

LYTLE POLICE

Quarterly Newsletter – Vol. 13, Issue 4, Oct. 1st, 2025

lytlepolice@lytletx.org / www.lytletx.org/police



Richard “Richey” Priest – Chief of Police
Appointed Oct. 18, 1999

Message from the Chief of Police

Our community is experiencing a growth spurt, with more new homes under construction and more property being voluntarily annexed into the city. I sound like a broken record, but our growth has been steady, making us very fortunate. We have a new Goodwill store set to open in the old Bealls building. It will be nice to get that empty building open.

Our new budget allows for the purchase of three new fully equipped police vehicles. We currently have six vehicles, but one of them needs to be retired. Ultimately, we should have 8 vehicles for 12 full-time officers. All city employees also received a cost-of-living increase, this is important because it helps us retain the talented staff that we employ.

There aren't any crime trends to report on. We haven't seen any crime spree either. Most of our arrests are the result from traffic stops. On those stops the officers are discovering D.W.I.s, Drug Possession, and wanted individuals. If you are curious regarding our activity, I suggest you visit our website and look through our monthly reports. As always, feel free to holler at me should you have any questions or concerns.

– Richey richard.priest@lytletx.org

Contact Us:

15245 Hester St.

P.O. Box 750

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.

“Jugging” And The New Law To Help Combat It

Jugging is a form of theft that can include robbery. The crook's goal is to relieve the victim of their recently acquired cash. The suspect(s) will normally follow a victim from a bank, ATM, check-cashing locations, etc. The suspect(s) often “stake out” locations and sit and wait to find a good target. In some instances, there may be people on the “inside” feeding them information. The crooks wait for the victim to make a stop and then make their move. Has this happened in Lytle? Yes, there were four instances in the last 2-3 years that we are aware of. All of our events were the result of financial transactions at various banks on the south side of San Antonio. In three of our events, the victims withdrew cash and were followed to Lytle. Once in Lytle, they stopped to shop or eat. The cash was left in their vehicle, and our crooks made their move. In two events, they got the loot; in one of those, the suspect was arrested. In one event, the victim kept the cash on them, and the crooks went away empty-handed after burglarizing their vehicle. We are not aware of any instances involving our local banks or businesses. Fortunately, in a smaller town, a suspicious vehicle loaded with thieves would stick out. In San Antonio, it is easier for the bad guys to blend in.

Some Basic Tips: Don't leave cash in your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings, don't flash your wad of cash!

The new Texas law, House Bill 1902, went into effect on September 1, 2025, making “jugging” a standalone felony offense. This will make it much easier for law enforcement to prosecute these crooks; before, we would have had to file a low-level misdemeanor charge in some of the scenarios.

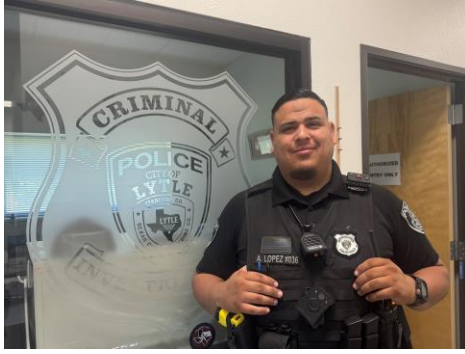
The Texas Bankers Assoc. Has A Good Informational Brochure

<https://www.texasbankers.com/wp-content/uploads/TBA-Jugging-Slip-Sized-Brochure.pdf>

As Does the Austin Police Dept.

[https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Police/Jugging%20Flyers/How%20to%20Avoid%20Becoming%20Victim%20to%20Jugging%20%20\(8.5%20x%2011%20in\)%20%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Police/Jugging%20Flyers/How%20to%20Avoid%20Becoming%20Victim%20to%20Jugging%20%20(8.5%20x%2011%20in)%20%20(2).pdf)

Officer Anthony Lopez Completes Five Years of Service



In August, Ofc. Anthony Lopez completed 5 years of service with the City of Lytle Police Dept. Yes, he was hired during COVID! It was a challenge.

He is currently an intermediate Texas Peace Officer and is assigned to Patrol and Investigations.



Officer Paul Tafolla Earns His TCOLE Intermediate Certificate



In July, Officer Paul Tafolla was awarded his Intermediate Texas Peace Officer Certificate. This advance in his license was achieved by a combination of training and time in service. We are proud of his achievement. He is currently working on obtaining his Advanced Peace Officer License.

To view the license and requirements, visit the TCOLE site

<https://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/proficiency-certificates>

You can also look up any Texas Peace Officer and check out their training on this public site

<https://licenselookup.tcole.texas.gov/PublicLookup/>



Ofc. P. Tafolla

Ofc. Frank Reyes Transfers from the P.D. to the City Hall

Ofc. Frank Reyes will be leaving the PD and will transfer to City Hall as a civilian code compliance officer.

The opportunity knocked and he answered! He will be the city's first full-time code compliance officer.

He is looking forward to the change and is happy to still be part of the City of Lytle family. If you want to spend more time with Frank and get to know him ... just let your grass get too high or collect a bunch of junk cars. I am sure he will stop by and visit.

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 26 years!

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

Recent Officer Training

7/1 & 7/2 2025

Police Leadership & Supervision Class in SA – A. Lopez / J. Cortez / L. Diaz (16 hours each)

7/7-7/11 2025

Texas Police Chiefs Leadership Series Conference in San Antonio – R. Priest (40 hours)

7/7/2025

First Aid CPR Class in Hondo – L. Diaz / J. Cortez / A. Lopez / S. Mendez / P. Tafolla

7/9-7/10/25

TPCA – Managing Administrative Operations Course in Hondo – M. Dear / D. Lopez

8/20/2025 Courtroom Testimony Class in Pleasanton – John Cortez / Luis Diaz

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

Upcoming Tests Are Scheduled for the Remainder of 2025

Wed., Oct. 7

Wed., Nov. 5

Wed., Dec. 3

Upcoming City Holidays

Columbus Day:

Monday Oct. 13

Veterans Day:

Tuesday Nov. 11

Thanksgiving:

Thurs., Nov. 27 & Fri., Nov. 28

Christmas:

Wed., Dec. 24 & Thurs., Dec. 25

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

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