

Greetings to all of our active and retired members, and valued community partners who receive this publication. It is truly my honor to lead this organization and serve the members of the Fresno Deputy Sheriff's Association.

I am seeking re-election as President. I feel at this moment with the national climate so anti-police and many political discussions centering around defunding police- that you have a leader with experience and historical perspective in negotiating the rights and benefits you earn, including hours, wages, and working conditions.

The role of FDSA President became increasingly busy and challenging during the pandemic- when brand new issues arose and keeping deputies as safe as possible took on a whole new meaning.

The COVID-19 crisis- brought heartbreak to so many families- including our family here at the Fresno County Sheriff's Office. We lost homicide detective, Jose Mora on September 7, 2020 due to complications from the coronavirus.

We promise to never forget his service to this community and to honor his great work- and on April 7, 2021- we hosted a dedication for Mora's family and homicide team members. On that day- we unveiled his photo and name placard honoring Detective Mora at the Fresno Deputy Sheriff's Association building. It's a constant reminder of his commitment to serving the community always.

COVID has left its devastating mark in many ways. Several local law enforcement officers died after contracting the virus during the course of their work.

Two local officers who died in the line of duty, including Deputy Mora will be honored on May 6th when two wreaths are placed on the memorial at Courthouse Park in downtown Fresno. Their names will also be etched on the monument.

Since the pandemic is still ongoing, most local, state and national remembrance events have been scaled down or canceled this year.

BID FOR RE-ELECTION

Dear FDSA member,

It has been an honor to represent you all - the members of the Fresno Deputy Sheriff's Association. I would like to continue to serve you in this leadership role and am asking for your support and vote as I seek re-election.

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Over the past decade, my priority has been improving the wages, benefits and working conditions for each one of you. I have also listened to your concerns about rising insurance rates and the impact this has on your families. I speak in many of you during the year. I am committed to giving you my time, whenever that time is convenient for you. 2021 we changed insurance carriers for the first time since 1985. This was imperative to all of you, or it would have been a tremendous rate hike, that I could not have brought back to all of you. I am proud to report our insurance rates are far lower than all other groups in Fresno County.

Our most recent contract agreement (March 2017-December 2019) and benefit package gave FDSA members unprecedented raises. This 16+ percent pay raise over the term of the contract, not only put more money in your wallet- it makes the Fresno County Sheriff's Office a more competitive agency. With the wages rivaling other law enforcement groups in our area and throughout the state. This helps attract new recruits to our department, and continues to show value to our current employees.

We had a rough go in 2020. COVID struck which effected our labor negotiations for a successor MOU. Fortunately, the Board of Supervisors recognized this and continued to help our group our by enhancing county health insurance contributions. Signing a one year deal, with no reductions, and increased health insurance contributions from the county was the best for the situation at had with the COVID pandemic.

My work is not done, as another contract negotiation is at the end of 2021.

The job of FDSA President is incredibly busy and deals with many different issues. Days are long at times and my phone and email are everlasting. It is a job that often times throws you in the face of adversity. I take this job very serious and give it my utmost attention. I pride myself on the work I do for all of you, on your behalf, to make this place the best we can make it.

My job is to be your advocate. In this role, I have to sometimes face your fears with you and confront difficult situations alongside you. If you have been involved in an Officer Involved Shooting to an Internal Affairs investigation, myself, along with the FDSA board ensures you do not have to navigate these tough situations alone. I am available day or night to help you get legal counsel or lend an ear. I take that role very serious to answer your call and lend you a comforting ear. Confidentiality is sacred to me, while dealing with personnel issues.

During my tenure, so much has been accomplished, including:

- Organizing and formalizing a Peace Officer Memorial Fund to honor fallen deputies and other law enforcement officers who die in the line of duty.
- Designating funds generated from the FDSA Annual Golf Tournament specifically to the Peace Officer Memorial Fund. Setting a personal goal of raising \$100,000 specifically for

this fund. Before being sworn into office, the tournament had a deficit of -\$2,500. Last year, the account surpassed more than \$100,000!

- Firmly committing to honoring fallen officers every year at state and national memorial events. Since 2009, the FDSA has randomly selected 10 members to attend the Sacramento ceremony. Travel and lodging costs are paid to attend the event. In addition, two members are chosen through a lottery to travel to Washington DC to attend national remembrance events.
- Balancing the FDSA budget each year with a surplus rollover. Additionally, establishing a system of checks and balances and transparency by initiating annual audits of both the FDSA and Insurance Trust accounts.
- Our monthly BBQ's had to pause for COVID, but will be starting back up in the fall. Never once have we been in a negative balance during these.
- Established the FDSA as part of the Fresno County Community through a variety of public outreach.
- Staying in community and involving our retirees into the FDSA for member events.

I am committed to this organization and to our membership. Those of you who have been here during my tenure know this. Those of you who are newer will come to learn this. I do not take this assignment lightly. Thank you for the confidence you have put in me. Leading this organization is truly a privilege.

With gratitude,

Eric Schmidt