Garland Makes the “Top 10 Safest Cities” List

The City of Garland received national recognition when Law Street released its annual ranking of the top 10 safest cities. According to the Law Street news release, Garland is ranked ninth in the “Top 10 Safest Cities Over 200,000” in the United States.

Law Street’s crime team used the FBI’s four major violent crime categories – murders, aggravated assaults, robberies, and forcible rapes – to create a standard measure of violent-crimes-per-100,000. This allows year-to-year and city-to-city comparisons.

Law Street attributes the City of Garland’s public safety success to a “variety of community programs, including Neighborhood Crime Watch and Crime Stoppers.” Law Street further states, “It is primarily the community-oriented population that helps keep the city (of Garland) safe for its residents.”

While 24 hour police patrols continue to be the safety backbone for Garland, the community-based efforts of the Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) program provide an added protective element.

The Police Department divided the city into 26 police districts, each with its own NPO. These officers are the primary points of contact for Crime Watch groups, neighborhood organizations, apartment managers, business owners and other community groups within a neighborhood. The NPOs coordinate with other divisions of the Police Department as well as other city departments to identify specific crime trends within each police district and to develop a strategy to address those trends to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

In 2013, the Police Department also added a Community Relations Officer to design and implement community programs to address crime prevention, personal safety and neighborhood protection. The Community Relations Officer also coordinates the Citizen Police Academy, special outreach activities and other public education functions.

Community Programs with the Garland Police Department:
- Neighborhood Crime Watch
- Citizens on Patrol
- Citizen Police Academy
- Garland Crime Stoppers
- Lock, Take, Hide Program
- Lockbox Program
- UNIDOS
- Gang Graffiti Hotline
- Bicycle Program
- Skywatch Deployment
- Volunteer Handicap Parking Enforcement
- Vacation Watch

Visit GarlandPolice.com for more information.

Citizen Police Academy

Each spring and fall, the Garland Police Department hosts the Citizen Police Academy. The Academy educates citizens about the department’s values and operations, as well as the citizen’s role in public safety. Class participants are encouraged to share this realistic view of the department with other citizens to improve the efficiency of law enforcement in their neighborhoods through shared responsibilities and resources.

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