



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

Sergeant Damon Maurice, Public Information Officer
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
dmaurice@ci.visalia.ca.us

NEWS RELEASE

July 1, 2015

Visalia Police Department to host Coffee with a Cop

Program offers opportunity to meet local officers, discuss community issues

On Wednesday, July 8, 2015, officers from the Visalia Police Department and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee. The event will be held from 8am – 10am at McDonald's, 1147 E. Noble, located inside the Mary's Vineyard Shopping Center.

Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Visalia's neighborhoods.

The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies, or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community, and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. Coffee with a Cop breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

“We hope that community members will feel comfortable to ask questions, bring concerns, or simply get to know our officers,” said Police Chief Jason Salazar. “These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships.”

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the country, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time. The department will hold future Coffee with Cop events at various locations throughout the coming year.

For additional information contact Sgt. Damon Maurice at (559) 713-4216

