

Phoenix Police Department Reorganization

By: Officer Tim Mitten
Community Action Officer
Black Mountain Precinct

On August 23, 2010 the Phoenix Police Department opened two new precincts, one in southwest Phoenix and the other in north Phoenix. The new Black Mountain Precinct located at 33355 N. Cave Creek Road serves the north portion of the City of Phoenix. The 30,000 square foot precinct building was built using 2006 bond funds at a cost of 12.5 million dollars. The building came in under budget and is designed to accommodate the future growth in the area. The precinct boundaries stretch from 67th and 51st avenues on the west to the city boundaries at Scottsdale on the east, and down to the 101 freeway and also portions down to Union Hills and Paradise Lane. This covers approximately 180 square miles, making it the largest of the eight police precincts, but has its population of approximately 225,00 residents concentrated in certain areas and has large portions of the precinct with no population or police activity. The precinct is staffed with 132 officers and 16 sergeants, which includes 12 patrol squads, 2 Neighborhood Enforcement Teams and 1 Community Action Squad.

The Community Action squad is comprised of four Community Action Officers, two which are assigned west of the I-17 freeway and two of us are east of the I-17. In addition we have a Crime Free Multi Housing Officer and an Abatement Detective. I am one of the two CAO's assigned east of the I-17 freeway. I have been with the Phoenix Police Department for over 20 years and was previously assigned in the Desert Horizon Precinct which originally served this area. Since 1998 I have been serving the residents of northeast Phoenix as a Community Action Officer or Neighborhood Enforcement Officer. In addition to being a north Phoenix native these assignments have allowed me to become knowledgeable of most of the issues in the area, the successes, and the upcoming challenges. A Community Action Officer is an officer, whose focus is to work with the neighborhood to solve problems using a variety of resources, working as a liaison to those resources, City Departments and any other entity that can assist in achieving the goals of community safety and improving the quality of life. As a CAO, we get involved in a multitude of problems which can range from solving neighbor disputes, street or traffic issues, violent, drug or property crime issues, neighborhood blight or ongoing criminal activity locations and many others. We are also officers who teach crime prevention and give presentations on a wide range of subjects to neighborhoods, businesses and children.

If I have not met you yet, I look forward to meeting you or hearing from you. I am going to be a regular at a variety of neighborhood meetings in addition to writing regular articles on crime prevention or other related topics. Please feel free to contact me and discuss what is on your mind in your neighborhood. I can be reached at the Black Mountain Precinct at 602-495-5238 or through email at tim.mitten@phoenix.gov.