

Preston

1. CRIME PROBLEM IN CANON CITY? YES, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BY INCREASING AND EQUIPPING OUR POLICE FORCE SO THEY HAVE THE BEST ENFORCEMENT TOOLS AND OFFICERS TO PATROL THE TOWN. THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET CATEGORY IS THE LARGES PART OF OUR CITY BUDGET.
2. SIGNIFICANT CONCERN. AS IN ANY TOWN CRIME IS ALWAYS A SIGNIFICANT CONCERN AND IT IS IN OUR TOWN. THE COUNCIL BUDGETS FOR THIS CONCERN.
3. COUNCIL ROLE: THE COUNCIL ASKS FOR AND RECEIVES REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS FROM THE CHIEF. COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WE ALL RECEIVE COMMENTS AND CONCERNS FOR OUR RESIDENTS. THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED TO COUNCIL AND STAFF.
4. THE PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSE, AS ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET, IS HE HIGHEST OF ALL DEPARTMENTS BECAUSE IT IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY. WE ALSO REVIEW, WITH POLICE COMMAND STAFF, HOW THE MONEY IS BEING SPENT.
5. POLICY APPROACHES: WE REMAIN OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS OF FUTURE ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENTS OF EQUIPMENT TO AID IN CRIME PREVENTION AND APPREHENSION. LAST YEAR WE ACQUIRED THE TYLER PROGRAM THAT IS AN AMAZING TOOL USED TO ANALYZE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

CRIME PREVENTION, PUBLIC SAFETY IS A PRIORITY ITEM IN ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS. IT OCCURS IN AREAS THAT THE PUBLIC DOESN'T ALWAYS CONSIDER, BUT THE COUNCIL DOES.

FOR INSTANCE PROTECTION OF OUR CITY DATA AND COMPUTER SOFTWARE. THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT IS CONSTANTLY CHECKING FOR FRAUD AND OR THEFT OF CITY FUNDS.

OUR LEGAL DEPARTMENT REVIEWS COMMUNICATION AND REGULATION CHANGES TO PROTECT US FROM LEGAL ACTION.

EVEN THE PARKS DEPARTMENT IS ALWAYS CLEANING THE PARKS OF DANGEROUS MATERIALS AND REMOVING HOMELESS PEOPLE.

IN ADDITION TO OUR POLICE FORCE WE HAVE OFFICERS IN SCHOOLS TO HELP IN PROTECTION OUR CHILDREN.

WE FUND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS THE GO OUT WITH DESIGNATED OFFICERS TO INTERVIEW HOMELESS PEOPLE AND HELP WITH DOMESTIC CONFLICTS.

WE HAVE A K9 UNIT TO HELP IN DRUG INVESTIGATIONS.

WE HELP FUND THE 911 EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER.

WE HAVE PARK RANGERS WHO PATROL THE TRAILS.

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CRIME PREVENTION, PUBLIC SAFETY, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND APPREHENSION IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY OUR COUNCIL CURRENTLY HAS AND THAT SHOULD BE EVIDENT BY THE AMOUNT OF TAX DOLLARS WE ALLOCATE FOR IT EACH YEAR.

IT ALSO HAS TO BE A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE RESIDENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT. THE EXTREME OF THIS IS IF THE GOVERNMENT IS ALLOWED TO GET TOO LARGE AND THEN CREATE A POLICE STATE, IT HAS GOT TO BE A BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY AND RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITY.

WE HAVE TO BE TOGETHER AS A TOWN SO THAT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND BAD ACTORS UNDERSTAND WE HAVE A STRONG COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR POLICE FORCE AND OUR CITIZENS AND THAT CITIZENS ARE A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR REPORTING CRIME AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND WILL COOPERATE IN PROVIDING VIDEO RECORDING TO POLICE TO HELP SOLVING CRIME.

Recruitment: An officer can give two weeks' notice and it can take six to nine months to replace that officer because of the lack of qualified candidates. The City had previously tried to recruit directly from the academies however students don't undergo background checks or psychological evaluations when they decide to attend an academy. Our track record for finding suitable candidates this way was marginal so the City decided to start sponsoring our own candidates that we could then vet prior to sending to the academy. The PD has been short staffed for over a year and we are just now getting to a point where reinforcements will be hitting the ranks. We have three officers taking their oral boards later this week and will hopefully be released to individual patrol. We have about eight officers in the academy with graduation on May 15th. It will take them about 14 weeks of field training before they are released to individual patrol in September.

Judicial Consequences: Changes in state legislation have limited the ability to hold those who break the law in jail, resulting in individuals being released without bond. This is something that needs to change at the legislature. Chief Schick has penned a letter that I am currently editing that we will send to Council to consider sending the governor and the legislature.

Decriminalization of Felonies: Again, changes at the State legislature has decriminalized some drug related felonies and reclassified them from felonies to misdemeanors.