstrate exactly what the sheriff said that we're a team. We face a lot of challenges in public safety right now with budget, staffing, with methamphetamine with a variety of issues and really the only way to get the job done and effectively serve the community is to do that through partnerships. Sharing the resources and costs of getting the job done and I am one of those grateful lucky sheriffs in that so far the budget really hasn't had a serious impact on me, I'm fully staffed and basically would consider myself kind of the "one thousand pound gorilla" in that I still have resources available to meet the community's needs and certainly as the sheriff mentioned, our relationship is very good. We are friends and so I have told the sheriff on a number of occasions that if he needs our help all he has to do is call and I will allocate resources to come anywhere in Tuolumne County to help the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department and that doesn't come with an invoice by the way, because you know that's how we recover costs is people start invoicing each other and I'm just not a guy that believes in that. I've been in law enforcement for about twenty years prior to my service in law enforcement I was a paramedic in the community. I worked for Medi flight I was a flight paramedic based in Memorial Medical Center in Modesto. I worked for a variety of agencies but back in late 2005 Sheriff Les Wideman (spelling?) retired and I came up with this really crazy idea to run for sheriff and I discovered pretty quickly that campaigns are not necessarily a fun thing but I am very grateful that the people of Stanislaus County elected me to be their sheriff and so I serve that community and certainly, you know the Sheriff in Mariposa County, Tuolumne, Calaveras, where ever it's at we all work together. The sheriffs statewide, all 58 of us, work pretty closely together and again that's a benefit. I have an operation that covers about 1,521 square miles, I provide contractual law enforcement services to four of the nine incorporated cities in the county. I have 825 employees about a 93 million dollar budget, I provide a variety of services including the coroner's division which we again help Sheriff Mele out with, I've got three custodial facilities the lucky part for the sheriff? He has

a lot less people in custody than I do, and so that's always kind of a challenge for us, but the courts, civil division, patrol, detectives, adult detention, it's a pretty big organization. I have resources a dive team, bomb team, SWAT team, air support, you know we've sent our helicopters up here before on search and rescue and again, I'm happy to do that, so whatever questions you have tonight, I'm happy to answer, I can, you know, it's a pleasure to get in front of people and have folks be able to have direct access to us and ask the questions that they need and kind of get a better idea of our service to the community, so thank you for having me here.

Tuolumne County Sheriff James Mele: Thank you sheriff, and the part about the invoice, we have been working together for several years even before we became sheriffs, he was running the air unit when I was working for Lt. Rockren and anytime we called Sheriff Christianson, he always was willing to give up his helicopter to come up here at a moments notice, so he speaks the truth when he talks about no strings attached and it is very appreciative that we can get those resources. I'll turn some time over to Supervisor Gray and he can address the group here.

Supervisor John Gray: OK, first, thanks for inviting me. When you get to know me you will know I am a person of few words so I don't talk for a very long time but I want all of you to know I do represent you. I'm here to work for you that's my job. The other part of my job is to do my best to provide the resources for the sheriff to do his job better. It is difficult at this time with the State, the way they're, looks like they are going to be funding the counties so we got a big chore ahead of us, but I feel very confident that we have a very strong team involving the county and we will continue to provide good services to you. One of my plans here in the very near future is to be available down here in Don Pedro at least one day a month for at least half a day. I have not set the schedule yet but when I am down here I would like people to come by express their concerns and I'll work my best to resolve them. Thanks for having me.

Sheriff Mele: What we'll do now is,... we'll go ahead and turn it over to George, and the reason why I'm kind of skipping the bio on myself and the Under Sheriff, the Lieutenants is that, this is like our second or third time and we don't want to, I think some of us have been here before and you know who we are and what not, so we'll go ahead and turn it over to Lt. Ruckman and he can be our moderator and if you have any question to ask, this is your opportunity folks to ask. You know, we are here to answer, and we'll give you an honest true answer. We want honest good questions, so thank you again for being here, so....it's open to you guys.

Lt. Ruckman: Yes Maam.

Millie Beranek: Yes, I wanted to make sure that Sheriff Christianson, I'm really happy to meet you and have you here today and also tell you that we are all, in Tuolumne County and Mariposa County, very very happy that we have the 95329 La Grange Zip Code, because of that we get our HMO medical insurance from Modesto. So all of us go down to Modesto for our doctors, some- most, and you don't know how much that has helped us being 35 miles away from our Sonora hospital. And also, we appreciate you covering La Grange as well as the CHP, and our fire, our CalFire crews down there (inaudible) from Blanchard. We, you know, I think all of us feel a very personal relationship with Stanislaus County because without that I'd be paying more than a thousand dollars a month for my health insurance.

Sheriff Christianson: Thank you, happy to help.

Lt. Ruckman: Yes Sir.

Victor Afanasiev: The only problem we have, and I don't know if anybody can address it, it's when we call 911 for fire, it automatically transfers to Stanislaus control even though I told them more than once I needed San Andreas fire command, it transfers automatically to Stanislaus consolidated. "Well, you're in Stanislaus County" "No we're in Tuolumne County" (laughter) Is there anyway that could be rectified?

Sheriff Christianson: So when you call 911, who do you, who picks up the phone? Is it Stanislaus County? Or is it Tuolumne County?

Victor Afanasiev: I don't know.

(Unknown): Where do you live?

Victor: Don Pedro in Tuolumne County.

Chuck Day: We have an 852 number that is out of Waterford, so for example, as I have told the sheriff, it is I think 15 cents to call Modesto and 50 cents to call Sonora. So we're off in a different part of the county and if we're developed off HWY 132 not off the other end. But there are four counties involved here, there's a point about 800 meters from where Hayward Road where all four come together, and I've often wondered why all four of you couldn't get the same message because sometimes there's one of you nearby, and not the other, particularly in the case of Mariposa and Tuolumne. And I've been here for a number of years and all that time they've talked about working together and perhaps a joint funding deal or (inaudible-coughing) cross deputies so that they can do both sides, and I've often wondered why that couldn't be extended to other parts of the county too. I'm talking about out Hwy120 where you have a big incursion by Mariposa County, and as you say, Copperopolis and that, but there might be a formal arrangement that would facilitate as least the initial response.

(Unknown): Well if you have a Waterford number it is going to go to.....

Sheriff Christianson: Yea, I think, you know what, we can certainly find out where those calls end up in that area, ah, as far as the law enforcement response there's no issues with cross designation. The deputies, my deputy sheriffs can come into Mariposa-Tuolumne County anytime they need to, we typically just notify Tuolumne or Mariposa County that we're playing in their sandbox.

Chuck Day: No, my concern is....

Sheriff Christianson: you're talking about just fires?

Chuck Day: I'm talking about the whole smear. My concern is you may not necessarily know who's who. You may not all be notified and you can't come in unless you know that there is a need for you to come in.

Sheriff Christianson: Yea, if we get called, we will respond.

Chuck Day: Right

Sheriff Christianson: Absolutely

Chuck Day: But what I'm suggesting is, that perhaps what you all collectively need to do is check out the dispatch situation so the first responder possible comes in.

Sheriff Christianson: We can do that, you know I can co-ordinate with the sheriff and his staff and we'd find out.

Sheriff Mele: As I said earlier we have a Deputy that actually lives in the area now. And even though he lives in Mariposa County we are allowing him to come down in here. (Inaudible question from audience) No he's a Tuolumne County deputy who lives in Mariposa. Dan is that correct, he lives in Mariposa County?

Lt. Dan Bressler: Just across the county line.

Sheriff Mele: He lives in Mariposa County, just right across the county line, and we are allowing him to come, and part of it, he came from Mariposa County and part of the deal between the deputy and the sheriff was you

can go ahead and take your car across county line, but what you really need to do, is you really need to make sure that you're doing some patrol checks in and around the area, getting to know the area. And so we are, we've been doing that, and also Mr. Day was talking before we talked, before we started the meeting, is that we really want to stress the fact is that you really need to call. And the reason why you need to call is so that we know there is a problem, and I'm going to let Lt. Bressler, there's been an incident in the South Shore in the Tullock area, and he can maybe give a little bit of a brief history and again, South Lake Shore is towards Stanislaus County, it's away from the what we'd call the greater metropolitan of Sonora, not Modesto, (laughter) but where most of the services are over there, so our deputies, a good portion of them are over there. But kind of like in South Lake Shore we don't have a deputy down there, but Dan, Lt. Bressler along with his deputies, co-coordinated an effort where they had a huge problem, I'd turn some time over to Dan and then....

(Unknown member): I have one quick question....

Sheriff Mele: Yes sir....

(Unknown member): The four of us right here we live right on the County line, between Tuolumne and Mariposa, one side of the street is Mariposa, the other side of the street is Tuolumne, call 911 is Tuolumne County going to respond or Mariposa County going to respond?

Sheriff Mele: If you call and you are on the Tuolumne County side (cross talk)

(Unknown member)...confusion with the operator of who has jurisdiction. Now I don't care which county responds...

Sheriff Mele: You just want help

(Unknown member): yea, I don't want to get into no shouting match or something with a dispatcher...

Sheriff Mele: That should be really mitigated, it should be really ah minimized now because of the fact that we have a new management system and when you call and you come with your 911 it should show where you are, so if you're in Tuolumne County, Tuolumne County is going to respond, now if we're completely out of position, we may call Stanislaus County and say "do you have a deputy in the area". We may call Mariposa County "do you have a deputy in the area" and we have done that and we will continue to do that.

(Unknown) Same with ambulance?

Sheriff Mele: Same, especially with ambulance.

Lt. Dan Bressler: We do it all the time, when a call comes, they call us and then we call them, and then we converge.

(Unknown): I've been told this, in the past, you know, people that live right on the county line, a lot of times there is confusion with the dispatcher, and there's a little argument going on, "well you've got to do this" or "you got to do that because you live in this county"....."no I live on the other side"....

Lt. Bressler: There may be a bit of confusion, but if it's an emergency, we're going to be coming and we'd be coming from both sides.

(Multiple voices, cross talk-unknown speaker): I also understand (inaudible)....cell phone calls still go to Merced?

Lt. Bressler: 911 calls go to Merced and CHP.

Sheriff Mele: And that's one of the things we're trying to work on, and the last time we came down we talked about that. We haven't gotten to the point, we are now transitioning to a new dispatch, not a new dispatch center, but we are remodeling our dispatch center, we're getting new equipment coming in, tomorrow morning at six o'clock we will be throwing on the new switch from the low band system to a high band system which is a huge, it's like, you know, a man on the moon for Tuolumne County (laughter) it is huge. I've been with the department almost 21 years and we've been talking about high band and some of these other people that have been here, Lt. Ruckman has been here longer and the Under Sheriff has been here a lot longer than I have, and they've been talking about it since Sheriff Wally Baird and that's four sheriffs ago. So a long time ago and we're finally getting to that point. Once we get that system up and running that 911 call will come to Tuolumne County. No longer will it go to Merced. Adam has, Sheriff Christianson excuse me, has that in his county right now, so that, if somebody's on that cell phone (inaudible) Stanislaus excuse me, cell site it's going to go to his dispatch. (Cross talk)

(Multiple voices):

Frank Beranek: auto accident out side the Post Office in La Grange..... I took her to the Post Office, they called in, people talking on cell phones we're going to get calls - responses from every where.

Millie Beranek: And we did (laughter) CHP....in La Grange, it's fine to use your cell phones because it goes directly to Merced dispatch, and that's who dispatches out of our area.

Sheriff Christianson: Now evidently that will change. We are also implementing a new computer aided dispatch system our cut over date is May 21st of this year and all of those cell phones calls will come directly into our SR911 com center. They won't be routed through CHP any more so there are some changes that are going to make this a little easier and if you will provide me with your address, before I leave tonight, I'd tell you where your call goes. OK? (Cross talk)

Millie Beranek:does that mean if there's an accident in La Grange, that after May it will go to Stanislaus dispatch.

Sheriff Christianson: Yes maam. We also set up an independent number 558 HELP, because we were getting a lot of dropped calls from CHP and they were frustrated that they had to go through that communication center back to us, if you call 558 HELP on your cell phone and it doesn't matter where you're at, you will get a 911 line in Stanislaus County SR911 center. And again, it doesn't matter where the call originates folks, we're going to through whatever resources we need at it, through mutual aid and just a gentleman's or sheriff's agreement to respond and help.

Victor Afanasiev: I know that one thing, we had an excellent response from Sheriff Muller, at Mariposa County, and I talked to him more than once, and said look, you and Tuolumne, the crooks don't care which county you're in and either do we, and we had an excellent response from them. Because basically you sheriff, you're understaffed and you have a huge county to deal with, but you have bureaucracy at the Board of Supervisors like you do (laughter)

Sheriff Christianson: I love my board (loud and continuous laughter-multiple voices)

Victor Afanasiev: (inaudible).....is law enforcement (inaudible) other federal agencies, so I've got good contacts... .in fact I kind of embarrassed Sheriff Muller and asked him about a homicide that happened in Greeley Hill, how's the homicide investigation going? He said how'd you know about it? I got an email from Alameda County sheriff's department about it...(laughs)

Chuck Day: One other item, it's a side issue, but it would make the people here feel better and it might cut out some of the confusion for you people, because our mailing address is 11 miles away, it's in a different county, we're all La Grange, because of the arrogance of the postal department. So if we could ever get someone to recognize the fact and I tried with a couple of others, to get that new post office they have there-

here, because there's about 5,000 people here, versus only 250 there, but the post office, no response. But if we were called Don Pedro you would know where it would be and you wouldn't be concerned about some area in a different county 11 miles away.

Frank Beranke: However, if we did that we'd all lose medical insurance. (Major laughter)

Chuck Day: That's highly debatable, well no...(multiple voices) I've been told....

Frank Beranke: No, you would.

Millie Beranke: We have a 9797 (multiple voices)

Chuck Day: I know, but ah, I've been spending a day, everyday, with some kind of doctor's office and from what I understand is that you're concerned about price. ...a couple are thinking of including us, because when Kaiser opens up completely there will be great competition to keep the costs low and there will be much more.....(Multiple voices)

Lt Ruckman: I wish I could speak intelligently about the medical system but, on the law enforcement side, are there additional questions?

Victor Afanasiev: I have a question sheriff, did you lose your canine units?

Sheriff Christianson: Did I what?

Victor Afanasiev: Did you lose your canine units?

Sheriff Christianson: What do you mean lose a canine unit?

Victor: Or was that strictly the City of Oakdale that lost?

Sheriff Christianson: You mean like, the program went away?

Victor: Right.

Sheriff Christianson: No, my program has not gone away Oakdale's did.

Victor: Yea, because for some reason Modesto Bee informed everybody that Stanislaus County canine units were disbanded.

Sheriff Christianson: Oakdale. And so again, because of our relationship with the other chiefs, I simply told Chief West, if you need a dog call me and I'll send a canine unit because my program is still up and running.

Victor: Good.

Lt. Ruckman: Yes ma'am.

(Unknown): How many dogs do you have?

Sheriff Christianson: I have 6 dogs on patrol and I have another 4 in narcotics investigation.

(Multiple voices, cross talk)

Lt. Ruckman: This lady in the back has been very patient.

(Female voice): Could we identify ourselves when we talk so we know each other because I don't know too many people here. It would be nice to identify ourselves.....identify yourself...

(Multiple voices in agreement) great idea...

(Unknown female voice): I ahh, we heard that there's been a lot of robberies over across Arbolada we're on the right side of Arbolada going towards (inaudible) over the hill going towards Coulterville, we're on the right, and I understand there have been a lot of robberies on the left (multiple voices) of houses, and we're been sort of concerned because I'd hate to leave the house one day and come back and find that somebody has come in it and we understand that they're using "bump keys" rather than other things. So.....

Lt. Bressler: I don't know of what you speak. We have a smattering of burglaries out here, no more, no less than anywhere else, um, but I'd get with you after and let you know, I'd find out and get back to you. But no, other than, what I would tell you is, if you take your basic precautions of lighting, get your landscaping cleaned up, get an alarm system, keep your doors locked and have somebody look out for your house. You're 99% of the time they're going to pass right by. We don't have a lot of burglaries out here, but there are some, there is an element out here just like everywhere else or kids that get into trouble and they do create mischief just like everywhere else, and that's why it's important that you guys call us. Like I might know about a lot about these burglaries you may, they may be happening and we don't even know, and that's our biggest problem is if you don't tell us. What the Sheriff referred to before was, South Lake Tullock is having a huge problem and they really got on us about the problem and so now we can send resources down there because we know about it, and now they are really happy with us. Before we didn't know about it, so now, they're pleased as punch at our service because they've told us about their problem, we can solve it, it's the same out here.

(Unknown female): Do you all come at a certain time of day, if you come by?

Lt. Bressler: No, it's random. We have a deputy, like the Sheriff said, who lives out here and on his way in he drives through and on his way home he drives through, ah, and then we have random guys coming out here, I make sure they come out here. It's not a continuous presence but it's pretty good considering how far out you guys are. We make sure there's people out here every day. But you've got to tell us about the problems, if you have neighbors who say "we got broken into" make sure that they call us.

Sheriff Mele: And the reason, ma'am, the reason why we want that, is so that I can take those statistics back to the supervisors and say your constituents called us "X" amount of times. Last year they only called us this amount of time, we need to address the problem, I need to have more deputies, excuse me, we need to have more deputies on the street so that we can, so the constituents of the Don Pedro area feel safe. We can not use, they want to see the numbers, they want to see how many calls per service that we have, and so that's why every time we come to these meetings we ask, we beg, please call us. It may take a while for us to get out there, it may take a while for Sheriff Christianson's people to get here, but we will come. And the more that you call, the more likely that we will get more resources out here, so it's very important that you call.

Supervisor Gray: I think that, I'm not ahh, out of line for speaking for the rest of the board that, law enforcement is a priority and it's a matter of trying to find the resources. If he wanted 10 million dollars and I had it, I'd give it to him tomorrow, it's a unique situation where, he's the boss, he's the sheriff, but we have to do the budget so it's always a balancing act trying to, everybody wants a little piece of the pie, the priority, in my mind, is for the safety of the people and he's the one that provides that so, I think we have a good team on the board and I believe we will be working towards that. Improve the funding when we can.

(Unknown female): Then you don't think we have a problem to worry about out here, such as burglaries in our area?

(Unknown male voice): Well, (inaudible) very many of them that you hear about, then all of a sudden there's been quite a few that I've been told about and I actually called "I've seen people at my mailbox" and they put it in reverse to get out of my view so I couldn't get a license plate number and then I called the dispatcher and told her that I've seen this and they said well, three motorcycles actually just got burglarized out of somebody's garage, so that's....

Lt. Bressler: We do have them, we have burglaries out here, it's not, I wouldn't call it a huge crime wave, I would call it the typical number that we get.

(Unknown male voice): Where's the place that we could find these neighborhood crime watch signs that I see a lot of on Arbolada.

Lt. Bressler: Go on the internet, number one. You can get them, look them up.

(Unknown male voice): I've looked everywhere, but I can't....

Lt. Bressler: Go on the internet

Sheriff Mele: Also, if you, the gentlemen in the white shirts back there, if you want Sam has the, that type of a program and he'd come and he'd put togetheris that correct Sam?

(Multiple voices) The neighborhood watch type program?

Sam: Not any more....we use to.....

Sheriff Mele: Ah OK, are we still doing that?

(Multiple voices, cross talk)

Sheriff Mele: OK, I'm sorry, I didn't

(Background noise)

Sheriff Mele: We will put you, if you want to have what the lieutenant was talking about in regards to how to look at your, landscape your area, the lighting, those types of things, signs, contact the CSU (Community Service Unit) here after tonight's meeting, and they'd put something together, they'd come back they'd meet with you and help you put together a neighborhood watch type program, and so that neighborhood watch program is a partnership as Sheriff Christianson was talking about, with the Sheriff's Office, CSU, and the neighbors here.

Lt. Bressler: We'd send you deputies too. We'd have deputies come out to meetings too.

(Unknown male voice): I actually, I've put gates up since then, I've got lights up, I mean I've done everything I could trying to prevent.... I have an alarm system, that's my question, I was gone, my family was gone, my alarm went off my neighbors came to the house, they thought something happened with my wife or she might have fallen down inside and was able to get to the key pad and press that - to get that alarm to go off, three officers came to my property and they, actually, two of them were nice about it but one officer said, " you called 911--- for this?" And now she's real hesitant to call the police department if she hears my alarm go off. I'm registered with Tuolumne County with the alarm system but I just, why would somebody be upset? I know it's not a 911 emergency, but it wasn't done intentionally, she didn't know if she was doing the right thing or wrong thing, but she was trying to get help there. So it's just kind of, I, would hope that wouldn't happen if somebody called.....

Lt. Bressler: It shouldn't happen, it shouldn't happen....

(Unknown): I didn't ask for names, I was going to, but then I thought "I don't want to get one of the sheriffs upset with me" because if I need....if there's an emergency, but it's really kind of sad to hear that is happening, and I know she's telling me the truth about it.

Sheriff Mele: We want to hear about that, because that's unacceptable and I'd let Sheriff Christianson speak for his office....but we will

(Unknown): Somebody actually tried to tamper with my back door....

Sheriff Mele: But we will,.... that is unacceptable and we will not accept that type of behavior, because you are the customer, you are the citizen, and you are our employers.

Sheriff Christianson: My deputies know what humility and service is all about and my expectation of service to the community. If I ever heard about something like that I'd probably be asking you for the names (laughter) and then the very next day the guy that pulled that nonsense would be sitting in my office explaining to me why he did that.

Chuck Day: I was the victim of robbery sometime mid last year. I like many people who are older, are starting, (inaudible) continue to enjoy ourselves, and so, I like many go on cruises, or we go up to visit kids, grand kids, regretfully I guess in my case, ah there's only \$1,300 and only a couple of hundred dollars more than the deductible, but a side issue, do you recommend that we get the deductible down low or do you have any real statistics on what is being stole, how much is this,....

Sheriff Mele: Well, I can't speak to you what your deductible is or whether your insurance premium is or what it's going to be, but I can speak to the fact that please call us, just because you call us doesn't mean.....

Chuck Day: Oh I did....

Sheriff Mele: you don't have to turn it in to your insurance adjuster, that's between you and the adjuster.

Chuck Day: Oh I called you because for one thing I needed the number from the officer and all that to turn it in, but then I found out that the deductible was (inaudible)

Sheriff Christianson: One of the things that Sheriff Mele mentioned are these fine gentleman in the back, I too have a volunteer organization called STARS, Sheriff's Team of Active Retired Seniors. I have been engaged in vacation home checks, developing neighborhood watch programs through our crime prevention bureau I also have them out doing an owner applied number program that has to do with agricultural crimes, so, you know I can't emphasize enough what Sheriff Mele is saying, if we don't know about it we can't address it, you have to call and tell us what's going on and so, I would encourage all of you to know who your neighbors are and let your neighbors know if you trust them that you are going to be gone and would you watch my house and here's the numbers, and let the sheriff's department or whatever jurisdiction you live, you know, if the sheriff, Sheriff Mele offers those services that's great. I have STARS volunteers out all the time that's all they do, vacation home checks, serving subpoenas, and they are a wonderful, wonderful group of people who put a lot of hours into helping us and I keep denying their raises too so (laughter)

Gloria Hansen: My name is Gloria Hansen I live on Enramada, we've been living here a couple years so in a pretty new area, how would you go about getting signs for a neighborhood watch? I mean, you know Enramada is pretty populated could you (cross talk)

Sheriff Mele: If you (cross talk, multiple voices) after this meeting (cross talk-multiple voices)

Chuck Day: Enramada, one side of the street is Mariposa the other is Tuolumne County.

Sheriff Mele: She basically wants to know about the, she would like to set up a community neighborhood watch program and we were just telling her that she needs to meet with you after the meeting, and you can get them a contact number.

(Unknown CSU volunteer):I'd give you the number (multiple background voices)

Lt. Ruckman: Sir.

Bill Kinsella: I'm Bill Kinsella with the Lake Don Pedro Owners Association, and I congratulate Sheriff Mele for getting outside food for the, gourmet meals for the prisoners (rolling laughter). I think it's great, I have, two classic concerns here, one is we have, I get a lot of reports for gun shots in the area and animals running at large I can't do a heck of a lot, you know, being on the board here. Every time I call I know it's going to be a least 25 or 30 minutes before your guys could even come close to getting out here, do you have the random patrol in the area, during, primarily on the weekends, mostly Saturdays between 9am and 2pm?

Sheriff Mele: I'd let the operations, Lt. Dan here, (laughter-multiple voices)

Bill Kinsella:I'm sorry to put you on the hook....

Lt. Dan Bressler: No, I can answer that question. Saturday between 9 and 2 we have 3 deputies, maybe four and a sergeant in the entire county. That's your entire 2,200 square mile force. Three deputies and a sergeant.

(Unknown):and Sheriff Christianson....?

Sheriff Christianson: At any given time in the county? Sixty.

(Audience): Whoa...

Sheriff Mele: We typically don't, if you have a guy out here on Saturday it's random, ah, we have a huge county that's why I say, get us out here, call say hey "we've got gun shots out here" and that will get a deputy coming and then once we get out there just tell him because he is the guy who will work that beat on Saturdays you'd get the same guy for a period of months. Tell him, we're having a problem, how can we address that? And get a personal relationship with him.

Bill Kinsella: I live in Mariposa County and I've called the sheriff several times when I hear somebody cranking off a couple rounds. By the time they get out here, you can pitch and have dinner (laughter) and that's understandable, but my concern is can we get somebody out here during the weekend primarily because that's when most of the gun shots are occurring?

Lt. Dan Bressler: We could direct somebody to try get out here during those hours. Sure. I'd give you my card, you call me up, Bill?get in touch with me send me an email or give me a call and say between these hours we have this problem and I'd take it into the guys and say I need somebody out there during these hours. And if there's not calls pending or priority calls some where, then yea, we can get out here.

Bill Kinsella: Yea, well I'm aware that the calls for services are going to take precedence over this..

Lt. Dan Bressler: but we can still come out - you know

Bill Kinsella: We've got to do something, because it's becoming more and more flagrant and random..

Lt. Dan Bressler: Alright....

(Unsure of law enforcement speaker. Continued background conversations in audience): It would be very helpful if when you call in, if we had enough information to establish that the public was, something unsafe was occurring, because in Tuolumne County, the county ordinance prohibits shooting within 150 yards of an occupied dwelling and all this sort of thing, but if somebody has 200 acres or 20 acres and they are shooting into the side of a bank.....

Bill Kinsella: It's pretty difficult....

(Law enforcement): There's no crime and there's no threat to public safety, and it's kind of it goes to a lower priority if you don't have that information.

Bill Kinsella: Many of the properties here are between three and five acres, I have six acres and I'm pretty fortunate, but most of them are around three acres and somebody cranking a round off into a hillside you still have the ricochet problems, and this is what we're concerned about. I talked with Sheriff ah....

(Multiple unknown voices): Muller?

Bill Kinsella: No, no...the one...

(Unknown): Allen?

Bill Kinsella: Yea, Allen, and he said he was trying to work on an ordinance where his people could come in and make an arrest on the scene if you could identify the responsible. Is that, a can do?

Lt. Dan Bressler: Honestly I think you have an exceptionally difficult time with that, you've got folks from the NRA and ...(background voices)it would be a huge mess. If you can articulate for us that there's some kind of threat to public safety, that (cross talk),

Bill Kinsella: that's the whole issue, these guys are cranking rounds off, and they think it's only a hillside, but if it hits a rock and it glances off, you're talking two - three miles down the road somebody can get hurt. Then you've got a problem.

Sheriff Mele: Well I think the answer is what the lieutenant said, what Bressler was talking about, give us a call if there's a problem within a specific time frame or reoccurring time, give him a call and he can set something up. I know that's what they did in the Lake Tullock area.

Chuck Day: I'm the one whose been shooting on occasion. (Great laughter from attendees and law enforcement board)

(Unknown members): On occasion? Is that the cannon? (Laughter)

Chuck Day: No it's not the cannon. (Continuing laughter)

(Unknown): Go to jail! (Cross talk) ...but he lives in Tuolumne County (laughter)

Chuck Day: Yea, I have 10 acres, I'm not violating law, and I may have been instructing people on how to operate ranges for a number of years and so on, it was perfectly safe. What I have done though, and I haven't done it in the last few years, I haven't done any shooting, but I have gone around to all my neighbors and said hey, I'm going to be shooting don't be alarmed and so on. The only response that I ever got was, let me know ahead of time and I'll come too. Ah, but it's perfectly and safely done. What I'm really saying is, there's a

problem in saying what is legal and what is not legal and I support (ordinances against) the wild shooting that has occasionally happened next to our property when my wife was riding. So it's something that has to be partly an educational thing.

Frank Beranek: I'm Frank Beranek, Tuolumne County (multiple voices)

Bill Kinsella: Hey, I've got the floor! (Laughter)

Frank Beranek:I've called the Tuolumne County Sheriff and the dispatcher makes the decision that it is a safe shooting condition, and they have no idea what the condition is, and I'm looking at the shooting, the guy is coming from the porch with a handgun loaded and shooting out into the distance towards 132 (Highway) with nothing but granite out there. That shot is not going anywhere near where the target area is....it's summertime, and then he goes back into the house,

and then boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom...target shooting, then goes back inside with his flip flops on, (multiple voices)..... And call the dispatcher (background noise)..safely shooting...(multiple voices, background noise).....he's not within 150 feet....he is. And she makes the decision that it is not (inaudible) anybody else. That's not an answer, the dispatcher shouldn't have made the decision, they should have at least dispatched, you know, someone to come out there to talk to these guys, and remind them what the conditions are. One talk to them might (background noise)

Lt. Ruckman: Well again, back to what Sheriff Mele said, if you get a response over the phone that you don't think is appropriate, call. Call us. Call Lt. Bressler for patrol issues. Call me for issues involving detectives or narcotics officers, don't just take a bad answer and let it make you upset, give us a call.

(Unknown): How do we get in touch with you guys, I mean, if the dispatcher just (inaudible, background noise)I live right next to BLM property on Llanara (back ground talking in audience) which has been a problem for ten years that I've been living there. We've actually, the neighbors a lot of us have mailed letters to Gene Swickert (?) And got that land closed down with emergency closure and now he's retired and now Bill Hague is in charge of that and he's worked with a lot of us and still there's a problem there with people going 4 wheel driving, there's people doing graffiti, and do you guys have any grounds for being able to go on that land and make an arrest when people are doing stuff illegally

Lt Bressler: We can go on BLM land, sure. They are the primary law enforcement agency for their property, but we use them, they help us out, and we help them out.

(Unknown): But you guys are in touch with each other frequently?

Lt. Bressler: Oh yes. We were this past week. There was some vandalism issues.

(Unknown): And I reported that, OK. I mean there's problems there all the time.

Lt. Bressler: We are aware of it.

(Unknown): It slowed down but there's still a lot of either graffiti or people going there off road where it's all closed and this week, they're going over to where they're actually going to fence off that whole property on Llanara. To try and put a stop to it, I mean for nine years I have called you guys a lot of times and I'm probably, the dispatcher knows me by name and

(Other unknown audience voices)....maybe by voice? Maybe by voice? (Laughter)

(Original unknown): Probably by voice too.

(Law enforcement): That's not a bad thing. (Multiple voices)

Bill Kinsella: I'm on again. (Laughter) A couple of, maybe a month ago, we had a problem with dogs running loose and they killed a, they had to put down a couple of horses down there on Jalapa. We called Tuolumne County Animal Control to invite them out to talk with the members of the association and they did not come. They told me they only had one person available on a weekend. Granted Tuolumne County is a big county, and I can certainly understand that, is there any possibility of your guys, or your animal control people coming down here?

Lt Bressler: I believe so, yes.

Bill Kinsella: They had six dogs....they had to put a couple of horses down.

Supervisor Gray: I think that what I would like to do, as I said earlier, when I do have normal hours and I'm able to come down here for half a day and we could schedule an animal control person to be there on that specific day, advertise it, but something that I know the board president (Inaudible) really wants us to reach out. The sheriff wants to reach out, so, yes, that is a good possibility.

Bill Kinsella: We have a lot of people using the P&E Trails both in Tuolumne and in Mariposa County, and it's not unusual for dogs to be running after the horses. A couple of problems have happened, you are obviously aware that if a horse bolts and a rider gets hurt, somebody is on the hook. I'm not going to talk any more, thank you very much. (Laughter)

Lt. Ruckman: Yes sir, in the back.

(Member "Dave" in audience. Very difficult to hear recording):discussion about the burglaries and stuff, and I am also very concerned about that. When Lt. Bressler talks about well all areas are having burglaries but we haven't seen a significant rise in this area. (Inaudible) point to look at....we are different counties here, so he's only seeing a piece of the burglaries we have here (inaudible) Tuolumne County also sees another piece of that.....Stanislaus County is seeing another piece of that, so collectively this area maybe may be experiencing an increase in burglaries, we are concerned, what happens with the burglaries? The sheriffs come out take the report, you file a claim with your insurance, there's an investigation it results in an arrest you're lucky. What's the best thing to do then as a deterrent? The best deterrent is having the presence of the sheriff.

Sheriff Mele: You know, that's a great idea, and I think that Sheriff Christianson and Sheriff Muller (Mariposa) and I, we can sit down and probably pull those stats and it would probably give us a good opportunity to go before our boards and say listen, collectively, this is the problem that we have. So I think we could work together on that and come up with something, and if you give me your name and number, we'll get that done, that information back to you if you like. I think that's something that we can do.

Lt. Ruckman: Some other questions? (Multiple voices)

Chuck Day: (Laughing) Go ahead.

Clem Brown: Yea, Chuck wants to know about what kind of juvenile problems we have out here that are any different than maybe in the town of Sonora?

Lt. Bressler: They're no different. They're the same. You have a crew of juveniles out here that cause problems, just like Sonora, just like I do in Twain Hart. Tuolumne City they all, I mean, they're out here.

Chuck Day: But our main problem, there's some drugs always, and there's some drunken problems and so on, but the main problem with the crime here in my twenty odd years here, is come mid May to mid September when the lake is going great people will go to the lake and they'll drive through the community and maybe do some

shopping, that's when we have the real problem. And that's why I mentioned to the sheriff, that's when we need a lot of help, a greater presence.

Sheriff Christianson: For my education, edification, could you tell me what the boundaries are again, because off the top of my head I don't know what they are? (Laughter)

Chuck Day: It's the (restaurant?) At one time your county was part of Tuolumne County, then you became your own county and La Grange was the county seat, so there's no logic to any boundary lines.

Sheriff Christianson: I'm aware of the history, but what about today? Where are the lines? Does anybody know

(Unknown): (inaudible)Tuolumne River.....Mariposa.....Merced....Mariposa side.....

Sheriff Christianson: OK, cuz I can pull together, you know, statistics through our crime analyst and what I do, is I pull those together tomorrow, have her pull them together and I email them to Sheriff Mele who can then share them with you, and we'll show you exactly what's going on up here, at least from our jurisdiction.

Millie Beranek: (background noise and conversation)right here, because if you go right out La Grange Road right here, the boundary line of the subdivision is (inaudible) Stanislaus County.

Sheriff Christianson: OK, that helps me out.

Millie Beranek: Ok, and so then, there's ag land and

Sheriff Christianson: I would suggest that, absent any objection from the Sheriff or his command staff here, I think my guys are already crossing the boundary and wandering through the subdivision once in a while, because I know they're up here in La Grange and I know that they're up the La Grange Road and I know that they don't stop on the road when they get to the county line, that they wander through, so you may see a car that says Stanislaus County. And that's, we do that on a regular basis. So....

Clem Brown: I think all the subdivision together amount to about 13,000 acres. So geographically it is a pretty big area, but there's only 3,100 actual individual parcels in that 13,000 acres and right now (inaudible, coughing) water department is seeing about 1,245 homes and then we have one part of the subdivision over here which is all on wells, so we've got 60 homes in there Chuck?

Chuck Day: A little bit less than that.

Clem Brown: so looking about 1,300 homes and approximately 5,000 in population.

Sheriff Christianson: Well I'm always very respectful of other agencies, because, you know, if we're driving around and we start something, that means they get to come and clean it up (laughter) so I'm a little sensitive to that because now we're you know, I'm allocating somebody else's resources that aren't mine to allocate, so, you know, if we're out sneaking around and making stops we have to make sure that it is OK with the lieutenant and the sheriff.

Sheriff Mele (?): You're always welcome. (Laughter)

Sheriff Christianson: Until I start stirring things up and then....(laughter)

Sheriff Mele: Naw, you're always welcome (laughter)

Lt. Ruckman: Yes maam.

Millie Beranek: Yes, I just wanted to maybe finish up about the 911 calls because this has been very important for both Tuolumne and Mariposa County people, and we don't have (inaudible) in Tuolumne County and we had a hard time making sure that our 911 was hooked up to Tuolumne County and at the time when I went through dispatch and the sheriff's department, they said that PG&E is the one who gives them the number for Mariposa and Tuolumne, ah but, what she had done for individual one, because I was hooked up to Mariposa, that they contacted PG&E, not PG&EAT&T, but there was a PG&E number on the original house that had the problem, and AT&T is the one that gives, supposedly dispatch where the property is, and so what I would like to see is if there is anyone, all of us, can find out whether our telephone number is listed for Tuolumne County dispatch.

Sheriff Mele: You know what, we can do, give me your name, whoever wants it, give me your name and phone number, ah AT&T just so happens to be with us probably for the next couple of months ...because they're putting in that system and we can look into that and I can get back to you tomorrow, just see what your numbers are.

Millie Beranek: And one of the problems is that there is an (inaudible) in Jamestown and that was another problem.

Sheriff Mele: Would you, if you just give me your phone number, we can look that up, and we'll know, if you're not and you say you're in Tuolumne County then we can try to rectify that.

Millie Beranek: Good.

Lt. Ruckman: Yes sir.

Ken Kennedy: Question. You were talking earlier about the 911 calls from cell phones, after you set up it will be going to Merced, what about land line?

Sheriff Mele: The land lines?

Ken Kennedy: The land lines, will they still be going to Merced.....if there's an accident and we call on a land line will it go.....

Sheriff Mele: If you're calling from Tuolumne County it should come to Tuolumne County, if you're calling in Stanislaus County on a land line it will go to Stanislaus,.....

Ken Kennedy: so it will just be cell phones (inaudible)

Sheriff Mele:.....that's the way it should be with land lines right now, and I think that's what the young lady right here was talking about is that, she is saying with her land line she wants to make sure that her land line is going to Tuolumne County and so, if there's a question...

Ken Kennedy: but for an accident.....now in the past, you'd call 911 on a land line to report an auto accident and they'd transfer you over to highway patrol.

Sheriff Mele: ...and that....depending on the incident, if it's an accident that needs, if there's injury you are going to, they'd get all of your information and then they're going to transfer you to the California Highway Patrol because that is their primary function is traffic, and so you are going to get transferred to the Highway Patrol for that type of an incident. But we're going to get all of the information for fire and ambulance so that it can be dispatched out, and depending upon, if Highway Patrol is not in the area they'd use Tuolumne County, Stanislaus to go to that accident.

Lt. Ruckman: In these rural areas, we respond down here. There was a fatal accident, actually there's been two of them that I've responded to, one was like a half a mile, a black truck just past the Hacienda here at the curve, then there was another one about a mile down from that, and we responded and we were there before fire, we were there before Highway Patrol, because we were the closest units. Well, it's about 8 o'clock, is there any other question....yes sir.

(Unknown member): How effective, in your opinion, is a burglar alarm at all?

Sheriff Mele: How effective? Well, you know....

Lt. Bressler(?): It is terribly effective, if you have a sign and a burglar alarm they're not going to go to your house, they're going to go to your neighbor's house. I'm not saying you're never going to get broken into but if you're a burglar...you're not going to want a burglar alarm going off. You know, and that's why I say, if you do the basics you're probably going to be fine. You keep your doors locked, if you've got an alarm system, you keep your landscaping trimmed up, and you've got good lighting, you're going to be fine 99% of the time.

Sheriff Mele: You've got to remember that crooks are lazy, that's why they're crooks (laughter)

Lt. Bressler: They're going to go to the neighbor's house.

Sheriff Mele: That's why they're crooks, because they are lazy....so. Lazy. They don't want to get a job, they don't want to work for a living, it's easier to take something from somebody else. So.....

(Unknown): In your guys experience is it during the daytime or nighttime that most of the burglaries happen?

Lt Bressler: On vacation houses it's anytime day or night. Residences? The typical residence is going to be probably a daytime because most people are home at night. So it depends on your neighborhood that you live in, if you live in a vacation neighborhood like I do, it's nighttime, daytime, whenever but if you live in a housing tract where there's people home during the night and gone during the day, it's going to be your daytime crimes. But out here a lot, there's a smattering, I mean you're looking at day, night...whenever the opportunity arises.

Sheriff Mele: Or whenever they wake up. (Laughter) It could be said they sleep till noon and then they're up...and...

Lt. Bressler: They have their own time.

Sheriff Mele: They have their own time, yea. So.....ah, before closing, why don't I turn some time over to Supervisor Gray.

Supervisor John Gray: OK. One of the things that I did talk about a lot when I was running for supervisor was the equal distribution of resources. (Background noises...coughing) The sheriff doesn't have many resources so it's hard for him to distribute what we would call equally. Don Pedro gets less, Groveland gets less, Mi Wuk Village gets less, because it's far enough out, it is my hope and goal that we can change that. Change it so it all comes into the funding. To try and figure out ways to provide more money to the Sheriff's Department for his use to supply better services to the outlying area. Right now we concentrated pretty much around the population base which happens to be the city of Sonora, that's where his sheriff's office is, that's where his deputies start, but I think with the right plan and a goal to provide him with the resources then we can do a better job for the outlying areas. Because the fourth district is the biggest geographic area, it also is the farthest point from the core service area, that's my goal, my plan and I hope to be able to do that in the next four years. It's not going to be an easy task. And if any of you out there have ideas that could make it go faster, I'm ready. Thank you.

Sheriff Mele: Sheriff Christianson?

Sheriff Christianson: Well, once again, I appreciate the opportunity to be here, and I think that, real briefly, we're committed to serving you and it doesn't matter where you live or what county you represent. If you need our help call us, we're going to come and help you. As a matter of fact I was just, I live by my calendar and my PDA and I've already been sending messages to my crime analysis person to get the details of our area and I will forward that to the sheriff, but I just sent a message to my patrol operations division commander and said "hey, you know what? East area units start making runs through Don Pedro", so, we'll do our best to provide the presence that you talked about in the back to deter these crime folks from victimizing your community, so just give us a call.

Chuck Day: One, I am accused of talking too much, which may be true...one thing that would help on some of these things, if you could provide the home owners association, they have a paper and other people who didn't bother to come to hear about it, but the other thing I'm overwhelmed by your participation and we really appreciate it.

Law enforcement personnel: (Multiple thank yous) ...(applause)

Clem Brown: Just to let you know, our secretary of the association will be covering this meeting, that's why the recorder is there because a lot of our folks tune into our active website to get the information that is going on here. A lot of our people are retired and this sort of thing and they don't like driving at night.

David Clevenger CSU: My name is Dave Clevenger, I'm the Executive Director of the CSU volunteers of Tuolumne County. We use to have an office at Blanchard, and because we didn't have enough volunteers we had to close it down. We are willing to open that office up again but we need volunteers. Now with volunteers at Blanchard we'll be able to help you also, and help the deputies out here, by having people out here, but again we need volunteers. We can't do it with the people we have right now. So if you're asking for help from the Sheriff's Department, but if you're willing to give us help, we'll help you. We could open that office back up at Blanchard but we need volunteers from you people to help us do it. So, I'll give you my cards, if you contact me, we'll help set up another office.

Sheriff Mele: Thank you Dave. Yes, sir.

Bill Kinsella: In response to his comments, we had some people who had volunteered for this civilian program and they were sent up to areas outside of here to serve subpoenas....

Sheriff Mele: Right, and you know what, that was a prior sheriff, and I'm not going to get into it, but we wouldn't do that to you. They would stay, we would want them to stay here, we talked with Dave about that and so...(multiple voices)....that was prior, we'll take care of that.

Frank Beranek: Just one thing, we were told when we did have a car down here, in order to be in that car and do our patrol CSU, we could only do that with a two week notice for when we were going to be out, which was impossible for us to plan as you can imagine, and there had to be a deputy in the area when we did it, which made it impossible because there isn't a deputy in the area, so we couldn't go out, so the car never got out, except to go to Sonora.

Sheriff Mele: Well, we can rectify those problems, but in closing, Dave did you have anything else that you wanted to....

Dave Clevenger: No, just that like I say, we're willing to reopen it, we need your help to do it, and the rules have changed, things have changed, we'll make this work, but again you have to help us.

Sheriff Mele: I want to thank you Dave, and I want to thank each and every one of you for coming out tonight, I think that it shows the commitment that you have to make your community safe. I failed to introduce one of our sergeants Ken Diaz, who's in the back, also Captain Bailey who came a little bit late but there was an incident and I'm sure that's why he was late, but I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank my good friend Sheriff Christianson for being here. You can see there is a huge difference between Stanislaus and Tuolumne County with resources, and that's why he is a good friend of mine. (Laughter) But the fact of the matter is, is that it is a friendship, as he said earlier. And you can rest assured that friendship is a true friendship and who benefits out of that? You do. We're good friends with Brian, the Sheriff of Mariposa County. Who benefits out of that? You do. We, that's why we are down here, that's why we brought, I should not say we, brought Supervisor Gray here, is so that we have a friendship here. That's why we have reached out to you so that we can develop these friendships these partnerships, so that we have our community and it's a safe community. We want nothing more than to have a place that we feel safe and secure in our homes, and we can go out at night, we can go out in the daytime, and enjoy ourselves. You live in, probably one of the most beautiful places in the world. You have Lake Don Pedro, you have Yosemite that's just a few miles away, this is a beautiful place to live, a gorgeous place, but so what if it's beautiful and gorgeous if it's not safe, and we want it to be safe. So thank you for coming, and if there's anything we can do please call us, we have our cards here, and all of those that had questions about if they're in what area of 911, give us your name and number and we'll get back to you. So thank you again for coming, want to tell you how much it means to us for you to be here, thank you again. Applause.

(Deputies taking names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc. End of tape)

NOTE: I attempted to accurately transcribe this meeting but if I incorrectly identified a particular comment with the wrong individual, or missed some words, my sincere apologies. I plead "poor acoustics" and "one microphone" on the tape recorder. (Laugh now)

Our meetings have been much easier to transcribe with the reduction in background noise and conversation and thank all of you very much, however, some still continues. Perhaps, it naturally always will when people have social functions. Regardless, this, in combination with the normal unintentional noises such as coughs, "chair squeaks", etc. sometimes makes understanding what was said more difficult.

Some people still do not identify themselves which leads me to believe they may intentionally prefer not to be identified, and that is understandable. So, for the record, if anyone would prefer not to be identified by name in these transcripts please let me know (at the particular function or later by telephone call) and I will assign some kind of an anonymous ID tag or name so as to keep comments or questions with the right individual while preserving your anonymity. Even making up an identifying name would be helpful at the meeting. Seems most will identify themselves initially but when they speak multiple times during the presentation, (though perfectly clear as to who is speaking by those present), without a video recording of the verbal exchange I have difficulty differentiating the voices with audio alone (especially when scribbling notes and not being able to look at the person speaking.)

Personally, I (and some other directors) believe a DVD record of the event, besides providing a helpful video image, would also be less prone to the charge of tampering or selective editing which inevitably occurs when tape is used. Would also bring us up to current and affordable technology!

Respectfully submitted,

Lew Richardson, LDPOA Board Secretary