



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DA HESTRIN HOSTS THREE CANDLELIGHT VIGILS THIS WEEK
The public and media are invited to the events honoring victims of crime

RIVERSIDE – District Attorney Mike Hestrin will host three Victims’ Rights Week candlelight vigils this week at three Riverside County locations.

Each year, in conjunction with National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office pays tribute to those who have lost their life to violent crime through a series of candlelight vigils held in three locations across the county.

DA Hestrin will address those in attendance at each event which will also feature a keynote speaker. The names of victims who were killed as a result of violent crime will be read at each venue and candles will be lit to remember them.

This year’s keynote speakers are:

Palm Desert: Riverside County sheriff’s Sgt. Rick Espinoza will talk about the direct impact crime had on him. He was working patrol in an unincorporated area of Desert Hot Springs in August 2008 when he tried to stop a man riding a bicycle against traffic. The bicyclist refused to stop and, during a subsequent foot chase, the man shot Espinoza in the face. The bicyclist was later arrested, prosecuted, and is serving a sentence of 15 years to life in prison.

Temecula and Riverside: Escondido police Capt. Michael Loarie will speak at both venues about the impact the murder of Escondido police Officer Laura Perez had on the department. In July 2014, Laura was murdered by her husband in her Murrieta home and he then set fire to the house. Laura’s killer was found guilty at trial of first-degree murder and was sentenced to 48 years to life in prison.

All three vigils begin at 7 p.m. and the DA’s Office invites the public and media to all of the free events.

Here is the location of each vigil:

- Tuesday, April 12, at Palm Desert Civic Center Park, 43-900 San Pablo Ave., Palm Desert
- Wednesday, April 13, at Harveston Lake Park, 40135 Village Road Drive, Temecula
- Thursday, April 14, at Riverside County Historic Courthouse, 4050 Main St., Riverside
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Immediately following the Riverside vigil there will be a gathering at the nearby District Attorney’s Office Victim Memorial Courtyard, 3960 Orange St., to unveil new names on the Victims Memorial Wall.

A flier about the candlelight vigils can be found here:

http://rivcodanet.org/opencms/victimwitness/VWDocuments/VRW_2016.pdf

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