

# NEWSLETTER

## CITY OF MERCED

### **The Vital Role of Public Safety in Our Community**

We often don't recognize the critical roles our public safety personnel play in our community until we need them most.

Merced PD is a dedicated team committed to keeping our city safe. The department employs 98 sworn officers, including trained 3 police K9s; Mako, Koa, and Zeke, and 45 non-sworn personnel, such as crime scene analysts and community service officers, who all work together to serve our community.

On January 26th, the department's dispatch center received a 911 call about a 14-month-old child choking. Officer Cruz Ramirez responded in under two minutes. Upon arrival, he found the child unresponsive and not breathing. Ramirez performed back thrusts until the obstruction was cleared, saving the child's life. The next day, Officer Ramirez visited the family to check in on the child, who is back to her 14-month-old self!

This is just one example of the countless emergencies these men and women respond to every day—car accidents, domestic disturbances, missing persons, and more—often without recognition or thanks, and they don't do it for praise.

Merced PD continues to show up, no matter the call, ready to help those in need. This is a reminder of the invaluable work they do for our community every single day.



## CITY KICKS OFF 2025 COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SERIES

The City launched its 2025 Community Town Hall series, giving residents a chance to engage with city leadership, share concerns, and help shape the community's future. The first of three town halls took place this week, bringing together residents, city staff, and elected officials for productive discussions.

Before each meeting, city staff met with attendees to answer questions and provide information on programs and services. During these community town halls, residents voiced their thoughts on key issues, including public safety, infrastructure, and economic development.

The final session will be on Thursday, February 6, at Stowell Elementary School. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM, with city staff available from 5:30 to 6:00 PM. Additionally, on Saturday, February 15, City Council and Staff will meet from 9 AM to 12 PM to review and update goals and priorities for 2025/2026. The community is welcome to attend.





# 2025 Community Town Hall Meetings

- Your voice matters
- Share what's important to you
- Meet your council representative

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025,  
6 to 8 pm  
Stowell Elementary  
School,  
251 E. 11th Street,  
Merced

[www.cityofmerced.org](http://www.cityofmerced.org)



## UPDATE ON NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR VETERANS AND CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS



**Leah Brown, Management Analyst in the Development Services Department recently met with reporters from KSEE to talk about the housing development project at 73 South R Street that will provide 20 units for veterans and chronically homeless individuals.**

**This project features container-style housing, with two groupings of 10 studio units each. Each grouping includes a communal room for gathering, cooking, and living, along with an on-site manager's office.**

**The development is deed-restricted for individuals earning 30% or below the Area Median Income (AMI) and includes a 55-year covenant to ensure long-term affordability. Veterans will also benefit from VASH vouchers, providing them with support for ongoing rent. The City's partnership with the Merced Rescue Mission is central to this project, as they will provide essential services, including counseling for mental health, addiction, and food insecurities. Additional support is provided by Merced County, the Human Services Agency (HSA), and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), all working together to assist with reintegration into the community.**

**The City's support, through a land grant from the Housing Successor Agency and facility reductions, has been crucial in moving this project forward. The developer is also working on final touches, including landscaping and outdoor gathering spaces, to foster a sense of community among residents as they transition out of homelessness.**

**This project is an important step toward addressing homelessness in Merced, providing both housing and supportive services to help residents rebuild their lives.**

## CHILDS AVE MULTI-USE PATH PROJECT PROGRESS CREWS ARE WORKING ON GRADING.

