



“Charlotte will be the safest large city in America.”

The commitment to ensure the safety of our community is paramount for City of Charlotte leaders. Through the City’s Community Safety Focus Area Plan, we strive to create and maintain a community where residents feel safe at both home and in the work place; a community where people enjoy their free time in parks and neighborhoods, without having to fear for their individual safety, and the safety of children and families; a community where residents are educated to protect themselves; and a community where visitors will want to return to again and again because of the friendly and safe environment.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) and the Charlotte Fire Department (CFD) are both on the front lines of public safety, and have direct interaction with the community *every day*. Our Community Safety Focus Area Plan details the strategy designed to ensure that the citizens of Charlotte-Mecklenburg live in a community that is confident in the level of police and fire protection it receives. The following information briefly describes the goals of the Community Safety Focus Area Plan. To read the entire plan, visit www.charmeck.org and click on Focus Area Plans.

Crime Reduction through Empowerment

Our Goal: There *is* safety in numbers. That’s the thinking behind the goal that aims to reduce crime by 3% per 100,000 population next year, and by 3% per 100,000 population in fiscal year 2015. We’ll do it two ways, *and* in the heart of our neighborhoods. Strategies will be designed to address crime patterns as they emerge and will be tailored to the neighborhoods in which crime is occurring. These strategies will also be designed to target chronic offenders. Secondly, our citizens will be empowered to join with us as active partners in crime reduction by being the eyes and ears for police officers in their own neighborhoods. The end result: a pro-active approach to crime that raises the level of community safety, giving residents confidence in those agencies mandated to protect them.

A Police Force that Reflects the Community

Our Goal: The public has trust in a police force that mirrors the community. As part of the Community Safety Focus Area Plan, CMPD will create recruitment programs that attract more women and minorities. A diverse workforce will ensure that law enforcement reaches all segments of the population through our service and enlists community support in the fight against crime.

Partnerships

Our Goal: The City recognizes that collaboration among its own departments as well as with other agencies is one of the keys to building a safe community. As part of the Community Safety Focus Area Plan, Police partner with other City departments, such as Neighborhood and Business Services to address the conditions that enable crime in our neighborhoods. They also partner with other state and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes such as drug trafficking and gang activity that have a negative impact on the quality of life in our city.

CFD Works to Protect the Community

Our Goal: Protection of our neighborhoods and way of life also falls under the purview of the Charlotte Fire Department (CFD). Using a strategy similar to law enforcement, CFD seeks to prevent fires and protect lives through pro-active education and enforcement programs, and by partnering with the community. As part of the Community Safety Focus Area Plan, the fire department will ensure that the fire code enforcement program maintains its high level of activity, designed to save lives and reduce property damage.

Our Goal: Increasing its rapid response to fires is a continuous goal of the Charlotte Fire Department. Under the Community Safety Focus Area Plan, CFD seeks to increase its percentage of response to fires, arriving within six minutes of having received the call. The numbers tell it all; their goal is to respond on scene within six minutes 85% of the time.

Our Goal: Fire prevention begins with community education. As part of the Community Safety Focus Area Plan, staff with CFD will increase the number of fire education programs they provide for our littlest fire fighters in area schools within Charlotte city limits.

What Can YOU Do?

Get to Know Your Neighborhood

If you'd like to become pro-active in crime prevention in your neighborhood, simply go to www.cmpd.org to learn about your service area. Sign up to receive a localized newsletter from your Response Area Commander to learn about crime issues and prevention. And, get active in your neighborhood association. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors, and join in efforts to make your community safer and more livable.

Take Preventive Steps

Don't wait for a fire to break out. Visit the Charlotte Fire Department website at www.charmeck.org to learn about fire prevention in your home and neighborhood.

Learn More

For a detailed version of the entire Community Safety Focus Area Plan, go to www.charmeck.org. While at the site, you can also visit the web pages of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and the Charlotte Fire Department.