



Colton Police Department

MEDIA RELEASE

Anthony Vega
Chief of Police

City of Colton, California
650 N. La Cadena Drive, Colton, California 92324

MAY 29, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colton Police Help 23 People Off the Streets in Six Months

COLTON, CA.— Within the first six months of implementing a collaborative partnership with the Social Work Action Group (SWAG), the Colton Police Department is proving the model to be an effective solution for the unsheltered. This partnership has enabled the successful transition of 23 individuals from living on the streets to stable housing or long-term treatment programs. With an initial approval by Colton's City Council in October 2024, elected officials unanimously agreed to increase services earlier this year.

The Colton Police Department's team to address the issues of homelessness in the city encompasses partnerships with the San Bernardino County Probation and Behavioral Health Department. Along with officers assigned to the Multi-Enforcement Team and SWAG, a probation officer and behavior health social worker bring the group an area of expertise and resources to address specific issues. With a structured and thorough outreach initiative, this effort focuses on immediate intervention while providing the unhoused with critical resources and alternative pathways to stability. Each approach differs for individuals, and SWAG tailors a plan for each person based on their specific needs and personal challenges. In addition to helping 23 individuals, SWAG assisted 43 clients in obtaining medical care services, provided behavioral health support to 57 individuals, connected 28 people to substance abuse service centers, and transported 32 people to crisis stability units. These outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of a coordinated outreach model that focuses on a balance of accountability, compassion, and individualized care.

"The Colton Police Department is committed to improving the quality of life for our community. The department has introduced an alternative for those dealing with the dynamics of life on the streets and serves as a resource for our community," Chief Anthony Vega said. SWAG's mission centers on working through collaborative solutions, restoring individuals' self-esteem, and developing a plan for each person with a roadmap to sustainable change. SWAG connects individuals with vital services such as substance use treatment, veteran assistance, mental health care, and long-term housing options. Outreach teams develop tailored care plans for each client, ensuring hands-on assistance while providing a compassionate and safety-conscious approach to improving the quality of life for the Colton community.

SWAG is a non-profit organization that provides resources and assistance to the unhoused but does not respond to emergencies. SWAG referrals can be made by calling **(833) 792-4674 Ext. 4**.

Colton Police Department
Public Information Division

(909) 370-5000/Fax: (909) 370-5158

For additional information, contact Officer Nilda Campos at ncampos@coltonca.gov