



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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February 2016 – Law Enforcement and Crime in Jersey Village

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends:

Last month, Jersey Village Police Chief Eric Foerster and Lieutenants Dooley and Pibble conducted a crime prevention town hall at the civic center. It was an appropriately timed event as it coincided with some well publicized vehicle burglaries in the Village. The turnout was impressive with close to 200 residents in attendance. It was a testament to the community's close relationship with our police department and focus on aggressive law enforcement. It is worth repeating some of Chief Foerster's key points including:

- Crime in Jersey Village has been on a steady decline since 2009 with a recent uptick that is continuing to be monitored.
- We have a very active police department that handles a wide spectrum of activities from traffic enforcement to crime investigation.
- The City of Jersey Village website is the most effective and accurate source for crime and law enforcement information.
- Citizen involvement is important to maintaining a safe neighborhood. Organized neighborhood watches by street are an excellent way of keeping the community safe.
- If we see anything suspicious, don't hesitate to call the police department. The police welcome calls from citizens who notice something out of place.
- We can all individually decrease our susceptibility to crime by keeping car doors locked, garage doors closed, porch lights on and installing home alarm systems.
- Keep an eye on your neighbor's house when they are away.

In addition to Chief Foerster's presentation points, it is important to note the budgetary commitment to public safety by the city. Approximately 45 percent of the city's \$10 million general fund expenditures are devoted to public safety in the form of the police, fire and communications (dispatch) departments. During the annual budget meetings, Council and city staff assess the requirements of a well-staffed and equipped police department and budget to meet those needs. Two years ago Council approved a budget containing a 13% pay increase for the police department.

The establishment of the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) is another example of our city's commitment to crime reduction and law enforcement. Cities are allowed to use a portion of sales tax revenue to fund various activities. The City of Houston uses that sales tax portion to fund Metro. Jersey Village elected to use its sales tax revenue to fund police activities through the CCPD. The CCPD allocates revenue to fund things such as police department salaries, equipment and other crime mitigating activities.

It is worth repeating that Jersey Village continues to be a safe and secure neighborhood to live and raise a family. A significant reason for this security is the dedication and professionalism of our police department. A strong relationship between a vigilant public and our police department will ensure that Jersey Village remains a safe and secure community.

All the Best,

Justin Ray, Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas