



Contact:
Shelia Redmon-Jones
Greenspoint District
Ph. 281-874-2134
Cell 832-573-7009
srjones@greenspoint.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greenspoint's Crime Prevention Initiatives Recognized Among Top In State

Twice in one month, the Greenspoint District has received accolades for its innovative approach to public safety. Last week, the Texas Crime Prevention Association (TCPA), a non-profit dedicated to promoting best practices in crime prevention, recognized the Greenspoint District at its annual conference for its impact on crime. The TCPA's "*Outstanding Crime Prevention Organization*" award is presented to organizations that provide the greatest support to crime prevention programs. The results are getting noticed. Earlier in July, the Greenspoint District was recognized with the HPD Crime Reduction Award for its *Operation Greensweep* program. Police Chief Harold Hurtt awarded the program for being a model for uniting citizens, businesses and law enforcement officers in the fight against crime.

"This community has struggled with harmful misperceptions about safety, despite doing very well statistically," said Al Aranda, the district's public safety manager. "Every community will have some crime. But, when citizens work with law enforcement and are armed with accurate information and proven crime prevention techniques, the community's feeling of safety soars, adding to the quality of life. Our programs are comprehensive, addressing both actual and perceived crime," Aranda added.

The TCPA award highlights six successful district-initiated programs that seek to reduce crime and involve the community in crime prevention. These programs include:

- *Operation Greensweep* – A collaborative effort with the Houston Police Department (HPD) that utilizes a series of high visibility patrol squads, crime sweeps and narcotic enforcement activities to reduce crime.
- *Greenspoint Stopping Auto Theft (G.S.A.T)* – A partnership with the Harris County Sheriff's Office aimed at reducing and preventing auto theft.
- *Off-Duty Special Operations Program* – A program utilizing Houston, Harris County, Aldine ISD and METRO police to increase the visibility of and interaction with law enforcement in the community.
- *Graffiti Abatement Program* – An initiative that quickly identifies and removes graffiti from public or private property.
- *Auto Theft Report Card* – A public awareness program using police and private security officers to conduct vehicle inspections.

(more)

- *Crime Prevention/CPTED Surveys* – A program aimed at educating businesses and multi-family communities on crime prevention principles.

These programs have yielded measurable reductions in crime. According to statistics from HPD and Harris County, since the district was created in 1991, Greenspoint has experienced a 42 percent reduction in Part I crimes (major crimes) per 1,000 people. Furthermore, these reductions were realized even though the area’s population has increased by 48 percent and employment has increased by 106 percent.

The Greenspoint Public Safety Center at Greenspoint Mall, which was established by the district in 1994, serves as home base for many of the cooperative programs operating in the Greenspoint area. To learn more about Greenspoint’s programs and partners, call 281-874-2131 or log on to www.greenspoint.org.



Photo Caption:

Greenspoint District public safety programs continue to garner recognition with the TCPA’s “Outstanding Crime Prevention Organization” award, presented at its annual conference in Wichita Falls, TX. **From left to right:** Laura Tobias, TCPA board member; Al Aranda, public safety manager for the Greenspoint District; April Layton, 3rd vice president for TCPA; and Tammy Snider, TCPA president.

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The *Greenspoint District* is a business improvement district providing services in public safety, infrastructure and recreational development, transportation planning and beautification, public relations and economic development. The district serves a 12-square-mile area, including more than 18 million square feet of office, retail and industrial properties. Seventy thousand people work in the area, and there are some 97,000 residents.