

Constable *May Walker*  
Harris County Precinct 7

# CONSTABLE MAY WALKER'S PRECINCT 7 NEWSLETTER

Walking Tall With Walker, "Law Enforcement With Integrity"

Volume 19

Summer/Fall 2012

*Creating Safer Communities Through  
Awareness, Prevention, and Preparedness*

*Be Aware!  
Be Alert!  
Be Careful!*



[www.hctx.net/conpct7](http://www.hctx.net/conpct7)

**CONSTABLE** *May Walker*

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# FROM THE DESK OF THE **CONSTABLE**



Since many crimes committed within the Precinct 7 jurisdiction are crimes of opportunity, the number of offenses would significantly decrease with citizens being more observant while at home and away from home. Most burglaries, thefts, and assaults are avoidable when individuals take simple precautions to secure their homes and other personal property and when they are more alert and aware of their surroundings in the public.

The priorities of our Department are to protect lives and promote safety for the constituents of Precinct 7 and increase public confidence and accountability. Yet, safety is a shared responsibility. Our goal for this partnership with the community is two-fold. We strive to provide education to our constituency, and enhance our own understanding of their daily concerns. This joint effort of sharing information will aid the department in implementing effective programs, and result in providing a sense of security for our residents.

As Constable and a resident of Harris Precinct 7, making it a safer place to live and work is not only my mission professionally but also personally. I understand the need for citizens to observe a stronger police presence in their communities and their neighborhoods in order to feel secure. However, the reality is, officers responding to priority calls like robberies, burglaries, and homicides take precedent over neighborhood patrols.

That is why I am encouraging Precinct 7's constituents to be vigilant and get involved. Start by attending area meetings and safety forums, join or establish a Neighborhood Watch Program, and alert law enforcement officials if you witness criminal activity or notice anything suspicious. Remember, not reporting crime only encourages it.

In order to improve neighborhood safety we must be proactive. I urge residents to take advantage of Precinct 7 Programs like Patrol Alerts and Vacation Watch for added safety and security. I also encourage the use of our newly implemented program, "See Something Say Something" to report criminal or suspicious activity.

**Be Aware! Be Alert! Be Careful!**

# Precinct 7 ~ Bigger Better Job Fair

Ministers Supporting Pct. 7 and Constable May Walker hosted their 7th Annual Bigger Better Job Fair, May 1, 2012, at the Third Ward Multi-Service Center. The job fair was free and open to the public.

Hundreds of job seekers lined up to meet with over forty employers including: Carlton Staffing, HPD Harris County Human Resources & Risk Mgt., HFD, Randall's Food Markets, Aflac, First Convenience Bank, and City of Houston.

The job fair proved to be fruitful for both hiring agents and job seekers. In an email to Constable Walker, Mike Klutchka of the Houston Police Dept. Recruitment Unit stated, "Our officers had the opportunity to meet and speak with approximately 18 qualified applicants interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement that were in attendance."



Ministers Supporting Precinct 7 (Reverend Paul Giddings, President) accompanied by Harris County Precinct 7 Deputies as they walked the halls of five (5) area high schools, Thursday, May 31, 2012, to ensure that the last day was a safe one.



# Precinct 7 Happenings



Precinct 7 Intern, Jamar Davis helps distribute food during the Kid's Festival and Senior Food Give Away at Miracle Land Church, April 28, 2012. Precinct 7 Deputies ensured the safety of event attendees.



Promoting a safer and healthier lifestyle for area youth was the focus of Healthy Kids Day at the Houston Texans YMCA, April 28, 2012.



Actor Danny Glover met with Houston janitors to talk about the wages they earn for cleaning offices in some of the city's largest companies. Constable Walker was among the hundreds of concerned citizens attending the rally at the Third Ward Multi-Service Center, Sunday, June 1, 2012. Also participating, U.S. Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee and Al Green. The Houston Chronicle reports many Houston janitors make about \$9,000 a year.



## Duties and Responsibilities of Harris County Precinct 7



Deputy Don Rayford

### Writ of Possession

Harris County Constable Precinct 7 is a law enforcement agency that has the responsibility of, but is not limited to, patrolling and responding to emergency and non-emergency calls within the geographical boundaries of Precinct 7. Precinct 7's ultimate responsibility is serving civil papers that are issued through the offices of the Justices of Peace (Positions One and Two) and county, district, and federal courts. A **Writ of Possession** is one of the many types of papers served by law enforcement officials of Harris County Constable Precinct 7.

A **Writ of Possession** is a court order directing the constable or sheriff to give the landlord physical possession of the rental unit. The writ cannot be issued until at least five days after the judgment from the eviction hearing (counting weekends and holidays). The constable or sheriff *must post a 24 hour* written notice on your door stating when they will take possession of the property in question. You, any other persons who lives with you and all of your belongings will be removed by the landlord under the supervision of the constable or sheriff.

You have the right to reside and go into the premises until the constable or sheriff evicts you by the writ of possession. Once a writ of possession is obtained, a constable or sheriff will allow the landlord to remove you, anyone in the rental unit, and all property from the premises.



## If You See Something, Say Something!

In an effort to help reduce crime in the community and in our neighborhoods, Harris County Precinct 7 is implementing the "If You See Something, Say Something" initiative.

The safety of each and every member of the Precinct 7 community is our number one priority, and for that reason we are asking all of you to come together and look out for each other.

If you witness any suspicious behavior or anything or anyone who appears strange and out of place, we ask that you report it immediately by calling the Precinct 7 Main Office at (713) 643- 6118 during regular business hours or our 24-hour dispatch when the main office is closed at (713) 643-6602. We also recommend that you program these numbers into your mobile phone for easy access in case of an emergency. You can also visit the Precinct 7 website [www.hctx.net/conpct7](http://www.hctx.net/conpct7) to alert us electronically.

### Not Reporting Crime, Encourages It!



# Reducing Children's Access to Tobacco Products

## Facts about Children and Teens Who Smoke



According to the Center of Disease Control, more than 3,000 young people become regular smokers every day, which is more than one million new smokers a year. And many of them continue to smoke regularly as adults, increasing their risk of dying prematurely from smoking-related diseases, such as lung cancer, heart disease, and stroke.

The CDC also reports that teen smoking is often an early warning sign of future problems. Teens who smoke are three times as likely as nonsmokers to use alcohol, eight times as likely to use marijuana, and 22 times as likely to use cocaine. Smoking is also associated with numerous other high risk behaviors, including fighting and having unprotected sex.

The tobacco law, formerly Senate Bill 55, is a comprehensive approach to reducing children's access to tobacco products. Specifically, the law:

- Continues the existing penalty for the store clerk that sells tobacco to a minor, which is a Class C misdemeanor.
- Requires tobacco retailers to verify the age of purchasers appearing to be younger than 27 years of age through the use of photo identification.
- Existing signage is amended to include that it is BOTH illegal to sell to minors and illegal for minors to buy (Comptroller responsibility).
- Vending machine and self service sales are restricted except in places not open to those under 18 years of age or in places used as cigar humidors.
- Giveaways of free samples and coupons to anyone under 18 are prohibited.
- Sales of cigarettes of less than 20 per pack (Kiddie Packs) are prohibited.

**Random compliance checks of area businesses are conducted by Precinct 7 Deputies to ensure they are not selling tobacco products to our youth.**



# Buckle Up Precinct 7

Texas has a law on the books requiring the use of safety restraints for people riding in motor vehicles. This law makes it illegal for anyone, adult or child, to ride in a vehicle that has seat belts without having their seat belt properly fastened.

A person commits an offense if the person operates a passenger vehicle, transports a child who is younger than eight (8) years of age, unless the child is taller than four (4) feet, nine (9) inches, and does not keep the child secured during the operation of the vehicle in a child passenger safety seat system according to the instructions of the manufacturer of the safety seat system. It is also against the law for someone to operate a passenger vehicle that is equipped with safety belts and allows a child who is younger than 17 years of age and who is not required to be secured in a child passenger safety seat system to ride in the vehicle without requiring the child to be secured by a safety belt, provided the child is occupying a seat that is equipped with a safety belt.



# Precinct 7 Student Internship Program



Claudine Stringfellow (intern), Jacory Curry (intern), Constable May Walker, Shameail Laws(intern), and Tamina Bivens(intern)

Area college students experience what it is like to serve the public within a professional environment during the 2012 Spring Precinct 7 Student Internship Program.

The program is an unpaid learning opportunity for students registered in a college credit-generating course at the time of their internship. Precinct 7 is able to accommodate interns from a wide variety of academic programs. However, most commonly, we accommodate students who have an interest in the criminal justice field.

College students pursuing a degree in the field of Criminal Justice or Administration of Justice and interested in the Precinct 7 Student Internship Program can contact Program Director, Pamela Greenwood at 713-643-0763.



*Please Join us for Red Carpet Affair on the Green*

Constable May Walker will be rolling out the "Red Carpet" for golfers participating in her "Annual Law Enforcement Scholarship Golf Classic". The event is scheduled to take place **Saturday, October 13, 2012 at the Wildcat Golf Club, 12000 Almeda, Houston, Texas.**

If you are an avid player join us on the greens. If you admire the game, but choose not to play participate as a sponsor.

For more information, please contact event organizer:  
**Pamela Greenwood**  
**PH 713.643.0763**  
**Email [Pamela.Greenwood@cn7.hctx.net](mailto:Pamela.Greenwood@cn7.hctx.net)**

# Congratulations!

Constable May Walker is pleased to announce the promotion of Sergeant Anil Sharma to the rank of Lieutenant. Anil Sharma has distinguished himself in earning this promotion through dedication and hard work in the Harris County Precinct 7 Constable's Department and the Precinct 7 community.

After serving the department as a deputy for five (5) years, Sharma was promoted to Sergeant in 2010. Lieutenant Sharma, a native of Delhi India, has remained true to his goal as a law enforcement officer and supervisor by treating all people with respect, equality, fairness, and impartiality.

Lieutenant Anil Sharma, a person of uncompromising integrity has truly proven himself to be a valued asset to Harris County Precinct 7.



Lieutenant  
Anil Sharma

## KEEPING OUR SENIORS SAFE

With more than 450,000 residents in a jurisdiction that spreads out over 94.37 square miles, Harris County Precinct 7 is composed of an extremely diverse constituency with a vast majority being in their "golden years". The safety and well-being of Senior Citizens continues to be a top priority of Constable May Walker and Precinct 7 deputies.

Trusting in nature and not as swift on their feet as they were in younger years, elder citizens are considered easy prey and are often targeted by the common criminal. However, by arming them with prevention and awareness tips and providing them with information on programs and services designed to cater to their needs, crimes and other offenses against elders can be greatly reduced.

### Precinct 7 Programs and Services designed to help keep our seniors safe:

#### Senior Citizen Hotline

Volunteers staff the Hotline and place weekly calls to Seniors in Precinct 7 to make sure they feel safe and to let them know they are not forgotten. This program provides an opportunity for concerned citizens to call in and identify seniors who may have serious problems or concerns. **Senior Citizen Hotline PH (713)643-6118 Ext 155.**

#### Senior Inspection Program

This program provides a basic home security check for senior citizens. We point out the importance of having adequate door locks, window locks, working smoke detectors, and working carbon monoxide detectors. **Eligibility:** All senior citizens 65 or older in Precinct 7.



## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

On average families with children in grades K-12 are expected to spend \$603.63 on apparel, school supplies, and electronics for the upcoming school year. However, to arm children with crime prevention information and tips that could potentially save their lives, does not cost a thing.

Harris County Precinct 7 Constable May Walker and Precinct 7 deputies encourage parents to take time before school starts and talk to children about their personal safety, develop safety plans, and put those plans into action by practicing them so they become second nature.

### Tips to Help Keep Children Safe

If children must walk to school or a bus stop without adult supervision, Constable Walker encourages parents to take time and map out the safest route for their youngsters to take each day. The Constable also insists that parents and children practice by walking the path together several times before the start of school. This helps build confidence and familiarity with the area so that children are aware and alerted if something appears strange or out of place.

**Be Alert:** Over 50% of the children kidnapped in non-family abductions were taken from the street, in a vehicle, or from a park or wooded area.



### Children should also practice the following safety tips:

Whenever possible, avoid walking alone.

If a car approaches, keep a safe distance (approx. 5 arm lengths away).

If a person driving a car pulls up alongside you and starts talking or attempts to get out of the car take off running in the direction opposite from which the car is facing.

Never take short cuts through deserted areas like vacant lots or alleys.

Yelling and running are better safety ideas than trying to hide. If a stranger approaches, YELL "No," RUN to where there are safe adults, and TELL an adult. These individuals may include uniformed law-enforcement or security officers and store or business personnel wearing nametags.

If grabbed by a stranger, kick, bite, hit. Yell, "No!", "Help!" or "Fire!" to attract attention. Do whatever you can to get away.

Most importantly, never get in a car with a stranger or let that person take you inside of a building.

**Be Aware:** Never trust a stranger. Most children identify strangers as having a scary or sinister appearance. However, it is important for children to know

pretty strangers can be just as dangerous as the not-so-attractive ones.

Make sure you know your full name, parent's names, and address and phone number.

Know how and when to use 911 and 0. Also, 911 and 0 can be dialed from a pay phone without any money.

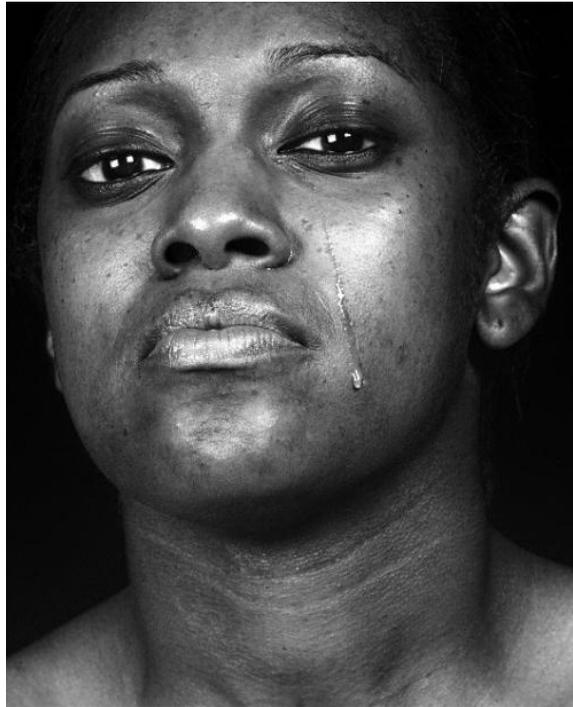
Never put your name on your clothes, jewelry, caps or belongings where people can see it.

Always tell your parents about things that happen that make you feel scared, uncomfortable or sad.

**Be Careful:** Know the difference between a good secret and a bad secret. A good secret is fun to keep, like a surprise party. A bad secret may be something that you might be embarrassed to tell. However, it is important that you report it to your parents or a trusted adult.

# Precinct 7 Crime Victims Services Unit

## Help Is Just A Phone Call Away



### OUR MISSION

The Harris County Precinct 7 Crime Victims Services Unit is dedicated to helping victims and/or family members affected by crime or tragic circumstances regain power and control over their lives. We assist those in need by helping them obtain immediate financial and emotional support, crisis intervention, guidance, emergency assistance, and referrals to community resources for continued help.

### ELIGIBILITY

All services are free of charge and available to anyone who suffers physical or mental harm or death as a result of criminally injurious conduct. The victim must be a U.S. citizen or Texas resident (undocumented persons are eligible to receive services). The victim must cooperate with law enforcement.



### WHAT WE DO

The Harris County Precinct 7, Crime Victims Services Unit is here to work with victims and their families to ensure that all victims receive their rights, as guaranteed by the Texas Crime Victim's Compensation Act, (Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 56).

**We are committed to providing:**

- High Quality Services
- Emergency Assistance
- Guidance
- Support
- Referrals
- Compassion
- Understanding

During this emotional and traumatic time of crisis, we know the last thing victims and or family members want to deal with are the financial burdens that have resulted from the crime. We also understand that mentally one is not ready to handle the tasks of searching for counseling and legal services.

**Therefore, our staff will provide the following:**

- Referrals to victim support organizations
- Assistance with the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Program
- Explanation of law enforcement and judicial procedures
- Prevention, awareness, and education of victimization
- Crisis Intervention
- Victim mediator

### What crimes are covered?

Crimes against persons (not property) including:

- Homicide
- Domestic/Family Violence
- Assault/Aggravated Assault (adult/child)
- Robbery
- DUI/DWI Incidents
- Elder Abuse
- And more...

### What expenses are covered?

If approved by the Office of the Attorney General's Crime Victims' Compensation Program, a victim may qualify for financial assistance with:

- Medical
- Psychiatric Care/Counseling
- Loss of Earnings/Support
- Funeral & Burial
- Relocation & Rental
- Child or Dependent Care
- Crime Scene Cleanup

### For Information Please Contact:

#### Harris County Precinct 7 Crime Victims Assistance Unit

**PH 713.643.6773**

**Office Hours**  
Monday – Friday  
8AM to 5PM

#### After Hours Dispatch

Monday – Friday  
5PM to 8AM  
Saturday & Sunday  
24 Hours  
**713.643.6602**



Pct. 7 Crime Victims Assistant Coordinator – Amanda Fields