



## TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## POLICE TO OFFER ELDERLY/DISABLED CALL-IN PROGRAM

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL – 8/19/11) – The Temple Terrace Police Department is starting a terrific program for elderly and disabled residents who live alone.

The *Elderly/Disabled Call-In Program* will provide a safety net and sense of security with a simple daily telephone call that lets police officers know “everything’s all right” at someone’s home. If the call doesn’t come, police will take a series of steps to learn if anything is wrong, including going to the residence if necessary.

Temple Terrace Police Chief Kenneth Albano called the program “a perfect fit for Temple Terrace” because of the number of retirement-age citizens in our community. Here’s how it works:

Program subscribers must call the Temple Terrace Police Department every morning between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. to let dispatchers know everything’s OK. They must call every morning, seven days a week.

If a call isn’t received, a communications officer will attempt to reach the subscriber by phone to ascertain his or her safety and well-being. If the communications officer cannot make contact, then the officer will attempt to reach the subscriber’s emergency contact. If the communications officer still is unable to make contact or verify the status of the subscriber, then a police officer will be sent to the residence. Entry into the home will be made only as a last resort.

Subscribers who plan to be away from home for a period of time must notify the department prior to departing and upon returning.

The program has been successful in other towns, especially in cases where elderly or disabled people living alone may not have someone to check on them regularly, Albano said.

“It provides comfort not only for them, but also for family members,” he said. “It offers the assurance of day-to-day contact.”

There is no charge to participate in the program. It is open to Temple Terrace residents who are disabled, or 60 years of age and older. For complete details, or to apply, contact the Temple Terrace Police Department at (813) 989-7110.