

On The Beat – My Neighborhood, My Cop

I'm very excited to announce that this year the Prineville Police Department will be unveiling a completely new strategy to reach out to our community. It is based on other successful community policing models and I hope it will help us do a much better job at making Police Officers more accessible to you. This is how it will work;

Areas of our town will be divided into neighborhood districts based on the number of Patrol Officers at the Police Department. Right now that number is 11. We average two Patrol Officers on duty at any one time, sometimes more or less. During the time a particular Officer is on duty his or her primary patrol area will be their assigned neighborhood. Because of our staffing levels the neighborhood Officer will still be responsible for responding to calls where ever they occur in town. Your neighborhood officer will be the first one to respond to a call for service in your neighborhood if they are on duty. If not, another Officer will respond to your neighborhood and your Neighborhood Officer will get a copy of the report later and conduct what ever follow up is appropriate.

If you have a problem in your neighborhood or just want to ask a question, you will have the opportunity to contact your neighborhood Officer directly, rather than going through the dispatch center. We will still want you to call 911 in an emergency though. My hope is that once your neighborhood Officer gets to know you and your neighbors, they will begin to better understand, in detail, the issues that are affecting you. Your "Cop" will be the subject matter expert and be able to provide you with more consistent public safety services.

I'm sure there will be bumps in the road as we move forward with this new strategy, but I'm hopeful that we can have the program up and running in 2007. Things to look for will include your neighborhood Officer personally introducing themselves, information being sent to your residence updating you on the program and any changes, and public announcements for neighborhood meetings in which my staff and I will come to your neighborhood to explain in detail what services we can provide with this new program.

We are all very excited at the Police Department about this new program and hope all of you will take the time to meet your "Neighborhood Cop" this year.

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