

Jon Dahlvig 2019 Campaign Thoughts

- Safer Neighborhoods -

Crime

Crime overall is increasing in our city, more than likely because of population increase. Luckily major crimes are trending down, statistically, but even minor crime is still important. We all should feel safe in our neighborhoods. Both from crime and hazards in general, such as speeding cars on residential streets.

Increasing police presence is one way we can reduce crime and even target those residential speeders. We would have to do this by increasing staff and that means increasing budget. Go see my thoughts on Public Safety for more on how we can do this while being fiscally responsible.

Outside of the police department, we have to be responsible for our own safety and be in control of our neighborhoods. I am not preaching vigilante type behavior. That is not acceptable. But we have to be aware of what's going on in our neighborhoods. Go out and meet your neighbors. Put up security cameras if you can afford them. If you don't walk with your dog(s) than start or go for an extra walk. Enjoy your neighborhood parks and trails. If you see something, say something. This isn't just a saying for anti-terrorism, it truly can help prevent general crime in our neighborhoods. Our police department can't be everywhere and see everything.

If we do this, it creates the appearance of an active community, because it is. Criminals don't want to be seen and the more active a community is the higher the chance they'll go elsewhere.

It's a fact that neighborhoods with parks are safer. It's one reason our Parks and Recreation Department is pushing for the ten-minute walk to a park. It also encourages more physical activity and that's good as well. Dog walkers also create a safe neighborhood as they walk about the streets, they see what's going on and act as an unintended crime deterrent. Remember, criminals don't want to be seen and dog walkers see everything.

If your neighborhood doesn't have a neighborhood watch, talk with your neighbors and the police department can help get one started.

Residential Speeders and Stop Sign Runners

Now what about those cars speeding down our residential streets and running stop signs. It's not an easy fix and I don't think there really is a fix to it. It's driver behavior and no amount of law enforcement intervention or traffic calming measures can stop it all together. But a combination of both can and has proven to reduce significantly this unsafe driving behavior. I am currently in the process of researching different traffic calming measures/devices as well as

Jon Dahlvig 2019 Campaign Thoughts - Safer Neighborhoods -

programs other cities have implemented and seeing what will work here. I will update this section with my findings. It may take awhile as I am working on researching all sorts of different things related to the campaign, Park Board duties, working as a paramedic, and most importantly, family time.

I will for sure, regardless of election outcome, continue to research this and present to councilmembers and city staff and fight for what will work here in our community. I shouldn't have to worry about the safety of my children playing in our front yard and walking along the sidewalks.