

CITIZENS ORGANIZED for PUBLIC SAFETY

(C.O.P.S.)

P. O. Box 473
Corpus Christi, TX 78403-0473
(512) 884-8338

October 1, 1987

Dr. Hector Garcia

1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, TX 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

"C.O.P.S." is an organization consisting of concerned citizens of our community. We hope to raise public awareness to the problems that exist in the police department, and to boost the image of our police officers in the community. "C.O.P.S." currently holds meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Branch Library, located at the corner of Greenwood and Horne Road.

Please take a few moments to look over the material I have enclosed, including a copy of the petition we are generating for support. Community awareness, support, and involvement are essential in the function and effectiveness of this organization. I will be contacting you by phone in the next few days. Meanwhile, if you have any questions about our organization, please feel free to call me at the number listed above.

Sincerely,



Donna Hodge
President, C.O.P.S.

DH/mm

CITIZENS ORGANIZED for PUBLIC SAFETY

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Goals and Objectives of Organization

1. To assist the P.O.A. in their projects and programs.
2. To raise public awareness of issues regarding Police Officers.
3. To promote public participation through the creation of activities involving the P.O.A. and the public.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spokesperson: Donna Hodge, President
Media Contactperson: Roland A. Gaona

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THE CITIZENS ORGANIZED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (C.O.P.S.) MET ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 1987 TO ELECT OFFICERS. ELECTED AS PRESIDENT, DONNA HODGE; VICE-PRESIDENT, GAIL VALVERDE; SECRETARY, JANIE QUIROZ; AND AS TREASURER, BARBARA SHOOK.

C.O.P.S. WAS ORGANIZED IN RESPONSE TO A NEED FOR A GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF MANPOWER SHORTAGE, THE NEED FOR A NEW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, AND FOR NEW POLICE PATROL VEHICLES.

THE CITIZENS ORGANIZED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY URGES ANY AND ALL CITIZENS WHO MAY WISH TO JOIN AS MEMBERS TO CALL 884-8338.

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PRIORITY STATEMENT:

This organization is united to bring to the public's attention our concerns for the dire need for sufficient manpower on our police force, an adequate and properly-functioning communications system, and non-malfunctioning patrol vehicles (units) in order to provide better working conditions for our police officers and a safer environment for the citizens of the City of Corpus Christi.

The need for sufficient manpower on the police force arises due to the rapid growth of our City, both in regional, or ground area, and populace. An increase in manpower to sufficient levels will provide patrolmen for those areas presently unmanned and provide in all areas a two-man patrol team for each beat. It is our hope that, when enough manpower is provided, all patrol beats will consist of a two-man team, thereby providing safer working conditions for our patrolmen and adequate protection for the public.

The lack of an adequately and properly-functioning communications system adds to the everyday dangers our police officers must face and grossly diminishes the safety of the citizens of Corpus Christi. In addition, we view the current situation to be of an emergency status and implore the City of Corpus Christi to do all within its powers to procure the best communications system at the earliest possible date.

It is universally recognized that the patrol unit, or vehicle, is the most important tool an officer utilizes; and a malfunctioning or inoperative unit not only adds to the cost of departmental operations, but also detracts from the safety of the patrolman. In addition, a malfunctioning or inoperative unit prolongs response time, jeopardizing the public's safety and creating an atmosphere conducive to criminal activity.

It is this organization's belief that a properly equipped police force enhances the desirable image of safety which we wish to project for the City of Corpus Christi, and, in turn, is beneficial to the economy by providing a safer, citizen- and tourist-friendly environment. Therefore, time being of the essence, we urge the City of Corpus Christi to act promptly on this appalling situation.

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The **CITIZENS ORGANIZED for PUBLIC SAFETY** is a group of concerned citizens who see a need to work together with the City Council and the Police Department to find solutions to the problems of manpower shortage, the need for a new radio communications system, and better working police patrol vehicles.

We request citizens who support our efforts to join us by signing this petition of endorsement.

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