



As Seen In the March 2010 Issue

Muslim Outreach Operation Underway

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department has assigned two of its Muslim officers to do outreach to other Muslims living and working in the southern California county.

Sergeant Mike Abdeen and Deputy Sheriff Morsi are part of the Muslim Community Affairs Unit, an outreach program established in August 2007 to address issues including hate crimes and discrimination facing the Muslim community.

"We are from the community," Deputy Morsi explained.

"We understand the issues that matter to the community, and we provide a voice for the community."

The Muslim Community Affairs unit now includes a training program for the Muslim community on law enforcement issues, including domestic violence, gangs and identity theft.

The unit also trains department members about Islam and Muslims, touching on issues such as beliefs and customs.

Academy recruits also receive a two-hour class on

Muslim cultures and background as part of the cultural awareness training program.

And the learning goes two ways, "It's become an informational tool where the community can educate law enforcement as well," Morsi notes.

The new LASD unit, established by Sheriff Lee Baca, has begun a Young Muslim American Leaders Group to engage and educate young Muslim professionals in the Los Angeles Area. The group meets monthly.

Deputy Morsi says mem-

bers of the Muslim Community Affairs Unit are available for the community. "We're here if you need us," he says. "Having this partnership with the community diffuses the stigma that surrounds immigrant communities."

For more information go to: www.lasd.org or MuslimOutreach@lasd.org.



L.A. County Sheriff's Dept. Muslim Community Affairs (MCA) Unit Sgt. Mike Abdeen, left, and Deputy Sheriff Morsi speaking to members of the Muslim community near a local mosque. (www.lasd.org or MuslimOutreach@lasd.org).