

#030125

Gainesville Police Department
Inter-Office Communication
Chief Norman Botsford

To: Chief Botsford

Date: July 26, 2005

From: Sgt. Jeff Reese

Subject: Public Safety Committee Request

The Public Safety Committee recently requested additional information concerning the Police Department's involvement in the site plan review process. I submit the following comments as requested by the Committee.

The Gainesville Police Department has participated in the site plan review and planning process for over a year. Historically, this is the first time GPD has committed a full time position to this process. While the reviews have been well received and productive, I believe consideration should be given to either adding security requirements to existing codes or, adopting a stand-alone CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design ordinance. The current review process is primarily based on providing security recommendations and is not backed by codes or ordinances. The success or failure of a project to incorporate security recommendations is often measured by the willingness of a property owner/developer to see value in what is recommended.

I believe there are several opportunities to at least enhance, from a security perspective, what is already written in our codes. For example, the City attempts to be pedestrian and public transportation friendly, however the lighting ordinance primarily addresses off-street parking facilities. Pedestrian walkways, bus shelters, bike routes, etc. have no lighting requirements. If we expect people to use these types of spaces, then we should make every effort to require minimum security standards when they are built. If the space becomes unsafe, then the public will not use it.

In order for the City to formalize the Police Department's role in the site plan review process, CPTED principles must be present in our codes and ordinances. It is my hope that more specific recommendations will be part of the discussion process at future Public Safety Committee meetings and will include City Planning staff participation.