

Council Member Kathy Worthington

Concerned Citizens,

I apologize for my tardy response. I appreciate everyone's civic engagement. Sometimes it's hard to create citizen interest until it's a concern of many. Here are my thoughts on your questions of interest:

1. Crime is a problem in Canon City. I am a believer in the saying "perception is reality". If a majority of citizens in Canon City think there is a problem, there is a problem. I also, believe there is a problem of crime in every town and city in the country. As you address in your following questions, what can we do here in Canon City—not only to alleviate fear but increase safety.
2. I believe there are citizens who believe crime is a significant concern. However, as to what percentage of citizens who feel this way, I won't speculate. In my circle of friends, most of whom are older, they feel Canon is a safe city. Many moved from larger communities and think they are blessed to live here.
3. As a council member, I believe our responsibility is to listen to the citizens we serve and respond in a thoughtful, fiscally responsible way. We will never solve all problems but we should use and coordinate with all available resources.
4. YES. Again, using your tax dollars as efficiently as possible, council has allocated funds to:
 - a. Recruitment of qualified police officers. Bonus dollars are used to attract **qualified officers**. An existing officer can give a two week notice to quit, while it takes at least 6 months to train new inexperienced officers. The city plans on having a full force by the end of the year—assuming no other officers quit. Of course, salaries are sometimes a deterrent to finding capable applicants. Analysis of salary structure among other similar towns and cities has been done to make sure the City is competitive. Chief Schick and his staff has also created a process outlining exactly what an officer needs to accomplish to be promoted. This objective method eliminates the perception of prejudice or favoritism. I have full faith in Chief Schick. I am totally impressed with his skills and positive personality. Today's society does not make it easy to recruit or keep good people.
 - b. Council has approved budget for Flock—A camera system that reads license plates coming in and out of town and other strategic locations to help identify stolen vehicles and other vehicles of interest.

- c. The City along with other agencies, purchased Tyler software which provides crime analysis and predictive modeling. This will give more accurate statistics and locations of crime.
 - d. The City applied for and received a grant to hire new officers to patrol the Riverwalk and Downtown.
 - e. The City created a Park Ranger position to better patrol our parks including our mountain parks. A second officer is being added through the grant mentioned above.
5. The drug issue comes to mind. Until the city, county and state has the opportunity to receive additional grant money for education and treatment, the problem will continue. This can lead to homelessness. But based on the terrific job local agencies such as Loaves and Fishes are doing, our local numbers are down. Continued response by our police needs to be continued as well as diligence by our citizens to report issues is helpful.

I hope that my responses at least indicate that I care and am always open to conversations. Community solutions should never be made in a vacuum so I welcome your continued commitment to making Canon City a great place to live.

Kathy Worthington
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