

# Houston Heights Constable Patrol Program

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A new program is being proposed for Heights residents and businesses interested in reducing crime and vandalism in the area. Residents are proposing a contract with the Precinct I Constable's Office Contract Deputy Program. This patrol program's main objectives are crime prevention and providing immediate police services to citizens in need. The Constables on patrol are Harris County deputies, who will be in uniform, armed and driving distinctively marked law enforcement vehicles. In addition to the benefits of a law enforcement presence on our streets, subscribing property owners are eligible for special services such as vacation watches, home security surveys, and direct access to the Precinct I dispatcher.

Subscribing property owners in the designated patrol area pay an annual fee for patrol service that can range from eight hours, five days per week to 24x7 service. The cost per subscriber will depend on the number of paid participants and the level of service desired. Harris County covers 20% of the cost of the service. This program is already in place in other Houston neighborhoods, where residents have seen a marked decrease in vandalism and crime.

## HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM HELP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

1. Highly visible marked Constable vehicles patrolling the neighborhood. This greatly reduces the criminal's opportunity to violate the law and acts as a deterrent to those committing crimes.
2. Daily patrolling by dedicated deputies enables them to become familiar with the neighborhood, thereby alerting them to "out of the ordinary" situations such as suspicious persons or vehicles.
3. Familiarity with the neighborhood will enable the deputies to minimize response time on calls. A deputy's response time to calls within the assigned contract area will average two to five minutes.
4. Increased feeling of security and confidence knowing the deputies are only a phone call and minutes away.
5. The program is designed so that whenever a deputy is not on duty, paid subscribers can still call the Precinct I dispatcher who will dispatch the nearest available deputy. In an emergency, 911 should still be called in addition to the Precinct I dispatcher.



## Special points of interest:

- All premises within the patrol area will benefit from the program, but only paid subscribers will be eligible for enhanced services such as vacation watches, special watches, home alarm inspections, and direct access to the Precinct I dispatcher.
- The goal is to have a high participation rate such that the cost per subscriber is minimal with a high service level (ideally, 24x7).
- Need people to volunteer their time as Block Captains for the patrol program to help with education and communication.
- Questions or comments? Want to be a volunteer Block Captain? Simply e-mail [heightspatrol@houstonheights.org](mailto:heightspatrol@houstonheights.org).

## WHY PAY TO SUBSCRIBE?

In addition to funding additional law enforcement to reduce crime in our neighborhood, the program offers paid subscribers direct phone contact with the Precinct I dispatcher for quick response time to calls for help or for reports of suspicious activities. Subscribers can call the Precinct I dispatcher even when a deputy is not on patrol. Paid subscription also allows the privileges of vacation watch services and special watches for unusual circumstances, as well as home security inspections. Residents with home alarm systems may also designate the Constable as the first responder to an activated alarm.

## WHO CAN SUBSCRIBE?

All residents, property owners, and business owners in a patrol area are eligible and strongly encouraged to participate in the patrol program by being a paid subscriber. You do not have to be a member of the Houston Heights Association to be a paid subscriber in the patrol program. To express interest in subscribing, please contact your Block Captain using the information provided at the bottom of this page.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost of the program (and possible future expansion) is dependent on two main factors: the number of paid subscribers in a geographic area and the service level desired. One deputy can be contracted for 8 hours a day for 5 days per week for approximately \$60,000 which includes the deputy's salary, vehicle, and gas. Each deputy can patrol approximately 1,000 to 1,200 premises. If 250 owners subscribe out of the approximate 1,000 premises in a patrol area, the annual cost per subscriber will be approximately \$240 for 8 hours a day for 5 consecutive days. If more owners subscribe, then either the cost per subscriber will decrease or the service level can increase (more hours, more days, etc.). Before a contract is signed, each owner expressing interest in subscribing will be informed of the expected final cost by their Block Captain before any commitment is made.

## WHO BENEFITS FROM THIS PROGRAM?

The entire neighborhood benefits from the street patrolling which raises the level of security in our neighborhood. All services provided by the Constable Patrol — street patrolling, special watches, vacation watches, personal help, home security inspections, etc., are paid for by the paid subscribers. Consequently, only paid subscribers can call upon the deputies for special services other than the street patrolling — vacation watch services, special watches, home security inspections and direct access to the Precinct I dispatcher.

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## Questions or comments? Want to be a volunteer Block Captain?

## Simply send an e-mail to [heightspatrol@houstonheights.org](mailto:heightspatrol@houstonheights.org)!

Additional information about the Houston Heights Association's Crime & Security Committee can be found at <http://www.houstonheights.org/security.htm>. You can also send an e-mail to [security@houstonheights.org](mailto:security@houstonheights.org) or leave a voice mail at (713) 861-4002 Option #5.



**Your Block Captain is:**

**Address:**

**Contact Number:**

**E-mail:**