

MAYWOOD IN THE SHADOWS

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PROBLEM WE FACE

- ⦿ There are currently no Maywood City police officers on duty.
- ⦿ Residents must file a report to the L.A County Sheriff station.
- ⦿ The city is currently being patrolled by L.A county sheriffs, but when residents visit the police “station” no one is there to assist them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MATTER

This issue is extremely important to our group due to the following:

- ⦿ Without police on duty, crimes (big or small) remain unresolved.
- ⦿ When trying to file a report, the L.A sheriffs take days to respond. That is if it is actually important to them.
- ⦿ Residents do not feel safe living in such environment.
- ⦿ Most inhabitants of Maywood are not aware of the legal matters happening around them.

Initial Plan

- ⦿ Our team's goal is to enforce more law in the city of Maywood in order to prevent crimes from occurring.
- ⦿ We need to find out when Maywood stopped having city patrol, and what type of crimes have happened since then.
- ⦿ There are people running for office, we will contact them to inform them of our movement.
- ⦿ Residents must be informed therefore we will pass out flyers telling them to attend city council meetings to gain knowledge on issues going on in the city.

Civic Action #1

- ◉ We headed down to the police station to witness for our selves the “emptiness” of the station.
- ◉ We then saw that a black phone was available to make a call to the L.A sheriff station.
- ◉ The only way to file a report is to go to Downtown L.A.
- ◉ The situation was worse than we expected, with residents having to go through a lot of trouble just to file a report.



Civic Action # 2

- ⦿ Since we did not find anyone at the city hall, we decided to email the mayor pro-term.
- ⦿ I asked her if she knew of any updates regarding the city's law enforcement but she never responded.
- ⦿ The foundation of the city is weak, the higher authorities do not care about the city's well being, but they do care about their budget.



Veronica.Guardado@cityofmaywoodca.org

Civic Action #3

- ◉ We decided to take matters into our own hands and made flyers and distributed them among Maywood residents.
- ◉ They were very cooperative and actually wanted to be informed about things they could do to improve the city.
- ◉ We learned that people are actually willing to promote change but they just need a helping hand.



Civic Action # 4

- ◉ Our final civic action was to attend a city council meeting to listen to other issues the city is currently dealing with.
- ◉ We also saw this as an opportunity to have our voices heard but were unfortunately not able to get into the meetings agenda.
- ◉ We did learned that most of the city's issues were about loans and energy efficiency.



Findings & Report

- ◉ We learned that Maywood stopped having cops since July 1st, 2010 due to budget costs.
- ◉ Maywood could no longer afford a police station, but it can surely afford 13 murders, 24 forced rapes, 152 robberies and 308 aggravated assaults per year on average.
- ◉ The police station is eerily empty all the time, residents live at risk or in hope of help from L.A county.

Findings & Report (cont.)

- ◉ We first went to the police station, then we emailed mayor pro-term Veronica Guardado, passed out flyers and finally we attended a city council meeting.
- ◉ We unfortunately did not get Maywood to get police officers, but we did raise awareness among residents.
- ◉ That as we mentioned actually do care about the well being of their neighbors but just need a helping hand on how to contribute.
- ◉ Recommendations: if you want to carry out this issue we recommend that students remain relentless and do not give up because there is no collaboration from the city. It is hard because as teenagers we are not quite taken seriously most of the time but if we truly want to make a difference, they will witness our efforts and give us a chance.

Knowledge & Skills

- ⦿ This civic action project taught us that we must remain persistent despite the circumstances.
- ⦿ When emailing the city council members to gather information for our cause, we NEVER receive a response. Therefore, we made our way to the city hall.
- ⦿ Engelbert's bike, camera, and brother's stroller were stolen and his report was not taken seriously. The L.A Sheriffs never responded. He now knows to keep everything under lock and key.
- ⦿ We learned that the issue was actually very extreme, with murders happening within the last few months, and robberies.