

## **Irving Marks 7 Percent Decrease in Overall Crime Rate—Again**

Irving has marked another banner year in regard to its continuing decrease in the crime rate. The city experienced an overall 7 percent crime reduction for 2008. A record-low crime rate has been set for two consecutive years, with a 7 percent decrease in crime in 2007.

In 2008, the city experienced significant reductions in vehicle burglaries and car thefts. These were two specific areas that received intensified focus. The following programs and initiatives are some of the ways in which Irving has helped to ensure a safe community for its residents:

### **Code Enforcement**

Code Enforcement was aligned under the Police Department a year ago. This reorganization has yielded several benefits as code officers have established close working relationships with police and have combined code enforcement efforts with police initiatives.

### **Sky Watch Trailers**

The city purchased five additional Sky Watch trailers, bringing the total to seven. These trailers are placed in retail locations to deter crime.

### **Burglary/Motor Vehicle Awareness**

A public awareness campaign with printed materials was placed in hotels, fitness facilities and retail locations to caution residents about leaving valuables in plain view in their vehicles.

### **Problem-Solving Team**

This specialized team consists of three highly trained officers and a sergeant who guide police efforts and work with other city departments to clean up troublesome areas. Their focus in 2008 was on Tudor Lane and the Treehouse and Hillcrest apartments on Walnut Hill. The Tudor Lane area has experienced a 70 percent decrease in crime. Treehouse Apartments experienced a 69 percent reduction in crime, while crime decreased by 26 percent at the Hillcrest Apartments.

### **ICOP Volunteers**

Irving Citizens on Patrol volunteers recognize suspicious and criminal activity and assist the Police Department by actively patrolling and reporting such activities. Members conduct high visibility patrols using decommissioned, marked squad cars.

### **24/7 Criminal Alien Program**

This program features a partnership between the Police Department and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency where police notify federal officials if they have arrested someone who may be in the country illegally.