

Lytle Police Dept.

Quarterly Newsletter – Vol. 9, Issue 1, Jan. 2021

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 Welcomes Two New Council Members and a New Mayor!



Alderman Charles Cate (Dist. 5), Mayor Ruben Gonzalez and Guadalupe Castro (Dist. 1). Castro was appointed to fill the vacancy in Dist. 1 that was created when Gonzalez was elected Mayor. We look forward to working with them as well as current Dist. 2 Alderman Sam Cortez, Dist. 3 Alderwoman Laura Reyna, and Dist. 3 Alderman Jerry Stone. We are blessed to have such dedicated servants volunteering their time for this community.

Crime Prevention Reminders (Based on Recent Lytle PD Cases)

1. Don't leave valuables in your car, if you must...then hide them really good.
2. If you carry a purse or cell phone, don't leave them in a shopping cart. Carry them on your person.
3. If you leave something expensive in your yard, some thief will go shopping.
4. If some activity going on doesn't look right.... trust your instinct. Call the police, let us check it out.

**IF YOU
HAVE
AN
EMERGENCY
CALL
911**

Lytle PD Operations Impacted by COVID-19

We have police officers on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our lobby is currently closed. Please call the Atascosa Co. Sheriff's Office to have an officer meet you (if you knock on the door and no one answers). When at calls our officers will try to conduct business outside and we respectfully request that you wear a face covering. If you do not have one, we will provide one. Currently we are split into two teams that works independently of each other. If you have any trouble contacting an officer for follow-up on case feel free to email the dept. lytlepolice@lytle.tx.org This email is checked regularly, you may also leave a message when calling the office phone. That number is 830-709-0277. The Chief of Police is available 7 days a week by email – richard.priest@lytle.tx.org

Message from The Chief –

The COVID-19 situation continues. I know that we all were hoping this would be behind us as we enter 2021. No such luck, I guess. We are learning to adapt and do the best we can to stay safe and keep others safe as well. While this pandemic has had an impact on our operations, it has been limited. Our staff continues to respond to calls, investigate crimes and provide routine services to our community. We are taking precautions to ensure that we have peace officers available when we need them. I expect 2021 to be more challenging for the police department. We have a substantial amount of growth headed our way, this includes residential and commercial developments. We have been planning for this for some time. In my over 21 years as Chief of Police I have only served under two mayors, now I can make that three! Mayor Horace Fincher and Mayor Mark Bowen were both dedicated public servants, I feel fortunate to have worked with both. I look forward to working with Mayor Gonzalez to keep Lytle a safe city as well. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any issues, questions, or concerns. I try to run a very transparent outfit and I enjoy trying to solve problems. Although, I must admit, I don't have all the answers. - *Richey*

Staff Update

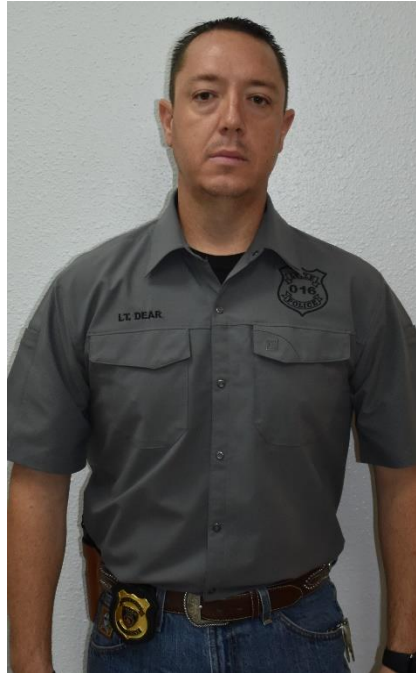
Ofc. David Lopez *Completes 10 Years of Service to the City of Lytle*



In December of 2010, David Lopez began his employment with the City Of Lytle. He was hired as a Public Works employee. He decided he wanted to be a police officer, so he went to the academy at San Antonio College. He made the commute everyday after work. He credits Public Works Director James McGrath who worked with his schedule so he could make it to class on time each day. He graduated the Police Academy there was an opening at the police department and David transferred to our team. He was sworn in on February 15th, 2013.

We miss not being able to reach out to the community at our local events. Hopefully, 2021 will see some of our regular city events return. We have lots of free cups and pens to hand out!

Lt. Matthew Dear *An Important Part of Our Emergency Management Team & Our Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*



Lt. Dear has been employed by the City of Lytle for over 18 years. He currently is 3rd in Command of the PD and serves as the Asst. City Fire Marshal. In his free time, he is the elected Fire Chief of the Lytle Vol. Fire Dept. A position he has held for 13 years. He serves on the Mayor's Emergency Mgt. Team and has for many years. He currently coordinates the collection of COVID numbers from the various counties to update our website and city officials. He has been a real busy fellow; he also coordinates the city's Zoom meetings.

Join our Email / Alert List

Visit our website, www.lytle.tx.org, and sign up for emergency alerts. You can create an account on our website & get notified when it is updated. Follow the Chief of Police on Twitter [@lytlepdchief](https://twitter.com/lytlepdchief)

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.**

**The Mayor is Active on Facebook!
Follow Him for Important News and
Updates
Ruben Gonzalez Mayor
City of Lytle TX**

Mental Health During The COVID 19 Pandemic

Even in the small town of Lytle Texas we have seen the strain that the pandemic has placed on the mental health of our population. People are dealing with lots of issues, some minor and some major. As law enforcement officers we are dealing with the same issues. Don't be afraid to reach out for help. This pandemic hasn't exempted anyone. Our staff (while not mental health professionals) will assist in finding you the help you might need.

The CDC has a wealth of information on their website

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>