

MEMORANDUM—RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE



To: Manager Frances, President Sells, Board of Trustees, Riverside Residents
From: Tom Weitzel, Police Chief
Re: **CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES**
01 February 2019

Thomas Q. Weitzel
Chief of Police

William Gutschick
Deputy Chief of Police

Frank Lara
Operations Lieutenant

Pamela S. McCall
Executive Aide to the
Chief of Police

Riverside Police Department developed these 10 principles of crime prevention that will be implemented over the next few months: **target hardening, target removal, reducing the means, reducing the payoff, access control, approved surveillance, environmental change and rule setting, increasing the chance of being caught through crime prevention and deflecting offenders.** They were put together to better serve our residents by ensuring they are kept abreast of proactive measures to reduce criminal activity in our village and each will be explained by Chief Weitzel at the board meeting.

With two high profile criminal incidents in Riverside occurring in the last week, the following initiatives were developed for research and implementation in a meeting held by Chief Weitzel with the village manager and village president. Some will be in place right away, others take time to develop and Chief Weitzel will return to the board with a timeline of implementation for all.

The Police department will:

• Engage landlords of multifamily units with security measures.
• Provide proactive measures for crime prevention to residents.
• Develop a messaging plan so that criminal incidents are made public as soon as legally possible and follow ups are made to inform our residents.
• Research ways to make Riverside less attractive to criminal elements, including drug dealers and those that would come to Riverside specifically to commit criminal acts.
• Develop street activities that enhance Riverside Police Department's high-profile presence. This will include officers doing computer report writing in specific areas designated by the chief in a future directive.
• Clarify to residents the important role they play in assisting the police department in the reduction of crime, reporting of crime, and follow ups regarding criminal activity.
• Detail new programs to be effected by the police department over the next few months

Programs Riverside Police currently use, or are underway, include:

- Yellow tag door hangers: Primarily used by midnight shift officers. Chief Weitzel will re-emphasize this information at the board meeting.
- House Watch program: Available to all residents and businesses through our website or coming into the police station to fill out the forms.
- Traffic enforcement: Reduces criminal activity. Chief will explain to the board and residents how a well-defined traffic enforcement program helps reduce criminal activity.
- CCTV safety camera program: In progress for village streets; it is anticipated we will have cameras up and running later this year.
- Red light camera program: While program is primarily to reduce crashes and improve overall traffic safety, the cameras do, at times, assist police in criminal investigations.



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In closing, I wanted you to know that this is just a beginning. This memo does not include all programs the Riverside Police Department will be implementing and/or researching. There are programs such as artificial intelligence and new technologies that we must stay in tune with. These programs depend on funding, technical expertise and detailed research to make sure that any product we buy is getting concrete deliverables for our residents. I will be looking at this going forward and would be happy to answer any Board questions you may have on the issue.

I would also like to state that many of these programs are either man hour intensive or will require some level of funding. Additionally, staffing is always an issue in a small agency such as Riverside. I believe staffing concerns should be reviewed in the future for us to maintain the ability to do preventative programs and not just be reactive.

The intent of this memo was to brief the Board and residents on opportunities. I look forward to an open discussion with the president, board of trustees and residents who may have further ideas on how the police department can more effectively perform its mission to ensure safety for all our residents, business communities, and visitors.