

**CITY OF THORNTON  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

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**COUNCIL UPDATE**

**July 28, 2009  
5:45 p.m.**

**Training Room**

**I. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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| A. Budget Review                                 | 5:45 |
| B. 2009 Community Development Block Grant Update | 6:00 |
| C. Neighborhood Watch Program Expansion Update   | 6:15 |
| D. Crime Enforcement Response Team Update        | 6:30 |

**II. COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

**III. COUNCIL INFORMATION SHARING**

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COUNCIL UPDATE

July 28, 2009

**ITEM TITLE:** 2009 Community Development Block Grant Update

**ISSUE:** Information regarding the Community Development Block Grant will be presented at the Council Update.

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COUNCIL UPDATE

July 28, 2009

**ITEM TITLE:** Neighborhood Watch Program Expansion

**ISSUE:** As part of the goal of Urban Revitalization in the 2009-2010 Work Plan, City Council has asked that the Neighborhood Watch Program be expanded to involve more residents. Council's preferred way of doing this was to reduce the required percentage of neighborhood participants who must declare their willingness to be involved from 75% to 50%. The current Neighborhood Watch program involves 78 neighborhoods and approximately 4,000 residents throughout the City. These groups are committed to remaining vigilant in their communities to ensure that crime or suspicious behavior is reported to the Police immediately.

The expanded program concept has been reviewed and is currently being implemented, one quarter ahead of its designated timeline in the agreed Work Plan. Additionally, the Police Department is also working to coordinate more fully with Neighborhood Services, including mutually distributing each others' literature and promoting community pride and neighborliness.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

- City Council suggested program expansion.
- Police Department staff analyzed costs and ramifications.
- The expanded program has been implemented.

CITY OF THORNTON

COUNCIL UPDATE

July 28, 2009

**ITEM TITLE:** Crime Enforcement Response Team (C.E.R.T.)

**ISSUE:** Last year, City Council approved a 3-officer Crime Enforcement Response Team (C.E.R.T.) to focus on neighborhood issues, patterned crime graffiti, and other special crime problems. In January 2009, the C.E.R.T. team began concentrated operations in a variety of crime strategies throughout the City of Thornton. The following information is a mid-year update on this unique team, its accomplishments, and its benefits to the City.

The team's focus areas and accomplishments over the past seven months have included the following:

- Graffiti elimination, resulting in 31 municipal court summonses.
- Identifying a pattern of criminal trespasses along four main corridors affecting more than 200 victims (Highway 7, Washington Street, 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and I-25). The perpetrators were arrested following the C.E.R.T.'s surveillance activities.
- Undertaking a Juvenile Offender Initiative to curb the number of high school truancies and their correlated impact on graffiti, drug offenses, disturbances, and business complaints.
- Assisting North Metro and other Drug Task Forces as well as TPD Detectives in apprehending internet offenders.
- Involvement to help resolve a multiple year neighborhood dispute.
- Cooperating with a local business center to arrest an employee who was providing teens with drugs and alcohol and video taping them.

There are many benefits of having a dedicated C.E.R.T. team, including the existence of a dedicated prevention and enforcement unit to focus on community problems.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

- Council has approved three police officer positions for the CERT.
- An application for federal funding for additional CERT officers through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program is pending.