



TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE KICK OFF CITIZEN VOLUNTEER PATROL PROGRAM

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL – 8/17/11) – Want to help take a bite out of crime?

You can help curb crime in your community by joining the Temple Terrace Police Department's *Citizen Volunteer Patrol Program*. Citizen volunteers will become the "eyes and ears" of the police department, assisting officers in several ways:

- * Patrolling neighborhoods and commercial areas
- * Assisting officers with public safety and traffic control
- * Supplementing crime awareness activities
- * Responding to non-emergency calls
- * Providing basic first aid
- * Reporting suspicious activities

Twelve volunteers will be selected, who will receive 40 hours of specialized training. They'll drive specially marked *Citizen Patrol* cars and wear identifiable uniforms. They'll learn how to identify, report and prevent criminal activity.

This will free up police to focus more on enforcement activities, said Temple Terrace Police Chief Kenneth Albano, who called the program "a unique partnership between members of the police department and residents of our community."

"A greater presence equates to fewer opportunities for criminal activity," he explained. "Also, when volunteers can respond to lower priority calls, it allows more time for our officers to respond to high-priority enforcement issues and investigation-related calls."

The start-up costs for the program, including vehicles, equipment, uniforms and training, will be covered by forfeiture funds, and operational costs will be minimal, Albano said.

The police department is recruiting applicants now. To qualify, you must be at least 19 years old, an area resident, possess a valid Florida driver's license, pass a criminal background check, and meet other restrictions and requirements.

To apply or obtain further information, please call Officer Karen Walter at (813) 506-6500 or e-mail kwalter@templeterrace.com.