

LytlePolice Dept.

Quarterly Newsletter – Vol. 8, Issue 4, Oct. 2020

lytlepolice@lytle.tx.org / www.lytle.tx.org/police

Office (830) 709-0277

24 Hour Dispatch (830) 769-3434 Option #1

Richey Priest – Chief of Police / Fire Marshal

If you need A Police Officer it is always best to call the 24 Hour Dispatch #, you will reach the Atascosa Co. Sheriff's Dispatch. They have direct radio contact with our on-duty officers.



Lytle PD Purchases Bola WRAP Remote Restraint Devices



Chief's Message.....Well, we are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through 2020. I bet everyone is hoping 2021 will bring us back to what we called "normal" before the COVID-19 Pandemic. As far as crime trends go, the last three months have seen no real increase in crime, I would believe actual reported crime is down. With more people staying/working from home and the kids at home this leads to less crime in our residential areas. Crooks prefer streets of houses where the kids are in school and adults are at work. Expect some growth in the near future, dirt work is underway at the new subdivision by the Best Western and ground should be breaking soon on a Church's Chicken in front of H.E.B. Plus. There is more on the horizon too! - Richey

We recently purchased 3 Bola Wrap remote restraint devices. Their website gives the following description to **"What is a Bola Wrap?"**

Thought of as "Remote Handcuffs", the BolaWrap® is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an 8-foot bola style Kevlar® tether at 513 feet per second to wrap a subject's legs or arms at an effective range of 10-25 feet.

Each tether has a 4-pronged hook on either end. The tether and its hooks are contained in a cartridge. Each cartridge contains and is powered by a partial charge .380 blank.

To deploy the tether: the officer loads a cartridge into the device, a safety is turned to the off position which then automatically illuminates a green line laser for accuracy. The officer then manually moves the slide handle to the rear, and the activation button is pressed to deploy the tether.

"What are the Benefits of a Bola Wrap?"

It does not rely on pain compliance and is specifically designed to be deployed early in an encounter to decrease the potential for injury to the subject, bystanders or the officer.

Inflicting pain often escalates encounters, BolaWrap's non-threatening form allows time to de-escalate and provide needed support for the person in crisis.

Lt. Matthew Dear recently received instructor certification and will be qualifying our officers to carry and use this new tool. A policy has already been adopted and approved by the City Council. This is just another tool that will allow our staff to help bring critical incidents under control. It is not a "miracle" tool, it is just another tool that our staff will have access to. The end goal is to keep our citizens safe and to protect and respect life. Check it out on youtube!

Staff Update



Mayor Mark Bowen, Anthony Lopez and Alderman Sam Cortez are shown right after the swearing in.

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

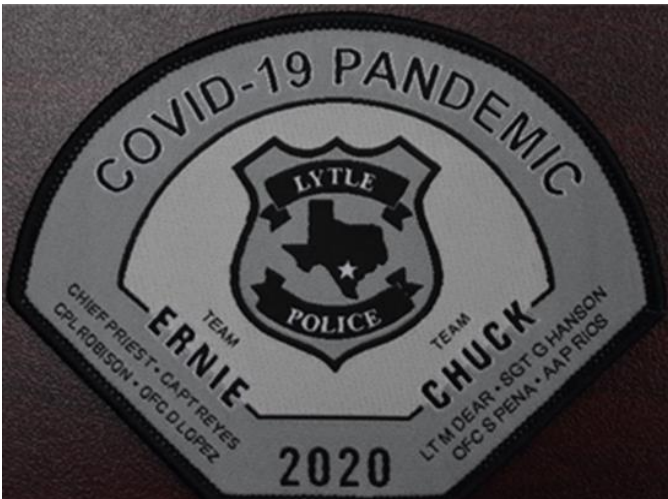
Don't fiddle around looking for our phone

Our Office Phone is (830) 709-0277. It **IS NOT** answered 24 hours a day and should not be used if you need immediate response.

It is an administrative line only.

A "Special" Patch for a "Special" Time

The Chief of Police designed a patch and had it produced (at his expense) to remember a time that we hope is not repeated. It depicts the two teams as well as the officers assigned to each team. Several were provided to Ernie's widow (Betty) and Chuck.



Anthony Lopez Sworn in as our Newest Police Officer

On August 10, Anthony Lopez was sworn in as our newest police officer. He fills a position that has been vacant for some time. He is a recent graduate of the Southwest TX Jr. College Police Academy in Uvalde. Anthony is a 2011 Graduate of Southwest High School. He is currently in our Field Training program. We are really glad to have him join our team.

Join our Email / Alert List

Visit our website, www.lytle.tx.org, and sign up for emergency alerts.

Follow the Chief of Police on Twitter [@lytlepdchief](https://twitter.com/lytlepdchief)

You can create an account on our website & get notified when it is updated.

Officer David Lopez Training to Obtain his Fire Inspectors License

Officer David Lopez is currently enrolled in a 200 hour online class to obtain his Texas Comm. on Fire Protection license as a Fire Inspector. Once he completes the online portion, he will attend a couple days of hands-on training. Then, it is off to take the state exam. Once he receives his license, he will be part of our Fire Marshal Division and he will be able to assist with fire inspections as needed. The next step is to obtain his Arson Investigators Certification. When he has both, he will be a full-fledged Deputy Fire Marshal as well as a Police Officer.

One Department, Two Teams.... Our Response to COVID-19

Our City's Emergency Management Team tasked each department head to develop a plan to split the workforce. This was done so a COVID-19 exposure or positive wouldn't send the whole department home on quarantine. The LPD was divided into two teams, ERNIE & CHUCK. Each team would cover a 4-5 day run, using 12 hour shifts. They would then be off 4-5 days. There was no in person interaction between the two teams, either on or off-duty. If one team got quarantined, the other team could thin out and still provide 24 hour coverage to our city. The office was cleaned regularly and then sanitized prior to the teams changing. The teams were named after longtime Citizen Patrol members Ernie Kroeger (who sadly passed away almost 3 years ago) and Chuck Bayne who is now retired.