

Taskforce on Reimagining Public Safety

BACKGROUND:

Since 2014, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District has contracted with the San Diego Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services for both campuses. Prior to COVID the Sheriff contract included 4 deputies and a desk sergeant for a total cost of \$1.5 million.

Following COVID the contract was reduced to 2 deputies and no sergeant due to the smaller number of students on campus (at that time, on campus enrollment was less than 30% of pre-covid level). The total cost of the current contract is \$800,000, including vehicles and overload.

The District also has Campus and Parking Services (CAPS), whose primary role is to:

- provide vehicle and foot patrol of campus roads, walkways, parking lots, and buildings
- observe and report acts of vandalism, thefts, unusual behavior, and intrusions to buildings
- observe and report unsafe conditions and fire hazards
- secure doors, windows, and gates
- activate, deactivate, and monitor fire and intrusion alarms
- provide parking and traffic control services including issuing parking citations
- provide escorts to faculty, staff, and students
- respond to medical emergencies
- respond to calls for service, such as traffic control, unlocking rooms and offices
- participate in campus emergencies operations

CAPS employees are not trained to provided public safety on our campuses beyond securing buildings and fire watch.

There are currently 17 employees in CAPS overseeing the campuses, 24/7. The total budget is \$1.9 million.

NEED:

Given the evolving political landscape and need to protect the safety of our students and employees, and the need to support weekend events for the community, the current campus safety model is no longer viable.



Campus Safety Proposal

PROPOSAL:

Explore the feasibility of partnering with another community college district in the region to provide law enforcement officers on our campuses following a community policing model where the officers are integrated into the educational environment. The first option would be to explore partnering with San Diego Community College District given their proximity and size. Note that exploring municipal police departments is not an option since Cuyamaca is in an unincorporated area.

NEXT STEPS:

- Convene representative group to gather feedback and develop a proposal;
- Gather broad feedback from constituent groups;
- Conduct open forums of employees and students to respond to questions and concerns;
- Other...

TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Based upon a January 2026 implementation:

- February 2025: Convene Task Force
- February April 2025: Gather initial feedback from constituents
- April 30, 2025: Determine feasibility of moving forward with SDCCD or to pursue another local community college district.