



NEWS Release

City of Rockport · 622 E. Market Street · Rockport, Texas 78382 · (361) 729-2213

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CONTACT: FRED FLETCHER, CIVILIAN POLICE ADMINISTRATOR
PHONE: (361) 790-1101

ROCKPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT SHARES COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

ROCKPORT, TX – The City of Rockport's Police Department recently undertook a community survey to identify public safety priorities and to reevaluate its mission statement. Eighteen police officers were tasked with interviewing five citizens in the community and share their responses with Officer Amy Meissner, who compiled the findings.

“While we appreciate the many kind words and compliments expressed, our main thrust was to learn what the public thought of the police department and identify those areas in which improvement is needed,” stated Fred Fletcher, a retired police chief who is acting as Civilian Police Administrator and assisting the City in hiring a new chief. “In addition to being more proactive and visible in dealing with law enforcement issues, the survey showed the community wants us to expand our education and outreach programs, provide greater transparency and humanize the badge.

“We have already made great strides with our presence in social media (Facebook and Twitter accounts) and our continually updated pages on the City’s web site. The information we received from this survey will be incorporated in our day-to-day activities, training, communication, new programs and all aspects in the operation of the Department,” he added.

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Under Public Safety Priorities, there were more than 180 comments with Patrol/Visibility/Safety/Crime Prevention/Law Enforcement receiving more than 81% remarks. This was followed by Community Policing/Inform Public/Educate Citizens/School Presence receiving 8%. The next three categories – Be approachable and compassionate; Continue as we are; and More/Continued Training for Officers – each received more than 3%.

Of the 101 comments associated with the Mission, more than 54.5% felt strongly that the Police Department should Protect and Serve. The next priorities were Crime Prevention/Law Enforcement; Community Relations; and Ethics/Character, which included impartiality, integrity, transparency, courtesy, and compassion.

Citizens participating in the survey comprised a wide spectrum of age, gender, race, and financial/social status. Additionally, the respondents included business owners/managers, employees, retirees and students.