



**Fig Garden
Police Protection District**
P.O. Box 5803
Fresno, CA 93755-5803

September 14, 2007

***** NOTICE OF ELECTION *****

Dear Neighbors:

The Fig Garden Police Protection District (District) will be conducting an election to determine whether voters in your area want an added layer of Sheriff's protection for their families and property. The District is able to offer this valuable service through a contract with the Fresno County Sheriff that provides for a special Sheriff's patrol unit for the District's 1.5-square mile territory which will include your residence if the measure passes. Here is some important information for you to consider.

How Do I Vote?

The election will be conducted by a mail ballot. The Fresno County Elections Department will mail you a ballot later this month. You may return your ballot between September 23, 2007, and October 23, 2007. Your ballot must be received by the Elections Office no later than October 23, 2007, in order to be counted.

What Are The Benefits If I Vote "Yes"?

You will receive the benefits of "proactive policing" with a high visibility, crime-detering Sheriff's patrol providing an additional 110 hours/week protection. The Sheriff's motor patrol is highly visible because of the District's limited 1.5-square mile territory. (You are currently in a 34-square mile beat patrolled by a single deputy sheriff.) In the District you will have response times averaging 1-2 minutes to calls for officer assistance. The combination of high visibility patrolling and fast response times is a proven technique in reducing and deterring crime. Criminals simply choose to go elsewhere. Even though crime is on the rise in Fresno County, the District enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in California.

Will I Lose Any Benefits By Voting "Yes"?

No. You will still be part of the 34-square mile service area patrolled by a single deputy sheriff. While the existing service is good, response times and visibility can be erratic as the beat deputy can be as far north as Friant or as far south as Highway 180. Existing service can also be impacted by County budget cuts. In contrast, the District's Sheriff's patrol is always within a 1.5 mile radius. In addition, the District's contract cannot be impacted by County budget cuts.

What Will This Added Service Cost?

The annual cost for this value-added service is \$299 (\$5.75/week) for a single-family residence, less than the cost of most insurance policies. The annual fee is added to your property tax bill and is tax-deductible. If the measure passes, the District will begin providing service on January 1, 2008, but you will not be billed on your property tax statement until December 2008.



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Can The District Increase The Cost?

No. The basic annual cost (\$299 SFR) cannot be increased without a super-majority (66%) vote of the registered voters in the District. The District, however, has discretion to adjust the annual cost for inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI). The District has made only one such CPI adjustment in the last ten years.

Has Anyone Endorsed This Measure?

Yes. Former Sheriff Hal McKinney is a proponent of “proactive policing” and fully supports this measure: “protected property results in diminished targets and crime.” Your area County Supervisor Susan Anderson has also endorsed this measure. In addition, Fresno City Policemen living in your area are in favor of the measure. The District recommends that you consider the advice of the professionals before voting.

Will This Opportunity Come Again?

No. Putting this measure on the ballot has been time-consuming and expensive for the District. The District’s decision to offer this value-added service to your area was based, in part, on repeated requests from your neighbors. If the measure does not pass, it is very unlikely the District will offer it again to your area.

Be Sure To Vote

Regardless of your position on this measure, please participate in the democratic process and cast your mail ballot by delivering it to the Fresno County Elections Department no later than October 23, 2007. Thank you.

FIG GARDEN POLICE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Russell G. VanRozeboom, Commissioner

William V. Pipes, Commissioner