



# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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Mayors Newsletter August 2018

## Public Safety Remains a Top Priority in Jersey Village

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

Our great city is maintaining its whirlwind of activity this summer. City Council and Staff conducted the annual budget meetings last month. To say Jersey Village has a lot on its plate would be an understatement. However, that's what comes with a growing and dynamic community. Budgeting decisions were made on a wide range of topics including continued flood mitigation, golf course clubhouse and meeting center design and public works projects among others. As always, a sizeable amount of time involved reviewing the current and future public safety needs in Jersey Village.

Our community places significant emphasis on quality public safety services – Police, Fire and EMS. To that end, City Council engaged with staff on budget and personnel needs to maintain the expected levels of service. The Jersey Village Police Department continues to be a key asset and community feature of the neighborhood. The City budget reflects that sentiment by allocating a healthy portion of the general fund toward police and crime prevention. Furthering that commitment is the continuation of the city's Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD). The CCPD is a special district that allocates a percentage of City sales tax for crime prevention activities and JVPD law enforcement needs. The CCPD is comprised of City Council members and citizens that set the budget for the District. CCPD funds are dispersed among various law enforcements categories including personnel, equipment and vehicles. The CCPD and General Fund commitment to law enforcement is a driving reason for the continuous success and capabilities of JVPD.

During budget meetings, there is similar discussions involving the Jersey Village Fire Department's needs, specifically regarding personnel and recruitment. In a previous newsletter I made a call to action for citizen volunteers noting that "becoming a volunteer fire fighter is a noble pursuit that harkens back to colonial America when Ben Franklin created the first volunteer fire department in Philadelphia in 1736. Since then, volunteering as a fire fighter has become a special and honorable way to serve in our communities. The JVFD is an active department that responds to emergencies related to fire, emergency medical, rescue, and hazardous material incidents. In addition, the JVFD has an active fire prevention program which provides public education to area day cares, private and public schools"

I am pleased to say a number of JV citizens answered the call and inquired about becoming the next generation of volunteer firefighters. This month I am sending out another call about a unique recruitment effort on Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. The JVFD will host a pancake breakfast at the fire station for those who are interested in volunteering as a firefighter. After the breakfast, the Fire Department will conduct a presentation, tour and discuss the equipment used by the department. Entire families are welcome and encouraged to attend. If interested, email JVFD Fire Chief Mark Bitz at [mbitz@ci.jersey-village.tx.us](mailto:mbitz@ci.jersey-village.tx.us). You will receive a recruitment package that will grant entry to the event. Being a volunteer fire fighter in Jersey Village has always been an exciting and fulfilling way to serve our great community and I encourage our neighbors to seriously consider answering this important calling.

All the Best,

Justin Ray

Mayor

Jersey Village, Texas