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San Diego County Sheriff's Department – Media Relations

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Statement on Santee Protests

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is aware of social media reports claiming Sheriff's Deputies are working with hate groups or armed individuals and giving them law enforcement authority in Santee. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The men and women of the Sheriff's Department do not condone hate or any acts of intolerance in our communities. We are a county that is welcoming of people from all backgrounds.

Throughout the week, deputies from the Santee Sheriff's Station have been talking to all protestors in the city about their right to protest peacefully and to disperse when any curfew order goes into effect. Most protestors have voluntarily complied.

On the evening of June 3rd, more and more protestors showed up throughout the city. Out of an abundance of caution and to ensure the public's safety, the City of Santee issued a curfew order that went into effect at 7:45 p.m. and would last until 6:00 a.m. on June 4th.

At that point, deputies went up to all protest groups and informed them about the curfew order. Those who refused to comply to the order were ordered to leave or they would be cited.

The Sheriff's Department respect's the public's right to free speech. Our job is to ensure the safety of our communities and prevent any damage to businesses and property.

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