



LYTLE POLICE

Quarterly Newsletter – Vol. 13, Issue 1, Jan. 1st, 2025

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

Richard “Richey” Priest - Chief of Police & Fire Marshal

Message from the Chief of Police –

Wow! A lot is going on around Lytle and the Lytle P.D.! On the P.D. side ... we will now have a drone program up and running in a few months. Our E-Bikes are on the road and really expand our bike patrol operations. Other big news ... The grant we received from the Federal Government will allow us to add a full-time position for a total of 12 sworn peace officers! I have included more information on these topics in this newsletter. Homes are popping up like weeds in both Saddle Ridge and Rosewood Estates. There are lots of new people moving to town. We have added a lot of streets, and I must admit, I am still trying to remember street names and be able to find them without using the map on my phone. I didn't think I would ever say that! The city has our annual music festival coming in March and more events are in the works. We are committed to working to support those events and ensure the safety of our community. As always, if you have a concern or a question feel free to reach out to me or a member of our staff. – Richey

richard.priest@lytle.tx.org

Contact Us:

**15245 Hester St. (Physical)
P.O. Box 750 (Mailing),
Lytle, TX 78052
Office (830) 709-0277
**24 Hour Dispatch
Non Emergency #
(830) 769-3434
Option #1****

If you need a Police Officer, call the 24-hour Dispatch number. You will reach the Atascosa Co. Sheriff's Dispatch, which has direct radio contact with our on-duty officers.

Two Electric Assisted Bikes Added to Our Fleet to Expand Patrol Options



Capt. Dear & Chief Priest, Debut our new E-Bikes at the Lytle I.S.D. Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11

While we have utilized bicycles for many years, the rapid growth on “the other side of IH 35” has forced us to re-evaluate our alternative patrol options. We've looked at UTV, Golf Cars, etc., and settled on E-Bikes. After researching numerous options, we selected Recon Power Bikes out of Fort Wayne, Indiana. With electric assist, we can cover a huge area, respond to calls, and not get “worn out”. Our plan is to deploy them to all areas of the city, and they will be especially valuable in our new subdivisions. The bikes will be great for both night and day operations. Currently, we have six officers certified in bike patrol. As our agency grows, we hope to have regularly scheduled bike patrols.

Lytle City Council Approves Drone Lease

In November the Lytle City Council approved a two-year lease agreement with Unmanned Vehicle Technologies for a DJI Matrice 30T Drone. Currently, a team of 4 officers will begin training to obtain the required FFA license to operate the drone. This piece of equipment will provide another tool to help keep our community safe and provide the services that our citizens deserve.



COPS Grant Awarded to the City of Lytle! \$112,500

View Our Monthly Reports! If you want to see a detailed report of our monthly activity, visit our website and browse the activity for the past 300 months!

<https://www.lytle.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=52>

Our city received a grant to help supplement the cost of an additional Police Officer position (DOJ - COPS grant). We appreciate the help of Congressman Henry Cuellar, EMC Strategy Group (our grant writers), City Administrator Zach Meadows, Finance Director LaNet Hester, Mayor Ruben Gonzalez & City Council, and other community partners. The \$112,500 award will go towards partially paying the salary of a new Police Officer position over a three-year period.



Mayor Gonzalez, City Admin. Zach Meadows, Chief Priest, Mayor Pro-Tem David Emery, and U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar

Six Officers Complete 24-hour Mental Health Peace Officer Course



Lytle PD Officers completing the Mental Health Peace Officer course included. Sgt. D. Lopez, Ofc. A. Lopez, Ofc. J. Cortez, Ofc. L. Diaz, Ofc. S. Mendez and Ofc. Roger Garcia.

We are very fortunate that Camino Real Community Services (<https://www.caminorealcs.org>) offered this 24-Hour Class to our department. Camino Real Community Services is a non-profit organization providing mental, behavioral, and intellectual disability services to Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, Karnes, La Salle, Maverick, McMullen, Wilson, and Zavala counties. Camino Real is the designated Community Mental Health Authority and the Authority for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Their administrative headquarters is located in Lytle! Stephen Moore is their Law Enforcement Liaison Officer, and he the course instructor. In addition to our six officers, there were also two Atascosa Co. Deputy Sheriffs and two Pleasanton Police Officers. The course was provided free of charge, and it was held at the Horace Fincher Annex at our Community Center. A big "Thank You!" goes out to Camino Real for providing this training.

Two Officers Complete 40 Hour Bicycle Patrol Certification Course

Officers A. Lopez and R. Garcia recently completed the 40-hour Police Bicycle Patrol Officer Certification Course. The course was held at the San Antonio College First Responder Academy just north of us on IH-35 (how convenient!). The officers were challenged both physically and mentally, with an emphasis on the physical side!



Have you signed up for the mass notification system?

Civic Ready / Alert Sense System

Even if you are receiving emails and have already provided us information, please go to our website, and sign up for our new alert system. This is the only way we can assure you are in the system. Visit the following link: <https://public.alertsense.com/signup/?regionID=1618>

Every Call We Respond to Is Listed in Our Weekly Reports!

You can find them at www.lytle.org/police Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Current Weekly Report." You can also find the past weekly reports dating back to 2009!

The city tests the Tornado Warning Sirens on the First Wednesday of Every Month @ Noon

Upcoming Tests Are Schedule for
Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025
Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025
Wednesday, Mar. 5, 2025