

New Year Brings New Crime Prevention Ideas

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!" IS THE NEW YEAR'S message that the CGPD is sending loud and clear to the entire community. The men and women of the Coral Gables Police Department have a renewed spirit of commitment toward protecting the lives and property of those who live and do business in the City Beautiful.

With the recent appointment of Major Ed Hudak as Interim Police Chief, new ideas are being implemented not only to combat crime but also to engage better –and much more– with citizens. Now a new idea for burglary prevention is allowing police response to get there faster when an alarm sounds for help.

The new Quick Response Burglary Prevention Program, introduced recently by the Coral Gables City Commission as an emergency ordinance, allows alarm companies to immediately contact the Coral Gables Police Department for dispatch if the homeowner does not answer them on the first try. Previously, the alarm company had to call up to two other numbers provided to reach the homeowner before calling the CGPD for assistance.

"By eliminating the unnecessary phone calls in situations when every second counts, Coral Gables residents will see faster police response times," said Interim Police Chief Ed Hudak. "The goal is to increase our ability to respond to incidents of residential burglaries and catch the criminals."

No fee will be assessed to residents enrolled in the program for the first four false alarms in one calendar year. For non-participants of the program, only two free false alarms in one calendar year will be permitted before fees are applied. There is no charge



Coral Gables Interim
Police Chief Ed Hudak



to enroll in the new program.

To enroll, participants must fill out an Alarm User Registration Application available by calling 305-460-5280. The information is also available on the city's website coralgables.com. After registering, participants need to inform their alarm company of program enrollment with an Alarm Company Notification Letter that will be provided by the City of Coral Gables.

In the upcoming months, CGPD is also launching a social

media presence to send out time-sensitive information and help citizens provide crime-solving tips. The new strategy is part of a wider plan to engage the locals more actively and keep the community informed about crime trends and what they can do to prevent crimes of opportunity. Concerned about an increase in crime within the city, residents wanted a different approach in patrolling, police visibility and community outreach, and that is exactly what CGPD is doing.

"Expect to see more positive changes in our police force this year," said Hudak. "Together with the City Manager and the members of the City Commission, our dedicated officers are committed to working closely with the community to keep our neighborhoods and commercial areas safe and protected all yearlong."