

Crime down over past five years in Gwinnett Place area

Want daily summaries and Breaking News alerts?

As of Wednesday, February 27, 2013
© Copyright 2013 Gwinnett Daily Post

By Camie Young (3475)
camie.young@gwinnettdaily.com



In five years, a community improvement district's efforts have cut crime incidents in half in one of Gwinnett's revitalizing areas, according to statistics released this week.

Leaders from the Gwinnett Place CID heralded the decrease, which they attributed to a strengthened relations with the local police force, cleanup efforts, strengthened code enforcement and regular patrols from private security officers.

Between 2007 and 2012, overall crime incidents decreased 49 percent, with robbery down 52 percent and motor vehicle theft down 65 percent, a press release said. Theft reduced 48 percent, while commercial burglary is down 24 percent.

Plus, the number of traffic accidents is down 56 percent compared to 2007, the release added.

"The crime decrease is directly related to a series of successful initiatives taken by the Gwinnett County Police Department and by the Gwinnett Place CID," said Joe Allen, the organization's executive director. "The Gwinnett

Police regularly patrol throughout Gwinnett Place. The GPCID has also taken to heart the 'Broken Windows' policy of aggressively carrying out code enforcement to clean up the district."

Adhering to the philosophy that crime increases in areas where people neglect to maintain their property, the CID also boasted of a banner year in cleanup efforts.

The release said 23.38 tons of debris and 1,507 signs were removed from roadways and 124 street/parking lights and 27 malfunctioning traffic signals were repaired.

A recent crime-free multi-housing initiative is helping to eliminate crime, officials said, with an aggressive effort by police in 26 apartment complexes near the CID.

So far, calls to the police have gone down 22.3 percent with an immediate 12 percent reduction in certain serious crimes from April to December of last year.

"We can't offer enough praise and thanks for the solid efforts of the Gwinnett County Police Department," Allen said. "There is no question that their efforts have resulted in these successes."

Maj. Christa Spradley, precinct commander for the county's central precinct, which serves the area, had praise for the CID's work.

"The efforts of the Gwinnett Place CID have been a real help to the community and to our public safety efforts in the community," Spradley said in the release.

"The Gwinnett Place community continues to make strong headway," Allen added. "Our collective efforts are bearing real, tangible results."