



## Stratford Estates Meeting Notes (03/27/08)

### City Staff in attendance

<b>Transportation Engineering</b> Tracy Nyholm <a href="mailto:tracyn@plano.gov">tracyn@plano.gov</a> Safe Streets Program Engineer	<b>Neighborhood Police Officers</b> Brad Ewell and Richard Glenn <a href="mailto:brade@plano.gov">brade@plano.gov</a> <a href="mailto:richardg@plano.gov">richardg@plano.gov</a> Problem-Oriented Police Officers
<b>Crime Prevention Unit</b> Christopher Biane and Mark Dawson <a href="mailto:christopherb@plano.gov">christopherb@plano.gov</a> <a href="mailto:markd@plano.gov">markd@plano.gov</a> Crime Watch Coordinators	<b>Neighborhood Planning Program</b> Monique Coleman Neighborhood Planner <a href="mailto:moniquec@plano.gov">moniquec@plano.gov</a> (972) 941-5397

### Safe Streets

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
<b>Q:</b> Can we close intersections such as Prairie Creek and Independence?	<b>A:</b> The Transportation Division will assess the circumstances to determine the necessity and feasibility of a closure. Closures require approval of City Council. The likely alternative would be to divert traffic. More information pending.
<b>Q:</b> If we do not qualify for traffic calming devices, what else can we do?	<b>A:</b> Tracy told residents if Safe Streets Program requirements are not met, they can appeal to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).
<b>Q:</b> To address the issues of cut-through traffic from Independence, can we close the median that currently provides access to the neighborhood at Prairie Creek?	<b>A:</b> Tracy will discuss this question with Lloyd Neal, Transportation Engineering Manager.
<b>Q:</b> Can we look at the various access points around the neighborhood? We do not feel all of these entry points into the neighborhood are necessary.	<b>A:</b> See first response regarding closures. Also, residents were informed at the meeting that there are several things to consider. To achieve something of this extremity, it would be necessary to consult all public safety departments and consider the impacts of change on EMS, fire rescue, and police. We will continue to discuss this issue in upcoming neighborhood meetings.

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
<p><b>Q:</b> We would like to have speed bumps installed on Rustic Dr and Greenway. The picnic tables create a hazard for children along Rustic Dr.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Tracy informed residents of the procedures to start a traffic study for speed bumps along both streets. Residents must initiate that process.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> Can we close certain streets: Dorchester and Mills Valley; Independence and Prairie Creek.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The city will, in most cases, not close streets that connect to a major thoroughfare/arterial, primarily due to necessary access to the neighborhood for public and safety service vehicles. It is possible to divert traffic on residential streets. Traffic has to collect the data and show patterns to determine feasibility.</p>

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### Neighborhood Police Officers Unit (NPO)

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
<p>Officer Ewell gave the following Stratford Estates neighborhood statistics from Oct 07 to Mar 08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-Homicides</li> <li>• 0-Robberies</li> <li>• 0-Sexual Assault</li> <li>• 3-Assaults (all were family violence)</li> <li>• 3-Home Burglary (one was an open garage)</li> <li>• 18-Vehicle Burglaries (9 in 2008) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 of the 2007 burglaries were cleared by arrest</li> <li>○ These are basically 4 separate incidents</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 7-Theft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 of these were realtor signs taken from front yards</li> <li>○ In 4 of the offenses, the suspects were know by the victims</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 6-Criminal Mischief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 4 of these were committed by ex-husbands or ex-boyfriends</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 0-Narcotics</li> </ul>	
<p>Officer Ewell read some comments and responses from the neighborhood survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When asked (on the survey) if crime is a serious problem in the neighborhood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 48% Disagree</li> <li>○ 21%Neutral</li> <li>○ 13% Strongly Disagree</li> <li>○ 12% Agree</li> <li>○ 3% Strongly Agree</li> </ul> </li> <li>• When asked what types of crime concern you most: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 49% Juvenile mischief</li> <li>○ 43% Home burglary/robbery</li> <li>○ 36% Vandalism</li> <li>○ 36% Auto burglary/theft</li> <li>○ 7% other</li> <li>○ 5% drugs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
	<p>Officer Ewell openly discussed various comments with residents. He also provided details on the following ordinances (click links and copy and past ordinance code):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juvenile Curfew 11pm-6am Sun. through Thurs. and 12am-6am Sat. and Sun.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Defenses Sec. 14-48.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Noise Ordinance Sec. 14-85.</a> Making of noise detrimental to live or health prohibited</li> <li>• <a href="#">Noise Ordinance Sec. 14-86.</a> Noise interfering with enjoyment of property or public peace and comfort</li> <li>• <a href="#">Noise Ordinance Sec. 14-87.</a> Acts creating unlawful noises (i.e. vehicle loudspeaker)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance Sec. 12-206.</a> Certain motor vehicles declared abandoned and nuisance; impoundment by police.</li> </ul>

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### Crime Prevention Unit (CPU)

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
	<p>Officer Mark Dawson is the <a href="#">Crime Prevention Unit</a> Coordinator for the Stratford Estates Neighborhood – your neighborhood is in <a href="#">C Sector</a>. He was teaching a class at the Liberty Recreation Center so one of his colleagues in the CPU attended this meeting in his place.</p> <p>We were very fortunate to have Officer Christopher Biane <a href="#">Crime Prevention Unit</a>, A Sector Coordinator attend this meeting. Officer Biane gave very helpful information to secure our homes and everyday lives.</p> <p>Note: Officers informed residents – Police Chief said residents may dial 911 for <b>ANYTHING!</b> When you feel suspicious about anything, DIAL 911! NEVER ADDRESS CONCERNS ON YOUR OWN!</p> <p><b>Officer Biane covered some of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Neighborhood Crime Watch</a> – We will establish a group for the Stratford Estates Neighborhood at the May 8 meeting.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Home Security Assessment</a> – this is a free service and officers (most likely Officer Dawson) will come to your home, give you a security assessment, and tell you what you need to make your home more secure. You can also receive a discount on your home insurance! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Key is to make burglary as difficult as possible! Things that will aid in this effort include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Door Stoppers</li> <li>▪ Security Strike Plates</li> <li>▪ Safety Pins for glass sliding doors</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ All of these things can be purchased at Home Depot or Lowes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Thieves casing homes</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If someone knocks on your door, do NOT let them in, do NOT stay silent but say, “Honey, I’ll get it”. If they think you are not home, they might try to break into your home immediately. If they know you are home or most importantly, think someone is in there with you, they will go to the next place. MOST IMPORTANTLY – CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY.</li> <li>○ If someone is soliciting or placing information on doors. BEWARE; they could be casing to see if you are home or if you keep your door <u>LOCKED</u>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions (THROUGH THE DOOR OF COURSE) – name, id, etc.</li> <li>• <u>Use your peephole!</u> If you do not have one, GET ONE INSTALLED</li> <li>• <u>Secure your garage!</u> Cut the emergency cord short enough that someone cannot push your door in and reach it from the outside.</li> <li>• <u>Take your garage door openers</u> in the house. (<a href="#">Lock, Take, Hide Campaign</a>)</li> <li>• Many thefts occur because <u>garage doors are left open</u></li> <li>• <u>TAKE all valuables out of the car</u>, including loose change. If you leave anything in your car, <u>HIDE IT!</u> Do not entice the thief!</li> </ul> <p>The information I do not have for the officers can be obtained if you e-mail them. Please do not hesitate to do so, they are always more than happy to assist citizens in anyway, they can.</p>	

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## OTHER TOPICS/FOLLOW-UP TOPICS

### Parks and Recreation

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
<p><b>Q:</b> Can we relocate the picnic tables and trash receptacles? Click <a href="#">here</a> to view sketch by resident.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Picnic tables have been relocated. Residents would like to discuss ways to improve the overall appearance of the park. The Neighborhood Planning team will work with Parks to address concerns with Rustic Park.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What improvements will be made to the turf (grass)?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Park maintenance is currently seeking the best option to improve the turf in Rustic Park. Specifics will be given at the upcoming meeting.</p>

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### Community Issues / Defeating Apathy

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
<p><b>Q:</b> What is the purpose of these meetings and this "neighborhood planning process?"</p>	<p><b>A:</b> To instill pride in your neighborhood, to reinvigorate a sense of community and cohesiveness, and to enhance your overall quality of life.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> Can Council District 4 Representative Sally Magnuson attend one of the neighborhood meetings?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Councilwoman Sally Magnuson attended the March 27 meeting. Residents were very excited about her attendance. Residents stated they did not have specific concerns to address with Councilwoman Magnuson; residents just wanted to know that Council has an interest in hearing their concerns. Thank you Councilwoman Sally Magnuson!</p>

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
<b>Q:</b> How can we communicate better in our neighborhood and create a greater sense of community?	<b>A:</b> Your neighbor Michael McDowell created an online forum for the sharing and exchanging of information and ideas. Please click the link for the <a href="#">Stratford Estates Yahoo Group!</a>

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### Community Investment Program (CIP) Projects/Public Works

Issue or Question	Response or Answer
<b>Q:</b> Alley behind Cloisters Way – in need of repair from damage due to construction vehicles	<b>A:</b> A contract is pending for this alley construction project. Engineering will not allow the contractor to start on this project until others have been completed. Work should begin in 2-4 weeks.
<b>Q:</b> Erosion problem in Pitman Creek. Collin Greene Condominiums that abut the creek are experiencing erosion problems. What corrective action will the City take?	<b>A:</b> A CIP Engineer is meeting with a Collin Greene HOA Board Member on April 11 to assess the erosion problem.
<b>Q:</b> Can we replace the living screening wall along the south side of Park Blvd. with a brick screening wall?	<b>A:</b> According to Public Works, the living screen wall can be replaced with a brick screening wall at the expense of the homeowners.

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### Closing Remarks

Please visit the [Stratford Estates Neighborhood](#) Web site for more details.

Greetings Stratford Estates residents,

I have added the most up-to-date information to the notes. If I left something out, please let me know. Our next meeting is at Haggard Library on April 10 at 7pm. We will discuss Keep Plano Beautiful and Sustainability. Sustainability and Environmental Services always provide great ideas for home maintenance and care, so I hope to see you there!

**Please note:** we are slowly working our way through the “nuts-n-bolts” of the planning process. All of our meetings so far have been informational. Starting with the April 24 meeting, we will start to analyze that information and begin to establish goals and objectives as a result of previous meetings and discussions. We are getting there, so hang in there with me!

See you soon,

Monique Coleman  
Neighborhood Planner

### **Meeting Reminder**

**Thursday – April 10 – Haggard Library Program Room – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Please visit the [Stratford Estates Neighborhood](#) Web site for more details.