



City of Cambridge Police Department

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Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

September 27, 2011

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Re: City Council Order No. 6, dated September 12, 2011

Dear Sir:

As requested I am responding to the above council order regarding increasing the number of foot patrols around the Lyndon Baines Johnson, Burns, and other senior apartment buildings in the city.

The Cambridge Police Department recognizes the importance of enhancing relationships with the City's Senior Citizens and establishing a safer environment for them to live. To this end, all officers within the Department have been tasked with interacting with our elder residents, but officers assigned to the Community Relations Unit are more involved.

Officers frequently visited the various senior housing developments as well as the two senior centers. While many of these visits were informal to meet and discuss issues with the residents there were more formal gatherings. These included the Senior Police Academy where seniors meet once a week with officers over a ten (10) week period to learn about the police department and the services available. In addition, the officers conducted senior safety sessions where various safety tips and methods to prevent becoming a victim of a crime were discussed. These were held twice a year at each of the senior centers and continue to this day.

Although not active at this time, one of the developments established a crime watch within the complex. The Manning Crime-fighters worked closely with officers and established a schedule where they would be assigned to watch for unusual activity at their complex and immediately report it to the police officers.

In early 2011 the roles of the police officers assigned to Community Relations changed where each officer was assigned to become the primary liaison for each segment within the City. The continued relationship with the seniors is one of our primary efforts along with the youth and business groups. Officers assigned to the Community Relations Unit have been concentrating their efforts at the developments and centers without being drawn away for other issues. This lets officers become familiar with the residents of these developments and it allows officers to assist and guide them to the city services.

To date there have been almost five hundred (500) of these visits through the City by the Cambridge Police officers and we will continue our commitment to assisting our seniors with police presence and guidance.

If you require additional information please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Haas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "H".

Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner