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Police charm offensive: Boba with a badge

By *Sophie Braccini*



Jon King, left, engages with residents at I-Tea Moraga Photo Sophie Braccini

favorite brew, while others reached for the local drinks that the cops were offering and started engaging with the officers.

Moraga Police Chief Jon King says that the idea is to hold these types of public gatherings several times a year, in different coffee shops in town, preferably locally-owned, to support the local economy while enhancing the connection between the population and its police. Lt. Brian South, the second in command in Moraga, adds that it is important to create that contact and familiarity with the officers. He adds with a smile that there are no guarantees of leniency for residents who are stopped for speeding, even if they have shared boba tea with an officer who cites them.

I-Tea Moraga definitely has a different vibe than other more traditional coffee places in Moraga. The boba tea served there is not everyone's ... cup of tea, and some residents that had come to ask questions of the officers were discovering the place for the first time. They tried the sweet drinks with circumspection at first, but none left a drop or a boba at the bottom of the cups.

The questions asked of the officers were of all types from how much above the speed limit is the threshold police use before stopping people or how to engage a green left turn arrow when riding a bicycle or a motorbike. Serious topics were also discussed such as what safety precautions to take in a garage in light of recent house fires that started at night in that part of a residence.

King said that next time he might take his team to Moraga Town Bakery or Starbucks.

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