

Message from the Chief – Thornton Police and Community Team (PaCT)

To continue its tradition of community oriented policing and engagement, the Thornton Police Department is pleased to announce that applications are currently being accepted for the inaugural Thornton Police & Community Team (PaCT). The Police & Community team will provide another avenue for police department members and residents to collaborate and ensure that Thornton remains a thriving and vibrant city where all can enjoy its diverse neighborhoods, businesses, and beautiful public spaces.

The foundations of community policing in Thornton are **effective communication, relationships based on trust, and collaborative problem-solving**. I believe the Thornton PaCT will be invaluable in providing community input into policy, training, policing strategy, and even the process of determining long-term goals. Existing channels of data collection, which include calls for service, enforcement activity, and citizen complaints are limited, as many local concerns do not necessarily create data points that can be analyzed and, therefore, might not receive the attention they deserve. In addition to addressing the community's public safety issues, the Thornton PaCT will also participate in community-based and cultural events throughout the city.

Responsibilities and obligations will evolve as the team matures and the city's needs change over time, but the following will provide additional insight into our objectives for the Thornton PaCT:

Membership. Members will be active and engaged residents of the City of Thornton who are interested in public safety and collaborating with TPD on community policing and engagement. Initially, the team will consist of one resident from each of the seven police districts. Official Thornton PaCT meetings will be scheduled once per quarter, with additional meetings and events scheduled as needed. Members who have not attended the TPD Citizens Academy will have the opportunity to do so in the near future, in addition to participating in ride-alongs, and attending events hosted by TPD and other city departments.

Thornton PaCT Application: www.gocot.net/tpdpact

Police District Map: www.gocot.net/policedistricts

Purpose. Meetings will consist of information sharing on the department's activities, policies, and crime control strategies. Thornton PaCT members will provide input and feedback on department activities, communicate neighborhood issues, and assist in developing strategies to address issues of concern. In addition, PaCT members will serve as community ambassadors, ensuring that TPD is effectively communicating with the people we serve while also relating concerns that might not otherwise have come to the department's attention.

While 2020 was a difficult year by any standard, the members of the Thornton Police Department look forward to what we will accomplish in 2021 and believe that Thornton PaCT will be a significant contributor to our success.