



From the Desk of the Chief of Police...

March 7, 2014 –It has been almost one month since I arrived in Norwalk to start my new job as your chief of police. During this time I have been warmly welcomed by everyone that I have met, and for that I am truly appreciative. I was drawn to Norwalk by a number of factors but mostly it was because of the kind and generous people who live and work here. There is a dedication to community in Norwalk that is easy to notice. It was that mindset that made Norwalk a very attractive community and made accepting the appointment as your new chief an easy decision.

I want to personally thank Mayor Phillips, former Mayor Pierce, the City Manager and the entire City Council for having confidence in my abilities and for giving me the opportunity to fulfill a dream to become the chief. I also would like to extend my appreciation to the many people involved in the selection and interview process for their time and effort. Lastly, I am grateful to the members of the police department for their unanimous support of my selection and their continued work towards our departmental vision.

Community Policing

I believe that a community allows itself to be policed in a manner that the community finds acceptable. I believe that when the police department is doing things correctly it is involving the community in the daily activities of the department. After all, it's not **my** police department or **your** police department, it's **our** police department and together we should work to make Norwalk a safe and prosperous place. The father of modern policing, Sir Robert Peel, once said that "the police are the public and the public are the police; the police only being members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen." To this end, I feel strongly that the best approach to public safety for the Norwalk Police Department is through community policing.

Community policing is not just a program, an officer, a unit, an activity, bicycle patrol or the DARE program. It is all of that and more. It is an ingrained notion that completely permeates an organization. Officers in an agency that subscribes to a community policing philosophy understand that to be effective, all members of the department must work cooperatively with individual citizens, civic organizations and other public and private entities to identify and resolve the issues that may prevent a community from the true prosperity that is possible.

Norwalk is poised for growth and accomplishment that many communities can only dream about. With a community policing approach, I feel that together we can provide the prevention programs and crime control necessary for Norwalk to successfully attract

the new businesses and residents that we want. For this concept to succeed however, I will need your participation. You can help in three main ways:

- 1) **Please call us when you need us.** Unless we know there is trouble or you are in a time of need, we can't help. If you call we will come. If you are in a crisis, have been victimized or just want advice on crime prevention strategies for your home or business, we will come. Crime and neglect breed more crime and neglect. Small criminal acts that go unanswered can lead to larger issues. Neglected properties or neglected issues can lead to more of the same. The Norwalk Police Department is interested in your quality of life. We want your neighborhood to be safe, crime free, peaceful and quiet. Working together we can keep it that way.
- 2) **Talk to your neighbors about neighborhood issues.** The premise of a neighborhood watch is not armed citizens on patrol. A neighborhood watch is just that; neighbors paying attention to what is happening around them. Criminals know when a community talks and socializes with each other. They don't like it and tend to stay away. If you see a suspicious person or vehicle, call us AND tell your neighbors. The more eyes paying attention, the less chance for crime and disorder to grow and prosper.
- 3) **Invite a police officer to attend/speak at a future meeting or event.** Community policing involves the community and the police working together to solve mutual issues of interest. This is best accomplished through open dialog and communication. The officers of the department and I are very interested in attending or speaking at your group gathering. I believe that the chief of police should be approachable and available to the community. Therefore, I personally welcome all invitations to speak at events or attend group meetings. Positive relationships between the community and the police are key components of crime control. Please don't hesitate to ask for us to participate.

My first month in Norwalk has been a great experience and I anticipate many more months of the same. I look forward to meeting everyone so please give us a call at Public Safety building. Together we can keep Norwalk the great place it already is.