Crime Prevention & Improvement (CPID) – FAQs

What is a Crime Prevention & Improvement District?

It is a legislatively created political subdivision of the state with taxing and spending authority that follow the boundaries of a residential subdivision.

Why do neighborhoods create them?

It is a mechanism that provides for an annual assessment of a fee that is dedicated for crime prevention and improvement of the neighborhood. These districts are mostly used by older neighborhoods that do not have mandatory dues in their covenants and find that voluntary dues are not sufficient to provide for enhanced law enforcement activities and general maintenance of common areas.

Is the payment fee optional?

No, it is collected when a property owner pays his or her annual property tax and is collected per parcel. Unlike voluntary dues, every homeowner pays equally.

How much is it? How long does it last?

The specific amount is authorized in the creating legislation but is generally somewhere between $75 and $200/year. The length of time for the assessment is set by the board. Typically, it is for 10 years. The legislation can also provide for periodic increases during the established time period based on a set amount, maximum amount or percentage basis if needed.

What can the assessment be used for?

The assessment can be used for crime prevention with expenditures for items such as off duty police/sheriff patrols, license plate readers, security cameras, speed bumps, security lighting, etc. Also, if authorized it can be used for improvements such as lawn mowing, landscaping, signage and improvements to the neighborhood for a common purpose.

How much money is generated by the assessment?

As the assessment is per parcel, it depends on the assessment amount and the number of parcels. For our neighborhood of 647 homes, if our assessment was set at $150/parcel/year it would generate $97,050/year.

Who determines how the money is spent?

The CPID Board of the District is required to publicly adopt an annual budget.

Who is on the CPID Board?

There are typically 7 members appointed to the board all of whom must be registered voters and live in the "District". Four members are appointed from the neighborhood, 1 is appointed by the District's Louisiana House of Representative, 1 by the District's Louisiana Senator and 1 by the EBR tax assessor's office or Mayor's office.

If a neighborhood were to create a CPID would it need to continue to have a Homeowner's Association?

Absolutely, as a political subdivision there are certain things that a CPID cannot fund, such as dealings with zoning or deed restriction matters and Civic Association administrative expenses for meetings, bank expenses, etc. Nor can the funds typically be used to fund social events. Note: The Civic Association dues could be reduced if a CPID is created.

How is a CPID created?

Creation requires two major steps and can take 1-2 years to complete. First step: advertise the Notice of Intent to submit a bill to create a CPID and work with your local legislative staff (House or Senate) to sponsor and move the bill through the process. Upon passage, a CPID board is appointed. Second step: Although the Legislature creates the District, a vote of the residents of the District, is required to assess the fee and this election must get on the next ballot.

Who votes on approval? How many votes are needed to approve?

Every registered voter who owns a parcel in the district can vote to approve or not approve. 50% of the registered voters plus 1 who vote in the election determine if the bill passes.

How much does all this cost to create? Who pays for it?

Costs include advertisement notices, legal professional fees, filing fees & ballot placement fees and will run approximately $3000-$5000. Typically, the Homeowner's Association bears the costs. Note: It can be repaid by the CPID once the CPID is established.

How long does it take for the CPID to start collecting money from the assessment?

The initial assessment will be collected via the end of year property tax the year the CPID is approved. Funds collected will be distributed to the CPID beginning the following January.