

February 23, 2026

**TO: Newberry Springs Community Service District**

**SUBJECT: Request for Advocacy for Increased Law Enforcement Presence in Newberry Springs**

Dear Members of the Board,

My name is Martha Bootsma, and I am writing as a resident and property owner in Newberry Springs to formally express my concern regarding the lack of adequate law enforcement coverage in our community.

I own several properties in Newberry Springs. Over the past five years, each of these properties has been broken into at least once, with extensive damage resulting from these incidents. Most recently, I experienced another break-in, and just last night, unknown individuals were present at my residence with Pitbull dogs and are believed to have stolen a bicycle from one of my rental units on this property.

A couple of weeks back, during the most recent break-in at one of my other properties, the Sheriff deputy informed me that only two deputies are assigned to cover approximately 117 square miles in our area. Given the size of our community and its ongoing issues with theft and drug activity, this staffing level appears insufficient to provide effective deterrence or timely response. This is not fair to our deputies, nor is it fair to the residents of Newberry Springs.

As a taxpayer who consistently meets my obligations to the County, I expect a reasonable level of public safety and protection. The current circumstances leave many residents feeling vulnerable and unsupported.

It is also deeply frustrating to see offenders arrested only to be released shortly thereafter, often with minimal apparent consequence. This cycle undermines public confidence and contributes to the perception that criminal behavior carries little accountability.

Perhaps most concerning is the growing fear that the lack of adequate protection and support may lead frustrated residents to attempt to address these issues themselves, which could result in dangerous and far-reaching consequences for everyone involved.

Newberry Springs is a community I value and care about. I want to continue investing here and supporting its future. I respectfully request that the District engage with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and advocate for:

- A review of deputy staffing levels assigned to the Newberry Springs area
- Increased patrol presence
- Community engagement opportunities to address public safety concerns
- Transparency regarding any plans to address crime trends in our region

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter and would welcome information regarding any steps being taken to improve public safety in our community.

Sincerely,



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