



City of Coalinga

Police Department

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PRESS RELEASE

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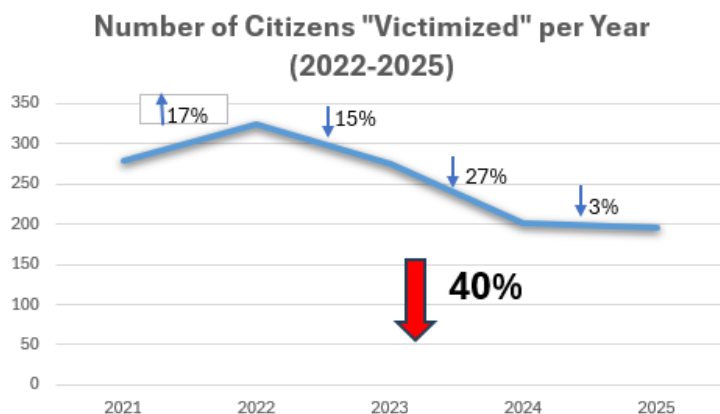
“Protecting Coalinga: A Message from the Police Chief”

The City of Coalinga has become one of the safest communities in the Central Valley.

In my first year as Police Chief for the City of Coalinga, we ended 2022 with a 17% increase in crime and a total of 325 residents victimized, an outcome that was unacceptable. Over the past three years, however, crime in Coalinga has trended sharply downward. Victimization has decreased by approximately 40%, making Coalinga one of the safest communities in the Central Valley.

This progress is a direct result of the hard work, professionalism, and dedication of the men and women of the Coalinga Police Department. Our officers are consistently proactive, responsive, and deeply engaged with the community, whether through patrol, investigations, problem-oriented policing, or participation in community events. Their commitment to public safety and accountability has played a critical role in reducing crime and improving quality of life for our residents.

Equally important has been the strong support of the City Council and the community, including voter approval of the local sales tax measure (Measure J) that provides a dedicated and reliable funding source for public safety services. This measure has allowed the City to maintain adequate staffing levels, invest in modern policing tools and technology, and support proactive crime-prevention strategies. Without this local funding, many of the initiatives contributing to our crime reduction would not have been possible.



Building community trust and implementing targeted problem-solving strategies were also key contributors to this success. Residents and businesses were encouraged to report crimes promptly, share camera footage, and serve as witnesses when appropriate. The Police Department strengthened partnerships with the community by participating in numerous local events and offering educational programs such as the Police Chief's Advisory Board quarterly meetings, the Citizens Academy, and Active Shooter / "Don't Be a Victim" trainings.

In addition, through a combination of local resources and state grant funding, the City implemented a Community Video Policing Program, installing 56 surveillance cameras and 25 license plate readers throughout the community. These tools have directly supported investigations and led to significant arrests involving gang activity and theft-related crimes.

As a result of these combined efforts, by the end of 2025 overall crime decreased an additional 3%, with the number of residents victimized dropping to 195, down from 325 in 2022.

We are confident that, through continued community partnership, sustained investment in public safety, and the ongoing dedication of our police officers, Coalinga will continue to reduce victimization and remain one of the safest communities in the Central Valley.

Jose Garza, Chief of Police, City of Coalinga