

CHAPTER 9. PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Law Enforcement

Crime trends in Raytown since 1995 indicate that there are some constants, as well as a cyclical nature to incidences and locations of crime in Raytown. While violent and property damage crimes are increasing, the overall statistics for property theft, burglary and larceny have not registered significant increases or decreases over the last ten years, and other violent crimes, such as homicide, rape and arson are rare in Raytown and are solved more frequently than other crimes.

The Police Department anticipates that past trends will continue and the incident of some crimes will become more frequent. The Department also believes that the number of reported crimes will increase as the Department seeks to develop relationships with residents that will encourage communication with the Police and the reporting of crimes.

The Raytown Police Department has sixty sworn officers, a 9-member Uniformed Reserve, nine Uniformed School Crossing Officers and nineteen civilians. Eight of these officers are in the Detective Bureau. Three additional officers are funded by the Jackson County Drug Sales Tax, two of which are Drug Enforcement Officers.

Raytown continues to be a member of Metro-Squad, which is a four-county (Jackson, Clay, Cass and Platte) joint effort to combat crime. In 1994, a model used in Wichita, Kansas was implemented in Raytown and a special unit called the Special Community Action Team (S.C.A.T) was created. SCAT is comprised of members of the Police, Health and Public Works Department brought together to address a wide variety of complaints.

Fire Protection Facilities

Fire Protection for the City of Raytown is provided by the Raytown Fire Protection District. The City limits of Raytown serve as the fire district boundary.

Prior to 1988, the Fire District had a Class 5 fire insurance classification by Insurance Service Office (ISO) Commercial Risk Services, Inc. On July 11, 1988, their protection class improved to Class 4, which decreased fire insurance rates for some of the commercial properties within the district. The improved status was based on all rating factors, such as fire hydrant flow tests performed by ISO. With recently completed water main system improvements by the Raytown Water Company and planned improvements by Jackson County Water District #2, it may be possible to obtain a Class 3 fire insurance classification for Raytown.

Fire services are delivered through linkages to the Central Dispatch Center in the City. The Fire Department assists the City's Health Department provision of Emergency Medical Services

(EMS). In 2000, the Fire Department had 2167 alarms, of which about 32 percent were related to fire cases. An average of about 60 percent of total runs are related to providing EMS. The location of the headquarters (63rd Street and Raytown Trafficway) and the substation (75th Street and Raytown Road) allows for a response time of 3.5 to 6 minutes during the day that increases to 6 to 8 minutes during the night. Frequency of calls from portions of the City is related to the concentration of elderly residents and comparative age of housing structures in those areas.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS in Missouri is licensed and regulated by the State. The offices for the EMS department in Raytown are located within the City Hall premises and a station located at the intersection of 70th Street and Elm Street.

The services provided by EMS were expanded from emergency only to include non-emergency services. The station is conveniently located and enables the department to respond to calls within four minutes. The majority of the calls are generated by the retirement centers. Other than equipment and station improvements, the department does not have any major plan for expansion.

Planning Implications

Some facilities within the Police Department appear to be inadequate. For example, offices and the existing jail facilities need more space and better facilities. Currently, the area between 67th Street and the railroad tracks is not easily accessible to patrol vehicles due to limited railroad crossings. Reactivation of the railroad and the loss of the 71st Street and Woodson Road railroad crossing would worsen the situation.

The existing Fire Department facilities would benefit from renovation. The budgetary source for the department is limited and since the \$1.2 million bond issue passed in 1978, there has not been any capital fund set aside for the Fire District since 1992. Reserve funds are currently being used to upgrade staff and to purchase smaller utility vehicles and a refurbished pumper.

Two major concerns of the Fire Department are the reactivation of the railroad and potential annexation of the area east of Raytown. For instance, if the railroad was reactivated to allow two and a half mile long trains to run through the City, one train could cut three of the six crossings across the railroad tracks: 1) at 53rd Street and Arlington, 2) at 56th Street and Arlington and 3) at 71st Street and Woodson Road. If the bridge across 59th Street was rebuilt, three railroad crossings (others being at 63rd Street and at 67th Street and Hadley) would continue to function, even after the reactivation of the railroad. Also, trains carrying unknown hazardous materials create the potential for hazardous material spills which the Fire District has limited capabilities to handle.

Incorporation of additional acreage could put an additional burden on the Fire Department, not only in terms of the need for more staff, but also in terms of maintaining the current response time to serve areas that are not easily accessible. It could also require a new station. If Fire

District Boundaries were not changed to include this area, there would be no impact on Fire District services.

Consolidation of some safety services, by cross-training personnel and sharing ambulance responsibilities, and reduction of duplicative administrative services should be investigated. The Fire District and the City Code Enforcement Department, who is responsible for correcting reported fire code violations, needs to work together closely in the future.

Public Safety Services
