City of Downey

FUTURE UNLIMITED

January 2010

Mr. Gerald M. Caton
City Manager
11111 Brookshire Avenue
Downey, California 90241

Dear Mr. Caton:

Many challenges lie ahead for our Community, our City, and our Police Department. The City faces unprecedented economic difficulties and we are prepared to make operational adjustments accordingly.

Our priority remains fighting crime. In light of current fiscal constraints, we are reviewing existing procedures to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. We will not conduct business as usual; we are embracing this opportunity to reassess our operations.

Traditional crime remains a concern, but with the forethought of our City leadership, the Police Department has been able to maintain staffing levels to proactively address and overcome issues directly affecting the quality of life in our community. Generally, in times of economic downturn, crime increases. However, with the hard work and diligence of all our Department members, we have seen a reduction in crime by 9% from 2008-2009.

Beyond the boundaries of long-established policing methods are challenges resulting from the exponential growth of technology and its use by criminals. In order to protect our Community, we are implementing new programs designed to impact crimes related to computers and other technologies. Using state-of-the-art equipment, we will strive to aggressively focus on criminal activity dealing with child predators, identity thieves, narcotics traffickers, and others who exploit the World Wide Web for their criminal enterprise. These crimes are complex to investigate and prosecute. Jurisdiction issues, sophisticated equipment, evidence gathering, experience and extensive training are a sampling of the issues impeding local law enforcement agencies from handling these crimes.

Nevertheless, we are committed to overcoming these obstacles so that we may protect those who live and work in our City. The Downey Police Department will aggressively chart a course of action to ensure that we are well equipped and trained to stop the predators engaging in these menacing activities.

Our officers will continue to respond to calls for service and will provide the best assistance and protection possible; investigators will arduously investigate crime to bring justice and closure to its victims; and, our staff will work diligently to ensure that the City of Downey receives the most professional law enforcement available anywhere.

Sincerely,

Rick Esteves

Rick Esteves
Chief of Police