

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Greenspoint - North Houston District Reports Decrease in Violent Crime for 2018**

*From 3<sup>rd</sup> place for most violent crime in 2014 to 19<sup>th</sup> place in 2018, the area is making progress in public safety for businesses and residents.*

HOUSTON, TX (April 15, 2019) - The North Houston District is a rebranded area, previously known as the Greenspoint District.

The area is undergoing big developments and making major aesthetic improvements – office property owners and upscale hotels are investing millions in renovations, and companies like Amazon and Coca-Cola are moving in, but some investors, business owners and residents question if there have been improvements in terms of public safety.

“Crime has decreased 9.8 percent and 2.6 percent this past year in beats 22B20 and 22B30 respectively,” says Tracy Harrison, public safety director, North Houston District. Harrison based this on statistics provided by the Houston Police Department (HPD) in February for the areas north and south of the beltway at Interstate 45 North.



These statistics indicate that there were lesser incidents of robbery, violent crime, and habitation burglaries in 2018 than in 2017.

The North Houston District is made up of four service areas surrounding the Sam Houston Parkway at I-45 North, which includes Greens Crossing, Greenspoint, Pinto Business Park and part of the Airline Corridor/Aldine. The area used to rank as one of the top beats for most violent crime in previous crime analysis, but that’s no longer the case according to Harrison.

“When you look at the city as a whole, the statistics show that over time, our crime rate in this area has reduced significantly,” says Harrison, who became the public safety director for the area in 2015. “We’ve dropped from 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2014 to 7<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> place in 2018 for most violent crimes being reported.”

The decrease in crime could be attributed to the district’s increased partnerships with law enforcement, security agency partners and programs and increased funding on public safety. Today, the North Houston District invests more than \$800,000 on public safety operations.

In 2016, the district hired additional support from the Harris County Sheriff’s Office to implement a task force to focus on problem areas. After installation of drug-free zone signs, deputies have issued multiple citations where violations for drug trafficking continue.

(more)

In 2017, the district and HPD agreed to move HPD's storefront presence at Greenspoint Mall to a new HPD division with 100 police officers on the northwest side of I-45 near Greens Rd.



Additionally, in 2018, the district reached out to apartment owners and managers to strategize on ways to make Northborough Drive safer for residents, which resulted in the Northborough Initiative.

Northborough Drive, also in the northwest quadrant of the district, consists of seven apartment communities and has been a high risk area for criminal activity, but area stakeholders are determined to turn that around.

Steve Moore, owner of multiple apartment communities in the North Houston District and office buildings on Northborough Drive, has been an active

advocate in driving this change.

"The final piece of the puzzle will be to get active participation by the residents in the community to notice and report suspicious behavior," says Moore.

The Northborough Initiative consisted of six phases, one of which was a proactive approach to improving communication with residents, the Knocks and Talks. This required that law enforcement agents, apartment managers, and the district's public safety director to visit over 1,000 apartment units from April through June, to engage with residents, assess needs and build trust.

"After the Northborough Initiative roll-out, we saw a decrease in calls for service," says Harrison. From 2017 to 2018, calls from residents dropped from 2,025 to 1366.

"Our community has truly come together to work as a team," says Harrison. Residents, law enforcement, outreach groups, pastors and apartment managements are collaborating more than ever-sharing information, resources and addressing issues together."

"Although it is taking time and more effort, our goal for North Houston District still remains to beat the Houston average for crime," says Moore.

For 2019, the district will also implement bike patrol. "This will increase the eyes on the streets and in our parks," says Harrison. "Our goal is to make North Houston/Greenspoint safer each year. Crime can happen anywhere, so no area is ever crime-free. As the fourth largest city in the country, crime-free beats or areas are rare. Exciting things are happening here like the opening of the nation's largest bike park in 2020, and we're focused on improving every day."



(more)



**About the North Houston District**

*Created in 1991 by the Texas Legislature, the North Houston District is a business improvement district that leverages public and private partnerships to provide enhanced services in transportation mobility, public safety, beautification and recreational development, marketing and strategic planning and development. Minutes from Bush IAH, the District's 12-square-mile service area has 20 million square feet of office, retail and industrial properties. The District includes more than 3,800 businesses, 68,000 employees and 118,500 residents. For more information, visit [www.northhouston.org](http://www.northhouston.org).*

###