



ROBERT D. PARISI
Mayor

TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

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West Orange Police Increase Patrols to Residential Areas; Encourage Community/Police Partnership to Help Prevent and Reduce Crime

July 1, 2013 – West Orange, NJ – Mayor Robert D. Parisi announced today that the West Orange Police Department (WOPD) has increased patrols to address the immediate concerns that have given rise to public safety issues, and are asking for the community's help to prevent and reduce crime within the Township.

Based on daily crime analysis, police have deployed both uniformed and plain clothes officers to areas experiencing criminal events and have increased field interviews in these areas. The department has also added extra patrols to all residential neighborhoods.

Additionally, the WOPD has altered the hours of their Street Crimes Unit to address overnight property crime and closely monitor all late-night businesses. The specialized unit was implemented in October 2012 to prevent and reduce crime within specific areas of the Township.

To further enhance public security, seven video surveillance cameras have been installed in targeted areas throughout the Township. Four more will be installed this week. Police are also working closely with local businesses and homeowners who have surveillance cameras to assist in criminal investigations.

"Last month, after publicly releasing surveillance video and photos from an armed robbery, numerous tips came in which helped our investigators capture and arrest four suspects. This is an excellent example of how the community can partner with police to deter crime and further illustrates how technology has become a driving force in crime prevention," West Orange Police Chief James P. Abbott said.

Abbott also says the department reviews intelligence reports daily which are distributed to personnel to provide information sharing throughout Essex County.

Another division of the department, the Community Services Unit (CSU), strategically deploys the maximum number of police officers feasible in the center of the area of concern. To increase the effectiveness of the unit, CSU opened the Heights Police Sub-Station Community Center, located at 92 Washington Street, in December 2012. The renovated



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community center was established to help keep children off the streets and provide a comfortable, safe haven for WO kids to spend time.

CSU also assists residents who are interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch and will help homeowners survey their property to determine if they are properly protecting their homes.

“Our main priority is to reduce the fear and incidence of crime as we continue to take the appropriate proactive measures to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods,” Parisi said. “There are many ways to take control and help prevent crime in our homes and in our neighborhoods. We need the community to play a role in prioritizing public safety problems and to work together with police to help combat crime. It's a matter of communication, commitment and time.”

To contact the West Orange Police Department, please call 973-325-4000. To contact the Community Services Unit, please call 973-325-4038 or email communitypolicing@westorange.org.

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