



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

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Crime Wave?

Many of us are members of NextDoor, a JV social network. Recently, there have been a string of discussions that create the perception of a crime wave in our city - based largely on opinions, incomplete facts, or second hand information. There have been similar discussion strings regarding the staffing levels of our Police Department, where they patrol, and how many are on duty at any one time. While I don't assume any ill intent, some of the information being presented is misleading. For instance:

- Many reported car burglaries happened because the car was parked unlocked overnight.
- Another string of car burglaries and other crimes were committed by residents and / or friends of residents, not by strangers coming into our city.
- Our officers do not patrol on Hwy. 290, but only respond to accidents and calls for assistance.
- The red light camera program has been shut down by construction and officers are not staffing that program.
- JVPD patrols the city on a regular basis, 24/7 - if you have time, sit on your front porch and see how many times they drive by in a day.

Our Police Chief is building a database to show the trends of the incidences of crime in Jersey Village over the years. Though not yet complete, this data appears to show that rates of crime are not on the increase, and have declined relative to levels reported five or six years ago. Additionally, arrest rates are way up - a higher percentage of crimes are being solved than in past years. I expect this database will be complete near term, and I am willing to meet at city hall with anyone interested in discussing the data on crime rates in our city. For first-hand experience with our police department, I recommend enrolling in the upcoming Citizen's Police Academy.

Social networking has increased awareness of crime in the community because we can instantly communicate to our neighbors, and be aware of incidents that most of us didn't know had happened in past years, creating a perception of increased crime. While I don't believe we are experiencing a crime wave, the criminals are out there, and I think Chief Foerster and his officers would all agree a single incident is one too many. The recent car burglaries were solved with the assistance of information provided by a resident. You too can help by not hesitating to call 911 to report suspicious activity. Remember that we are all the first line of defense - lock your car doors and secure your property. Don't let unexpected "repairmen" or strangers in your home. Report solicitors.

In closing, we are fortunate to live in a city where the police respond to emergencies in as little as a minute. Ask you friends who live in the county, Houston, or even The Woodlands about crime in their neighborhoods and law enforcement response times.

Until next month.