

**Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association**  
9987 E. Paseo San Bernardo      Tucson, AZ 85747

June 4, 2008

Honorable Robert E. Walkup, Mayor  
City Hall  
255 W. Alameda Street  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Police staffing

Dear Mayor Walkup:

The Board of the Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association (RRNA) has prepared this letter. The RRNA is located in southeast Tucson, Ward IV. Per AZBiz.COM, The RRNA's boundaries include a good portion of the Houghton Development Area, "...as of 2007, the Houghton development area has 23,775 households, with a population of 66,979. The average household income is \$70,469 and median age is 35.2 years. It's a "move up" market. By 2009, that total will be 26,546 households, with a population of 72,911."

The Board has serious concerns about policing in the ever growing southeast of Tucson with regard to response times, crime prevention, and property and personal security. It is clear that there is a trend toward increased crime and a potential reduction in the quality of life. Just within the last several months there have been two (2) murders, one of which was in broad daylight with family members in the house. Recent criminal activity has included a major drug raid, plus drive by shootings in the Rita Ranch neighborhood. For the past few years we have been working with the police on curbing the increasing "Tagging" around the Rita Ranch area and in Purple Heart Park, drug use and drug dealing in the park area, and repeated stolen wiring from the Vail Road street lighting.

Recently we received a letter from the Tucson Police Officers Association, of which we are sure you are aware. This letter points to a lack of understanding by City Management for the need to not only maintain and but also to improve the policing in the Rita Ranch Neighborhood and the southeast in general in an effort to keep up with growth. When looking at the Operations Division East on the City's web site, it shows that the East Division as being approximately 120 square miles or over 50% of land mass within the city. The police must patrol from Craycroft to Melpomene and Tanque Verde down past the county fairgrounds from the police sub-station at Golf Links and Harrison. That sub-station is approximately 8 miles away from the Rita Ranch.

We know that budgeting and funding for support and buildup activity seems unattainable. However, with careful planning and with the Police Department in the loop for the planning, a buildup to their recommended levels, over a period of 2-3 years would sustain an appropriate response to the vastly needed improvements to fight the -war on crime and attain a successful crime prevention goal.

This City is experiencing increased drug trafficking, increased gang activity, and increased human trafficking. When one looks at the map of the police districts, District 8, our district, is nearly one third of the City. The physical size of the District does not lend itself to customary police manning measurements. We emphasize an extreme concern for property and personal security in the Greater RRNA. We ask if the City is doing what is necessary - and more importantly, doing what is right for the citizens you serve?

It is with the above thoughts that we are requesting shorter response times and more crime prevention patrols, not less.

For the Board,

Al Wiruth, President

cc: Council Member, Shirley Scott  
City Manager, Mike Hein  
Police Chief Miranda  
RRNA General Membership Website