

the Pulse

CITY OF
PASCO

APRIL 2016

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PROGRESS

PRIDE

PROSPERITY

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Pasco Police: Partnering with Our Community

The City of Pasco is a diverse community of nearly 70,000 served by a police department consisting of a budgeted staff of 76 commissioned officers. Over the last couple of decades, the department has been on a mission of providing community oriented policing services to the City. This has resulted in many positive developments, most notably, a significant reduction in crime; from 158 crimes per thousand to the current 27 crimes per thousand, to rank Pasco as one of the safer cities in the state.

However, events in 2015 caused some to question the department and how it relates to the community and how the police conduct the mission. The department, in response, has been actively seeking ways to better serve the Pasco community with the understanding that policing in the 21st century is very dynamic and must be constantly under review and revision. Much of what the department does is based on several "best practices" including but not limited to:

- The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and Washington State Model Police Policies
- State and Federal court rulings
- Publications from the Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Publications from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
- Review of practices of other police agencies
- Professional training of staff

FURTHER, THE DEPARTMENT HAS OR IS THE PROCESS OF:

- Having PERF conduct a review of policies and training of the department.
- Expanding Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to more officers. The department's goal is to give 80% of officers CIT training by the end of 2016.

- Obtaining state accreditation.
- Coordinating regular meetings with local clergy, specifically Latino churches, to improve relations and understanding.
- Expanding the reach of the long-established Citizen Academy by launching a Spanish language-only academy.
- Implementing social media (Facebook and Twitter) sites that help improve communication with the community, and launching Spanish language versions.
- Expanding recruitment efforts, focusing on individuals who appreciate serving and reflect diverse communities. The department encourages bi-lingual applicants, and has created a bi-lingual civil service recruitment list. The department continues to offer pay bonuses for officers proficient in Spanish. These efforts have increased the bi-lingual staff by 50% in the past few months.
- Starting "Coffee with a Cop", in conjunction with the DOJ's COPS office. "Coffee with a Cop" brings police officers and the community members they serve together in a neutral & casual setting to discuss issues and learn more about each other.
- Recently adopting additional review criteria that will aid in the examination of force and the training of officers, including cataloging detailed records of Use of Force incidents.
- Improving communication of the process for police complaints.

The City looks forward to continue working with the community to ensure all Pasco residents have the Police and City services they deserve. A full report of the progress made by the Police over the last year can be found on the City's website at www.pasco-wa.gov/policereport.

City efforts to save property owners money



Every few years, the Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau (WSRB), an independent, non-profit public service organization, determines Protection Class Gradings of communities

throughout the state, which provide an important factor for property insurance rates. The City was able to retain its class "5" rating and will be in position to improve its rating in future years, saving property owners money on their insurance.

The WSRB survey evaluates fire protection/suppression capabilities of cities and fire protection districts using a system approved by the State Insurance Commissioner. The WSRB assigns each community a Protection Class of 1 through 10, where 1 indicates exemplary fire protection capabilities, and 10 indicates the capabilities, if any, are insufficient for insurance credit. This is why insurance companies use protection classes to help establish premiums for fire insurance - generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection.

In this survey period, Pasco gained credit for its fire suppression capability and public education fire programs. The City's restart of the business fire hazard program and implementation of a Fire Master Plan should provide additional credit in the next survey period.

SIDEWALK PROGRAM

The City Council, in the 2015 budget, authorized the creation of a sidewalk repair and replacement program to address the growing need to fix sidewalks in Pasco, especially in the older sections of the City, including downtown. The sidewalk crew has been very active with replacement of over 500 panels of sidewalks so far. In 2016, the crew has begun increased focus on downtown Pasco, working with the Facilities Division to address the sidewalks around the overgrown trees in the area that are causing major issues with the sidewalks. The aim (in some areas of downtown) will be to install temporary repairs while the City, along with downtown stakeholders, determines the best course for downtown revitalization.

The City has catalogued most of the sidewalks in need of attention; however, if you have problem sidewalks outside your home or business, call City Shops at (509) 545-3463 for more information.



DRUG DISPOSAL DROP OFF AVAILABLE

The Pasco Police Department, along with Prosser Coalitions in Action and the Pasco Discovery Coalition, has installed a prescription disposal drop off at the Pasco Police Department in City Hall. The drop box allows community members to safely and anonymously dispose of old or unwanted prescription drugs. Prescription drugs have unfortunately become the target of theft and misuse, often times by people who have access to the residence. Teenagers have made

prescription drugs the number one substance of abuse for their age group, and much of that supply is unwittingly coming from the medicine cabinets of their parents, grandparents, and friends.

If you have unwanted prescription drugs, bring them to the drop box in the lobby of the Police Department at City Hall, 525 N. 3rd Avenue. The Police Department is located on the 2nd floor off the Nixon Street entrance. For more information, contact Pasco Police at (509) 545-3421.

CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Matt Watkins (At Large)
416-6696, watkinscouncil@pasco-wa.gov
Mayor Pro Tem Rebecca Francik (Dist. 5)
545-6134, francikcouncil@pasco-wa.gov
Councilmember Al Yenney (Dist. 1)
547-8021, yenneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov
Councilmember Mike Garrison (Dist. 2)
545-3404, garrisoncouncil@pasco-wa.gov
Councilmember Bob Hoffmann (Dist. 3)
547-7373, hoffmanncouncil@pasco-wa.gov
Councilmember Saul Martinez (Dist. 4)
545-3404, martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov
Councilmember Tom Larsen (At Large)
545-9916, larsencouncil@pasco-wa.gov

MANAGER & OFFICIALS:

City Manager Dave Zabell
545-3404, zabelld@pasco-wa.gov
Deputy City Manager Stan Strebel
543-5760, strebels@pasco-wa.gov
Police Chief Bob Metzger
545-3481, pascopolice@pasco-wa.gov
Fire Chief Bob Gear
545-3426, pascofire@pasco-wa.gov
Community Dev. Director Rick White
545-3441, communitydevelopment@pasco-wa.gov
Public Works Director Ahmad Qayoumi
543-5738, publicworks@pasco-wa.gov
Admin. & Community Services Director Rick Terway
543-5757, acsadmin@pasco-wa.gov



HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 30** for Memorial Day.

For more information about the City, visit our website at www.pasco-wa.gov

The Pasco City Council meets every Monday at 7pm (except for 5th Mondays) at City Hall, 525 N. 3rd Ave. Watch the Council meetings LIVE on PSC-TV Channel 191 on Charter Cable, or on the web at www.pasco-wa.gov/video.

Comments about the Pasco Pulse? Email to communications@pasco-wa.gov