



Community-At-Large Awardee: Law/Public Safety
Commander Lynda R. Castro
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Commander Castro joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff in 1977. Over the course of her career she has excelled at a variety of assignments. For example, she completed three assignments in the County jail system, worked at seven different patrol stations and completed two assignments in the Media Relations Bureau. In addition, Commander Castro served as the liaison to the Sheriff's Youth Foundation, handling the planning and organizing of events, as well as fund raising. Prior to being promoted to the position of Captain she served as a lieutenant in pre-employment.

In 2000, as a Captain, Castro was selected by Sheriff Baca to command the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station. With this position, she had one hundred and fifty sworn officers and professional personnel under her leadership. She was responsible for providing services to 37,000 residents, including a significant Gay, Lesbian; Bi-Sexual and Transgender community, in addition to an aging and Russian speaking population. Captain Castro eagerly accepted the active and evolving human rights issues of the residents of the community that she was responsible for providing services to.

While assigned to the West Hollywood Station, Captain Castro recognized the importance of community involvement. She seized the opportunity to create a Russian speaking Community Academy, allowing deputies to create bonds with a segment of the community that had a cultural mistrust of law enforcement. In collaboration with the City of West Hollywood and residents, the Neighborhood Watch program was enhanced, ultimately making the community safer.

When confronted with public outcry of entrapment by deputies working on undercover operations, Captain Castro successfully implemented a training program for deputies working plain clothes assignments. In addition, her Roll Call training involving Gay, Lesbian and Transgender members of the community led to a unit order that deputies use appropriate terminology. She gave hate crimes and same sex domestic violence a high priority for patrol deputies and detectives.

Commander Castro is married to Richard Castro, the Chief of Detective Division in the Department. They are the parents of five and share nine grandchildren, Lynda has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and enjoys walking, reading and cooking for relaxation.

The Los Angeles County Commission for Women proudly salutes Commander Castro for making the community she services safer.