



## **City of Shreveport**

### **Police Department – Crime Fighting Strategies (2017)**

Alan Crump, Chief of Police

Although these strategies are being implemented to achieve a reduction in violent and other type crimes, they are only the beginning of an effort to keep our community safe. A more comprehensive plan of action is being developed to address overall criminal activity to ensure a safe environment for all citizens of our city. New and modified strategies will be implemented as criminal trends change or evolve; consequently in the end, there will be no place in Shreveport for criminals to hide or illegal activity to proliferate. Mayor Tyler is committed to providing the necessary City resources toward these efforts.

Crime in Shreveport saw an increase in 2016. This increase is said to be part of a national trend, but that analogy doesn't really matter to a victim or the victim's family of a committed crime. Any day there is a homicide, assault, home or business burglary, child harmed, or other crime, the victims and their family suffer, but so too does the community – in the loss of safety and security. With a renewed focus and intensity, we can and will do better.

#### **Goals**

The Goals of the Shreveport Police Department are:

- Reduce criminal activity in all areas of the community
- Strengthen police and citizens' relationships and continue to build community trust
- Achieve greater efficiency in utilizing resources and in providing a safe environment for citizens

## **Current Initiatives Being Implemented**

- i. **Targeting High Crime Areas**: This initiative uses scientific and data driven intelligence to target and flood high crime areas with additional SPD resources. This approach increases and creates a high law enforcement visibility in maintaining a constant and consistent police presence in those areas designated by statistical research and incident monitoring to have high incidents of crime. This is carried out by the Uniformed Services Division (USP), supported by SPD's Community Response Units (CRUs), and includes Operation Gotham Nights - a warrants execution operation in those high crime areas. These resources are constantly conducting various directed patrols in the targeted areas to address crime related issues and deter future events.
- ii. **Operation Long Haul**: A proactive, aggressive, inclusive effort, utilizing personnel from all divisions of the police department including patrol officers, traffic officers, community liaison officers, community response officers, mounted patrol officers, crime scene investigators, detectives, warrants officers and K-9 officers. Operation Long Haul will focus on everything from curfew violations to open air drug sales to gunshots being fired. The officers will use a multi-faceted approach to target those criminals with outstanding warrants, unregistered sex offenders, and suspects who use and distribute narcotics. Operation Long Haul is tailored to be an ongoing effort that the department will move to neighborhoods throughout the city as crime patterns emerge.
- iii. **Operation Shots Fired**: This program was put in place by Police Chief Crump in early February. Because of the hard work of SPD officers along with community involvement, within one month this effort resulted in 45 felony arrests, 37 misdemeanor arrests, and the seizure of 12 illegally possessed firearms. Funds for this initiative were made available through the department's general fund budget for overtime by Mayor Tyler and then approved by the City Council.
- iv. **Stop the Cruising**: This operation targets illegal cruising in the city. Illegal cruising often promotes or leads to the commission of crimes; consequently, this operation is done to deter this kind of activity. SPD officers have been working weekend cruising operations and have made numerous felony and misdemeanor arrests over the past month. These initiatives will continue through the summer months in an effort to keep our city and streets safe and free from unnecessary loitering, traffic congestion, and criminal activity.
- v. **Task Force Teaming Programs**: SPD continues to work with other area, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to tackle crime in Shreveport and Caddo Parish. These efforts include:
  - a. **FBI Task Force** – The Northwest Louisiana Violent Crimes Task Force is a multi-agency task force comprised of personnel from federal, state, and local agencies. Their mission is to disrupt and dismantle significant drug trafficking organizations, violent street gangs and other criminal elements.

- b. DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) Task Force – The DEA Task Force is made up of several diverse local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies whose mission is to enforce the controlled substance laws and regulations. This effort goes after those organizations and their members who grow, manufacture, or distribute controlled substances.
- c. ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) Task Force – Made up of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, the ATF Task Force concentrates primarily on the enforcement of gun and explosive laws. Their mission is to target, apprehend, and refer for prosecution those individuals and organizations engaged in violent criminal activities and narcotic crimes involving the use of a firearm.
- d. USM (United States Marshal's) Task Force – Made up of federal, state and local agencies, the mission of the USM Task Force is to apprehend violent offenders and fugitives. One of SPD members of the USM Task Force was the officer that located the suspect in the Officer Thomas LaValley shooting.
- e. The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program (HIDTA) - The HIDTA Program is a federal grant program administered by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and provides resources to assist federal, state, local and tribal agencies coordinate activities that address drug trafficking in specifically designated areas of the United States.
- f. OCDETF - Shreveport Police work as a member of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force with its combined resources and expertise of seven federal agency members – the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS); the Internal Revenue Service to arrest criminals in our community.
- g. Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office - SPD works everyday with Sheriff Prator's deputies as part of the Caddo-Shreveport Narcotics Unit as well as the White Collar Crimes Task Force.
- h. Louisiana Probation and Parole - Shreveport Police work closely with the Louisiana Probation and Parole Office to identify and apprehend offenders.
- i. FBI Crimes Against Children Task Force – This task force targets human trafficking cases relating to forced prostitution involving juveniles.

While it would not be appropriate to discuss the details of ongoing felony investigations involving our task force partners, these collaborative relationships have been and are vital components of our crime reduction strategies and are resulting in a number of criminals being taken off the streets. Some other crime fighting areas of involvement in partnership with our law enforcement partners include SPD members on the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Task Force, and working with Bossier City Marshall's office as part of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

- vi. Resources: In addition to providing overtime funds, Mayor Tyler and the City Council continue to be stalwart supporters of the Police Department. In 2016, \$3.5 million was approved to purchase new police units which were sorely needed for patrol officers to provide effective and timely responses to the citizens of Shreveport. Also, Mayor Tyler provided the department with another \$1 million approved by the City Council to purchase more new units in 2017.

- vii. Community Oriented Policing: Police Chief Crump has directed an expansion of Community Policing efforts. These include more in-depth neighborhood grass roots interaction and discussions, community walks, and prayer vigils with our Pastors' on Patrol program. All in an effort to further support, engage, and empower our neighbor partners across the city to be engaged in their community and its safety. The Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) and Neighborhood Assistance Team (NAT) members do regular community meetings where they discuss reporting crimes/suspicious activity, starting/re-starting neighborhood programs and other community involvement to help combat crime in our city.
- viii. Crime Scene Interaction: Like many jurisdictions in the United States, Shreveport faces challenges eliciting victim and witness cooperation in the investigation of violent crimes such as homicide, robbery, and aggravated assault. SPD continues to improve its transparency and shares as much information as quickly as possible. One related strategy is to encourage officers to engage the public in discussion when protecting a crime scene. As curious community members ask about what has happened, officers have an opportunity to provide basic information and, in return, try to gather information from those onlookers who may have important information about the persons involved.
- ix. End the Silence, End the Violence Program: In partnership with the Shreveport-Caddo Parish Crime Stoppers, this new initiative will be hitting media outlets in May, 2017. This program will allow citizens to anonymously report someone illegally possessing a firearm and then receive a reward for doing so.
- x. Boots on the Ground Campaign: SPD has implemented a new policy requiring all command staff members to ride-out monthly with a patrol officer to enhance law enforcement efforts. These efforts are to provide high ranking officers a first-hand look at the problems facing patrol officers and then developing a team approach in tackling both from a patrol and administrative standpoint.
- xi. Police Office Recruitment: The Police Department currently has a basic training class on-going that is scheduled to graduate in June. Another class will begin in August to ensure that our ranks are at full strength. In addition to new recruiting efforts, SPD has established a new lateral hiring program set to start in May, 2017 whereby the department can attract and hire qualified law enforcement officers from other agencies without having to place them into a regular basic training course. This will allow them to hit the streets much sooner after hire.
- xii. Increased the number of Reserve and Auxiliary Officers: The Police Department will launch a campaign to further engage the community and bolster crime prevention efforts by increasing the numbers of Auxiliary and Reserve Officers. The Auxiliary program allows community volunteers, after completing mandatory screening and training, to patrol areas with SPD marked units and radio-in crimes and work non-law, non-emergent enforcement matters, such as traffic control – freeing up sworn officers for more critical issues. Volunteers in the Reserve program actually become sworn officers who attend the entire Police Academy class and graduate with

POST certification and arrest authority. These individuals ride out on patrol with full-time commissioned officer.

Shreveport has come a long way from the 1990s when our City was mired in crime and violence. In 1993 our community saw one of the highest crime years in its history with over 22,000 reported Part I crimes and 86 homicides. Last year there were 12,566 reported Part I crimes in our city. Overall, over the last ten years and relative to Part I crimes, Shreveport's crime rate was lower than any other ten year period over the last 40 years. However, crime by any number is only relevant to one's reality and feeling of being safe; therefore, the Shreveport Police Department and its dedicated officers are committed to working together with our law enforcement partners, business and community leaders, neighborhood groups and individually concerned citizens in combating this problem. Together, we will realize our vision of creating a safer Shreveport where all citizens are able to live, work and play in a peaceful and orderly environment, free from crime and the fear of crime.