

1st Year Report and Summary for Holly Hills: Cops Walking a Beat Program

The program began the last week of November 2016 with boundaries of Arendes, Holly Hills (the bike path in Carondelet Park), Leona and Bates. Campbell Security is the company we use and Lt. Pierre Benoist is the "quarterback" for the officers.

On March 1st we expanded to the 4 main streets in the area: Loughborough, Morganford, Bates and Grand. That area is approximately .8 miles square.

The officers work "secondary" in uniform and in pairs 99% of the time. We have 4 hour shifts, 4 days per week with hours ranging from 8 am to 2 am. We added extra shifts during the summer especially in Carondelet Park. We added the golf cart in the spring of 2017 and bikes were added in October 2017. Emphasis is always given to the park especially the bike/walking path!

Special thanks to the two neighbors who have given up garage space for this part of the patrols!

We have 357 households and businesses who contribute and are interested in this joint, volunteer, grassroots effort. There are approximately 2,500 households in our footprint, so you can see we have room to grow and we need EVERYONE to do what they can, even \$5 per month is meaningful!

Our monthly budget is approximately \$6,600. (IF just 25% of households would donate \$20 per month we could expand to 7 days per week and add additional hours.) The cost of the program is \$50 per hour, per officer. I made a commitment to cover any monthly shortages with the help of a couple key contributors. Without their help we would have had to reduce our shifts per month. So again, PLEASE speak to your neighbors and encourage them to help keep this valuable program alive.

One challenge we do have is the completely donation-based funding. We have no pledges, no reminders, no billing, etc. ... I do believe this is also our greatest strength. It is a 100% volunteer effort. Neighbors are free to give whatever amount they want and are free to not participate at all. We have an approximately 15% participation rate and that needs to be increased to ensure our success and expansion!

When we started this program, we agreed at the Woerner School meeting (Nov. 2016) to a 1 year review to see if we did indeed have a meaningful reduction in crime between Dec. 2016 and Nov. 2017. To that end here are some statistics:

Our 9 year total crime average per year is 167 which equals 13.9 total crimes per month over 108 months. (01-01-2008 thru 12-31-2016). Since we began the program, we have had 108 total crimes over our 11 months of data (12-01-2016 thru 10-31-2017). That is 9.8 crimes per month or a 29.50% decrease in total crime.

Information is readily accessible at the St. Louis Police Department website: www.SLMPD.org. (Click on the Crime Information tab.) STLtoday's website also has a very user-friendly crime map that is easy to use but only compares the prior six months crime stats.

More information on the Cops Walking a Beat Program can also be found at the Holly Hills Improvement Association: www.safety@hollyhills.info There is a link to donate via PayPal. Many prefer to use a personal check. All checks are made payable to: Campbell Security. I collect them and deliver them in person each month.

Bottom line for me:

The program is working. It is good for our area and good for the officers. Our officers are all local cops with local connections. The program is affordable. The program is expandable. Preventing crime with HIGH visibility is the ultimate goal! We are fortunate to live in a wonderful and safe neighborhood and we need to work together to both maintain and improve our neighborhood. I hope you feel the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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