

# RICHMOND TO TRAIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO RESPOND TO LOW-LEVEL 911 CALLS

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Trained community members could begin responding to certain low-level 911 calls in Richmond, as well as to calls into the non-emergency number, as part of a new program being developed by residents and officials. The city has released a survey (take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RichmondCrisisResources>) to help design Richmond's so-called Community Crisis Response Program. The post Richmond to Train Community Members to Respond to Low-Level 911 Calls first appeared on Post News Group.

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By Carla Thomas

Supporters celebrated the victory of new Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez in the Berkeley Hills on Sunday, March 12, at the home of Berkeley City Councilmember Sophie Hahn.

"She stepped up for all of us," Hahn said. "She stepped up for Alameda County. She stepped up for our values."

Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arguin, the first Latino mayor of Berkeley, said he was Sanchez's first supporter and called her a change agent.

"Representation does matter," said Arguin. "It's important that the people who hold these positions come from the county and represent the diversity of the county. She was the only one that had the courage to go against Sheriff Ahern."

The meet-and-greet-event gave Sanchez an opportunity to discuss her new role and hear from the community on the changes they wish to see within the department internally, and externally throughout the community.

"I know the damaging effects that poverty and lack of access to resources and support systems can have on communities and how that impacts crime and safety," Sanchez said. "I am committed to

leading the Alameda County Sheriff's Office with the utmost integrity, serving the community equitably and inclusively, and making sure the agency ensures safety in the community by investing in it."

Sanchez plans to transform the system by implementing partnerships that can provide transportation, housing, and resources for the re-entry population. She also plans to strengthen access to public health care and mental health resources within the jails.

"This is more than a job, it's a mission," said Sanchez who sees transformation for now and the future. "The younger generations can now see what's possible."

In June 2022, then-Deputy Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez surprised many by her outright win in a three-way race against a well-entrenched incumbent to become Alameda County's next sheriff.

Sanchez actually raced against her own boss and won. Risking her career and livelihood, Sanchez credits hard work, prayers, and God for such a victory.

Once Sanchez took her oath on January 3, she became the first Latina and woman to ever hold the office, making history.

Retiree Dawn Sullivan who worked as a detective under Sanchez said she was a great supervisor and Sanchez's rise was no surprise to her.

"I'm so proud of her, she had the courage to run against her boss," said Sullivan. "She's already done a lot, but the changes she will make will be great for so many in the department and the community."

Born in Hayward, and currently living in Livermore with her husband, Todd, Sanchez says she is a proud stepmom of three daughters. She's also proud to be a Latina with southern and Mexican roots. Sanchez says her mother moved from Texas to California and her father immigrated from Mexico.

"My family shaped my core values of integrity, respect, accountability, transparency and openness," she said.

By the age of 14, Sanchez's parents had divorced, lost their home, and she and her siblings worked to "help mom make ends meet."

At the age of 18, Sanchez says she worked three jobs until she got an entry-level role of Sheriff's Technician within the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

In the Sheriff's Office, Sanchez rose through the ranks for over 20 years, serving as Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain at the (North County Jail), and the Glenn E. Dyer Detention Facility (GEDDF). Before her election, Sanchez's most recent role included Division Commander, managing the Santa Rita Jail facility in Dublin.

**There are no comments yet.**