

We are mid-summer and staying busy. These past weeks I've seen teamwork at its finest, with people stepping up to fill in for those who are enjoying time off. Balance in this profession is so important. I've seen this firsthand and frequently as deputies, dispatchers and detectives have filled voids. Thank you to everyone who is making the system work and truly making the wheels turn. While you may not feel acknowledged often, I am appreciative of each one of you who is willing and able to step up and make a difference for a co-worker.

UPDATE on the Fresno Sheriff Memorial at Area Two Substation

If you haven't been following the ongoing saga related to the memorial, I'm going to give you some history and current information about what's taken place the past few months.

From the onset of this project in 2021, the project leaders never enlisted the FDSA. In fact, a point was made to exclude the FDSA. While this didn't sit well with some of our members - I felt the move to create a monument for fallen deputies was -in general- a noble gesture.

When we were left out, I felt organizers ultimately wanted this to be more of an exclusive project spearheaded and completed by those who first envisioned this memorial. I understand and this is perfectly fine with FDSA Board.

FDSA has its own Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament that's now in its 17th year. This is our project that raises money to help with immediate and long-term costs associated with line of duty deaths. This cause is very personal to us, and we have seen the difference it makes when one of our own is killed in the line of duty. We have seen how the fundraising immediately makes a difference for families (and this agency) during tragedies. From the Board's perspective, while we invite and welcome other FSO groups to support the tournament, there's no high-pressure sales pitch involved. We do not take it personally if groups don't participate. We also don't hold it against them. The success of the tournament (as a whole) relies on the generosity and assistance of mostly corporate businesses and local companies who support the cause. The community believes in its deputy sheriffs and that is shown for the overwhelming support given year after year. Not everyone and every group has to be involved in all these different projects. However, the results benefit all of you in one way or another.

On some projects - that are grand in scope, together - much can be accomplished. We feel the organizers of the Area Two Memorial realized this more than a year into the project.

In November of 2022, the first pitch was made at an FDSA board meeting by Sheriff's Administrators. The ask was \$100,000.

To learn more about the project and where it is at currently, we invited Sheriff Zanoni and Retired Sheriff Steve Margarian to explain (in greater detail) the status and direction of the memorial. They did not make a formal financial ask- but rather asked for an

endorsement of this Memorial Project. They were also provided the opportunity to hear feedback from FDSA board members and other members in attendance.

The discussion lasted about an hour. The topic and general feelings about how the process has proceeded drew passionate opinions from those on both sides. It seems perceptions of the entire project and the way it has been rolled out were clarified and I feel cleared up. It was a difficult discussion that needed to happen because of the strong opinions and rumors that had been circulating.

Sheriff Zanoni made it clear during the meeting that he, along with former Sheriffs Mims and Magarian are leading the Memorial Committee. They have final decisions as to who sits on the committee, the design, financial, etc.

The FDSA Board went into Executive Session for about 45 minutes to discuss some options to support this project. We reconvened back into open session, and per the request of Sheriff Zanoni, agreed to meet with him, and two other retired Sheriffs, to discuss ways the FDSA is proposing to assist.

I reached out the very next day and told Sheriff Zanoni we have a proposal and would like to set up the meeting with Sheriff Mims, Sheriff Magarian and himself to discuss what the FDSA would like to commit to. Sheriff Zanoni never got back to me about setting up a date and time to meet.

I reached back out to him the following week of June 16th. I asked if he ever looked at some dates for the meeting to present what FDSA wants to do for the Memorial Project. He responded he would and will confirm when "Magarian was back in town."

I heard nothing. So, I reached out again on Saturday, July 21 and asked specifically if Mims and Magarian had returned from their vacations. The response was that both former Sheriffs were back. Sheriff Zanoni responded by saying he would check again and get back to me.

On July 25, we had a phone conversation and I again brought up the meeting that has not been set to go over our proposal. I explained that my Board has asked me if we have set a date and time. I told them we have not. I was again told by Sheriff Zanoni that we will get together and go over it. To date – I have yet to have this meeting scheduled.

There was a meeting for the Memorial Committee scheduled for July 27th that was canceled and rescheduled for an unknown date in August. FDSA Board Member Seth Yoshida attended the last meeting on behalf of the FDSA.

To date, I have reached out several times to the Sheriff to have this meeting to present the proposal. There has been no change to the position our board took during the June 7th closed session. We are simply waiting for a meeting with all three committee chairs, per the request of Sheriff Zanoni to go over the position the FDSA Board took.

There seemed to be a huge push the night of the FDSA meeting by Sheriff Zaroni and Magarian to get a meeting set up promptly. I reached out the next day to schedule that meeting and nearly two months later have been unsuccessful. We will continue to wait until all three Sheriffs are ready and able to meet. I will continue to follow up with Sheriff Zaroni to ensure we can present this to the Committee Chairs. FDSA looks forward to presenting this, as we believe it will be beneficial to this Memorial Project.

17th Annual FDSA Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament will be held this year on Friday, October 20, 2023, at Eagle Springs Golf and Country Club. This will be our 13th year at the foothill course. Although the venue is a short jaunt from the city- it truly feels a world away! We like hosting the event in October as the course is in prime condition and the weather is usually ideal for a day on the green. We are excited to announce following course play, we will conclude this year with a raffle and awards ceremony at a mixer across the street at Table Mountain Casino! Already most of the spots have been filled and we expect the tournament will sell out within the next few weeks. We have some new corporate sponsors on board and are looking forward to taking the event to the next level.

In Closing

Again, thank you for those of you who participate in meetings, and make sure your voice is heard. Thank you for reaching out when you have a question or concern. Communication is key to having a strong organization. We can serve you best when we know your needs and hear your priorities. I can't tell you how grateful I am to serve this organization and represent the best interests of all of you.

Also, thank you for showing up every day to serve this great community. I know it gets exhausting in the summer and the calls for service seem never-ending. Dedication to service and bravery is what all of you illustrate each day you show up for work. Former President Ronald Reagan said it best, "Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid".

Stay well everyone.