



## **Impact of SRDs for Antelope Valley Students**

**Raquel Derfler and Raycine Ector**  
**CTC Co-Chairs**

**LA Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission**  
**Virtual Conference on Deputies in Schools**  
**July 27, 2023**

# CTC - Who We Are



**CTC AV is a community led grassroots campaign addressing law enforcement violence and racism, and reimagining care for our communities.**

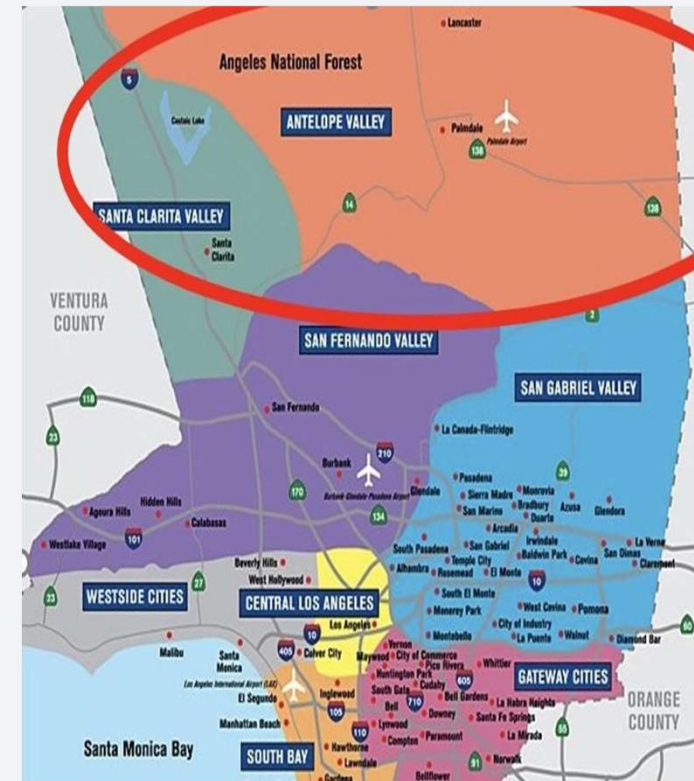
**CTC AV launched in March 2021 to cancel the L.A. County Sheriff's security contract with the Antelope Valley Union High School District that allows police violence to invade our schools and push our children into the school to prison pipeline.**

**CTC AV is also calling for the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster to cancel their contracts for policing with the LA County Sheriff's Department.**

**CTC AV builds on decades of community organizing around the DOJ Settlement Agreement, as well as the 2020 powerful organizing by local young people in response to the George Floyd murder and Sheriff deputy killings in the local community.**

# AV Community History

- ❖ The Antelope Valley has a long history of community and law enforcement racism and violence as early as 1890, which has only exacerbated into the present day.
- ❖ With population changes from 1990 to 2010, these historically white towns grew into large majority people of color cities.
- ❖ The two largest cities, Lancaster (pop: 170,000) and Palmdale (pop: 165,000) have histories of racist policies and law enforcement misconduct.
- ❖ The AV has been consistently neglected and under-resourced, while being over policed through a contract each city has with the LA Sheriff's Department (LASD) to provide law enforcement services in lieu of their own city police departments.
- ❖ Beginning in 2011, the US DOJ launched multiple investigations of LASD misconduct and unconstitutional policing resulting in the **2015 Settlement Agreement--LASD is still out of compliance.**

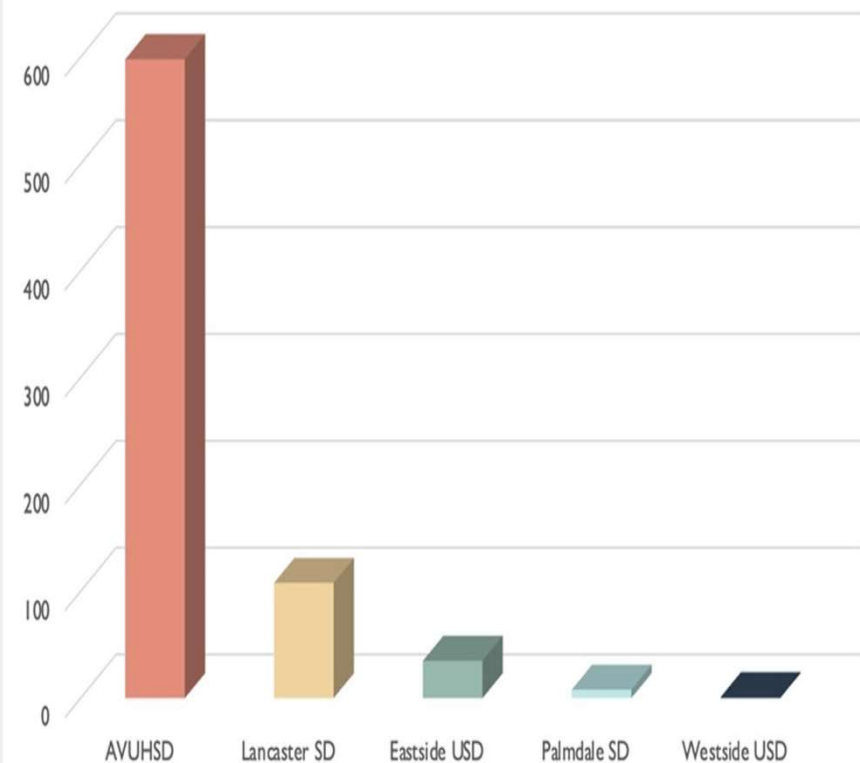


# AV School Districts & LASD

- ❑ There are eight K-8 school districts in the AV (Palmdale, Lancaster, Westside Union, Eastside Union, Keppel, and Wilsona School Districts), which feed into one high school district, the Antelope Valley Union High School District (AVUHSD).
- ❑ AVUHSD has contracts with LASD to provide a SRO for each of its 8 traditional campuses and its 3 alternative sites. As do K-8 Districts Lancaster, Westside Union, and Palmdale.
- ❑ AVUHSD K-12 students account for nearly 80% of LASD contacts with 625 contacts of students ages 13-19.
- ❑ There were 166 contacts of middle school students ages 11-14.
- ❑ There were 21 contacts with elementary age children, some as young at 5 and 7.

## LASD Contacts with K-12 Students

LASD Stops of K-12 Students in AV Districts



# Disproportionate Contact: Blacks Students and Students with Disabilities

Following the 2021 LAist article and CTC's presentation to the COC, the County's Office of Inspector General (OIG) produced two key reports that shed light on what is going wrong in our schools, key highlights include:

- ❑ Of the top 5 school districts with the highest number of SRD student contacts, Black students were disproportionately contacted in 4 of these 5 Districts with **AVUHSD** having the most observed racial disproportionality (OIG, April 2023, p. 9).
- ❑ Black students made up only 23.1% of student enrollment, but they represented 61.8% (230/372) of the arrests and citations. (OIG,

Arrest and Citation Percentages						
School Districts	Race	Contacts	Arrests	Citations	Arrests & Citations	Arrest & Citation %
LANCASTER SCHOOLS	Black	279	214	16	230	82.4%
	White	30	21	2	23	76.7%
	Hispanic	164	78	41	119	72.6%
Totals		473	313	59	372	

**Black students** when contacted by an SRD were arrested nearly 8 out of every 10 contacts. (OIG, April 2023, p 12)

**Black disabled students** account for nearly 6 out of 10 special education students referred to law enforcement. ( Investigation Into Various Complaints Against AVUHSD, May 2023, p 325)

# Impact of LASD Contact:

## SRDs are fast tracking the school to prison pipeline

- ❑ In one school district serviced by Lancaster Station SRDs, **Black students were arrested more than 86% of the time** contacted by a SRD (OIG, April 2023, p11)
- ❑ Black youth had fewer contacts (148 ) with deputies outside of school when compared to contacts while in school (241). (OIG, June 2022, p12)
- ❑ Lancaster SRDs are arresting students much more frequently than SRDs at Outside of Lancaster Schools.
- ❑ Arrest at Lancaster Schools constitute 66.2% of all SRD contacts; citations made up only 12.5 % of contacts (OIG, April 2023, p13)
- ❑ **There were only 2 instances out of a documented 812 school contacts in which SRDs indicated they referred a student to a diversion program. (OIG, April 2023, p 3)**



# Causes of LASD Contact

- ❑ Misconception that students are only being contacted, cited or arrested for serious criminal infractions such as selling controlled substances or bring a firearms but in fact they are often times being arrested and cited for benign things such as profanity, truancy or interfering W/School Activities (OIG, April 2023, Attachment 2 and 3)
- ❑ Of the 21 SRD contacts in elementary schools, 81% or 17 of the 21 were Black students. (OIG, April 2023, Attachment 2)
- ❑ AVUHSD refers student to SRD without make distinctions between SWD and their non-disabled peers. “Law enforcement notification requirements involving students with disabilities shall be the same as those specified for all students.” (AVUHSD Administrative Regulation 5144.2)



# 2021 Incident: Mikayla's Story

- Black student with IEP attending Lancaster High School.
- She refused the SRD's request to hand him her phone and was walking away.
- Deputy then attempted to grab her phone, body-slammed and straddled her from behind.
- School officials observed the attack and did not intervene or ask that the deputy to stop.
- Student was transported to the Lancaster Sheriff Station without her mother being notified.
- The student has filed suit against LASD and according to the complaint, "Robinson was denied the opportunity to speak to her mother while at the station, and was subsequently taken to Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar, nearly 50 miles away.
- When Robinson returned to school in early September, Deputy Acquilano "continued to engage in highly inappropriate conduct by mocking, teasing, and harassing"



[Link to Video](#)

# Recommendations:

## Campus Presence and Student Contact

Remove sheriffs from all schools in AV and LA County #CareNotCops

- ☐ Deputies should be respectful, ask questions first, and seek to de-escalate conflicts w/o removing student
- ☐ District needs clear guidelines and protocols on when to call law enforcement
- ☐ Questioning should occur away from other students and always with another adult present
- ☐ No use of handcuffs or arrest if not life threatening or major crime
- ☐ Prohibit physically restraining students

Newsweek

U.S.

### Students and Teachers Fight to Kick Cops Out of Schools in California's Antelope Valley

BY KHALEDA RAHMAN ON 6/23/21 AT 6:05 AM EDT



# Recommendations:

## Training, Screening and Qualifications

Deputies working on school campuses should receive special training and utilize different standards for youth engagement

- ☐ Specialized training, including trauma informed care and racial equity
- ☐ History of / interest in youth development
- ☐ Utilize a distinct UOF policy for minors (No touching students)
- ☐ No deputy gangs on campuses (screen for tattoos)
- ☐ Remove military gear (no uniforms, no firearms)

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### **L.A. County Schools Will Increase Scrutiny of Campus Cops Starting in the Fall**

BY [JEREMY LOUDENBACK](#)

# Recommendations: **Family Notification**

- ☐ Mandatory notification of a parent with any Law Enforcement contact
- ☐ Permission from parent for any Law Enforcement interview
- ☐ No removal from campus without parent present (unless life-threatening for student or others)



# Questions and Thank you!



**CTCAV Cancel the Contract**



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**Website: [www.ctcav.org](http://www.ctcav.org)**

**Email: [info@ctcav.org](mailto:info@ctcav.org)**

**Phone: (661) 544-5727**

