

Crime Control & Prevention District

The City of North Richland Hills is planning an election for May 2010 to renew the Crime Control & Prevention District and the half-cent sales tax that helps to fund local law enforcement services and programs.

The Crime Control & Prevention District was initially approved by North Richland Hills voters in 1996 for a 5-year period and it was renewed in 2001 for a 10-year period. State law allows voters to extend the Crime Control & Prevention District for up to 20 years.

Since its inception in 1996, the Crime Control & Prevention District has generated approximately \$51 million through the half-cent sales tax to fund law enforcement services and programs. This has allowed the Police Department to:

- Hire 27 additional police officers, 2 detectives, 18 support personnel and 1 school crossing guard;
- Instruct the D.A.R.E. Program at all NRH elementary schools;
- Provide school resources officers for the middle schools and high schools;
- Continue the Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention programs;
- Establish new crime prevention programs including the Crime Free Multi Housing program, the "Lock, Take and Hide" program, and others;
- Purchase 30 vehicles and refurbish 12 vehicles;
- Upgrade emergency radio and computer systems;
- Maintain competitive salaries for North Richland Hills police officers.

Since the Crime Control & Prevention District was created, calls for service have increased from 97,038 to 123,877 per year while response times to Priority 1 emergency calls have decreased from an average of 9 minutes and 42 seconds to 5 minutes and 18 seconds; in addition, there has been an increase in the percentage of crimes cleared each year.

The Crime Control & Prevention District is not only funded by North Richland Hills residents. People from other communities who patronize North Richland Hills stores and businesses also pay the Crime Control & Prevention District half-cent sales tax. Continuation of this half-cent sales tax will allow the City to continue providing the same level of law enforcement service without raising other fees and taxes.

Community meetings will be held this Spring to provide residents with further information about the Crime Control & Prevention District. Information on voting times and locations for the May 2010 Crime Control & Prevention District Continuation Election will be included in the Spring City Newsletter, which will be delivered to residents in April. For more information regarding the Crime Control & Prevention District or the upcoming election, please contact the Police Department at 817-427-7000.