

ROAD MAP TASK FORCE (RMTF)

Overview: County of Lake Community Development (CDD), in partnership with Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), Launched a multi-faceted, strategic project that successfully reduced crime and promoted clean neighborhoods.

Challenge: Residents and tourists are drawn to Lake County from all over the world to the natural beauty, breathtaking views, rural quality of life, and variety of lakes, rivers, trails, and vast open spaces in Lake County. As a small rural county with extremely limited financial resources, high crime rates, and abundance of challenging properties with regards to blight. CDD and LCSO found itself faced with challenges to address public safety, environmental enhancement and beautification. The LCSO was facing many challenges in combating crime and repeat offender's while at the same time CDD code enforcement officers were encountering similar issues with many problem properties overwhelming the resources of both the LCSO and CDD. When law enforcement took action against crime in one location, often that same criminal activity would resurface in a different location. This experience caused strain on staff, resources, and the community. Lake County needed to find innovative ways to address these problems that would provide long-term results to enhance public safety and a clean and beautiful environment.

Solution: Collaboration birthed innovation: In 2022 the creative minds of the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Community Development Department, Animal Care and Control, the District Attorney's office came together with members of the community to create an innovative comprehensive approach to improving quality of life. The group looked for new ways to leverage their collective strengths, knowledge and common goals to stimulate economic growth and beautify the community through the reduction of crime and blight, removal of abandoned vehicles, and the promotion of public safety, intern enhancing the appeal of the community.

Innovation: Strengthened by collaboration Phase One included recruiting neighborhood residents as community leaders and participants to strengthen the partnership between residents and county officials. Phase two included developing an action plan for neighborhood beautification responsive to disadvantaged resident's needs. Phase Three included presenting the plan to the community, gathering residents' comments and concerns, gaining approval and support from the community, and initiating implementation of a thorough action plan. Phase Four, deficiencies were

identified, and responsive enforce actions to beautify and promote safety in Lake County.

Innovation driven by staff training and experience: We took a comprehensive look into the strengths and weaknesses of our staff (many who were new to code enforcement) and developed detailed training to ensure staff had a deep understanding of the codes and regulations that ensured the safety of the residents. The experience and mentorship of senior staff helped guide employees to a level of knowledge necessary to be efficient and effective at identifying problematic properties.

Results: Since inception of the program, we have located and rescued nine (9) Human Trafficking Victims. RMTF seized one-hundred and ten (110) firearms, removed ten pounds twelve ounces (10lbs. 12oz.) of Fentanyl, six pounds eleven and half ounces (6lbs 11.5oz) of Methamphetamine, twenty thousand eight hundred and three pounds (20,803lbs.) of processed Cannabis, one hundred and twenty-four thousand two hundred and fifty (124,250) Cannabis plants, three hundred forty pounds (340lbs) of hash oil, two pounds eight ounces (2lbs. 8oz.) of Cocaine, twelve pounds eight ounces (12lbs 8oz) of Ketamine, and one hundred eighty-five (185) Xanax pills from the streets as well as through asset forfeiture seized \$533,363. in cash, gold, four (4) Vehicle's with a value of \$187,500. And Four (4) recovered stolen vehicles all from a small community with a population of 2,550. All this has resulted in reduced crime and a cleaner safer community for everyone.

Replicability: Any county struggling with crime and blight is encouraged to reference this effective model. The program does not depend on large budgets but rather is incumbent on being environmentally focused with a strong desire to provide a plan that focuses on the safety and security of the residents and visitors of the county. Fostering collaboration between the county departments and encouraging the development of innovative, cost-efficient solutions brought great results to the county and created a cleaner, safer, welcoming community. Neighborhood residents have experienced an increased sense of pride, and the environment has become more inviting to native wildlife species, residents and visitors.

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Additional Materials: [Microsoft Word - ERTH Minutes 2-7-2024 \(lakecountyca.gov\)Code Enforcement | Lake County, CA \(lakecountyca.gov\)](#), [Road-Map-Task-Force-Brochure-PDF \(lakecountyca.gov\)](#), [Road-Map-Task-Force-Action-Plan-PDF \(lakecountyca.gov\)](#)