

Westwood meeting with Chief Jeffery Blackwell Feb 16 2015 1pm

Objectives:

Find ways to reduce crime in Westwood, and restore a sense of safety and security to our residents. Make Westwood a place that criminals avoid, and drug dealers and buyers consider too risky a place to do business.

Note: We are not here to complain, and we are not here to tell CPD how to do your job. But we need to do more to solve, discourage, and prevent crime in Westwood. We need help.

History:

- Westwood and CPD have a long history of cooperation and teamwork.
- Many neighbors are on a first name basis with our neighborhood officers and Captains.
- District 3 has been accessible and willing to help.
- Westwood residents have taken an active role in crime prevention and public safety- COPP, Block Watch, Litter patrols, Court Watch, Blight abatement, Ongoing crime education activities. We even have a tall grass czar.

Present Situation/ perceptions:

- Amount of crimes and perception of crime are unacceptable. (House break-ins, thefts from autos, drug dealing and associated violence.)
- Westwood's reputation as a high crime area scares our neighbors, hurts property values and discourages new businesses.
- Constant "code zero" issues in Westwood.
- Crime victims often report slow or no follow through with cases.
- Officers going from run to run, with little time for routine patrolling.
- Folks eventually get discouraged and move away.

What can be done?

- Follow up with citizens who've reported and experienced crimes: an incident number, getting back to them, a system like 5916000.com, a way to get follow up
- We need more of the property crimes to be investigated and solved.
- Juvenile offender issues: truancy, curfews, repeat offenders: we're asking for curfews, information about & police involvement in truancy, penalties for repeat offenders
- Block watches: information resources and clearer process on the police end (we can point citizens to resources via WCA but need more detail about process on police side)
- Community liaison: we lost an invaluable neighborhood liaison in Sgt. Sierra, need a good, proactive partner like him
- Visibility: we want to see a more visible police presence in Westwood, better allocation of patrol officers.
- Drug deals: we want drug dealers and buyers to feel unwelcome in Westwood, more arrests, more police visibility, more indicators that the dealers aren't welcome here
- Receptivity: we want Westwood residents to find that the police are more receptive to their calls, a shift away from "complainant" vocabulary. We want better training and standards for dispatch. We want Westwood residents to see evidence that their calls matter, are welcome, and are helpful with establishing patterns and with investigations.

These are some of the areas of improvement that could really make a difference in Westwood.