

LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

PUBLIC'S PERSPECTIVE OF THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY
THE SAN JACINTO COUNTY PRECINCT 4 CONSTABLE'S DEPARTMENT

A LEARNING CONTRACT
SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR
MODULE II

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#133

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a survey of San Jacinto County Precinct 4 residents regarding their opinions and attitudes toward crime in their community and of the services provided by their Constable. The survey was conducted by Greg Magee, San Jacinto County Pct 4 Constable, as a partial requirement for the Texas Law Enforcement Management Institute. The specific areas of concerns in this survey were:

- (1) perceptions of the crime problem,
- (2) fear of crime,
- (3) crime experiences, and
- (4) perceptions of the Constable's Department.

PURPOSE AND DEVELOPMENTS

An administrator of a law enforcement agency needs to know the views and concerns of the public his agency serves. This information is vital in order to make sound planning decisions. The purpose of this survey questionnaire was to measure the public's perceptions of crime in their community and of their Constable's Department. Necessary data was collected to evaluate current services provided, in relations to the public's expectations and needs.

In developing the survey format and questions, examples of

the State-wide surveys entitled: Texas Crime Poll and Public Perceptions of the Police in Texas, were used. These surveys were conducted by the Survey Research Programs at the Criminal Justice Center, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. The format and questions of these two surveys were used to develop the type of questions used in this survey and the purpose of the surveys was narrowed to include only Precinct 4, San Jacinto County.

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

A systematic random sample of names was drawn from the Precinct 4 voters registration list of San Jacinto County. Every n th name was taken in order to provide the size sample required. Although not every resident of Precinct 4 is a register voter, the procedure does provide a very systematic way of acquiring a truly random sample. A sampling size of 100 was selected for this survey.

RESEARCH FORMAT

The questionnaires were sent to each person in the sample by first-class mail. Each mailing contained the following: (1) a letter explaining the purpose of the survey; (2) a copy of the survey instrument; and (3) a stamped, return-addressed envelope.

RETURNS

A total of 34 usable survey instruments were returned. This represented 34% of the total sample 100. In addition, 5 (5%) were returned by the post office as non-forwardable. Therefore, of the actual potential sample base of 95 (total sample minus non-forwardable), the 34 usable survey instruments represented an adjusted return rate of 35.8%.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Females accounted for 58.8% of the respondents and males 41.2% (see table 1). The majority of the respondents were between the ages of 55 to 69 years of age, representing 51.5% of the respondents (see table 2). Whites are overrepresented, representing 82.4% of the respondents while blacks only represented 17.6% (see table 3). Over three-fourths (85.3%) of the respondents have lived in San Jacinto County for more than 4 years (see table 4).

RESULTS

The survey results have been divided into 4 sections: (1) perceptions of the crime problem; (2) fear of crime; (3) crime experience; and (4) perceptions of the Constable's Department.

PERCEPTIONS OF THE CRIME PROBLEM

Six questions focused on respondent's perceptions of the crime problem in their community. The first question asked: "What is the biggest single crime problem in your

community?" Respondents were asked to select only one of twelve choices, however, many selected more than one. One-half (50.0%) of respondents indicated burglary was the biggest single crime problem in their community (see table 5). The next most frequently listed problem was "drugs" (23.5%), followed by "other theft" (11.8%) and "speeding and traffic laws" violations (8.8%).

The next question asked: "Over the past three years, do you feel the crime problem in your community is: (a) getting better; (b) about the same; or (c) getting worse?" Almost one-half (45.4%) of the respondents felt the crime problem was getting better, whereas 42.4% felt it was about the same (see table 6). Only 12.2% felt the crime problem was getting worse.

Respondents were then asked to respond to the following: "If the crime problem is getting worse in your community, what do you think are the reasons?" Respondents were presented with eleven choices and were instructed to select as many as applied. Whereas, only 4 respondents stated they felt the crime problem was getting worse in the preceding question, 18 responded to this question with 26 responses. The two most frequently selected reasons were "less parental discipline" (17.9%) and "use of drugs and narcotics" (17.9%) (see table 7). "Population increase" was selected next by 10.7% of the respondents.

Respondents were asked two questions regarding who they thought commit the crimes in their community. The first question asked: "What type of people do you think commit the most crimes in your community?" Again, respondents were asked to select only one of six choices. "Drug users" were selected most often (38.2%) followed by "juveniles" (20.6%) and "people of all ages" (20.6%) (see table 11).

The other question asked: "Do you think most of the crime in your community is committed by the people who live there or by outsiders?" Respondents were also given a choice to select "both". Over one-half (53.4%) felt crime is committed by both (see table 14). Only 3.3% believe crime is committed by people living here and 43.3% believe it is by outsiders.

Respondents were asked their views on the future with the following question: "During the next year, do you feel that the crime problem in your community will: (a) get better; (b) stay about the same; or (c) become worse?" Over one-half (62.5%) indicated it would stay about the same and 28.1% felt it would get better (see table 15). Only 9.4% felt the crime problem would get worse.

FEAR OF CRIME

Four questions were asked to measure the public's fear of crime. The first question asked: "How safe do you feel or

would you feel being out alone in your community at night?" (see table 8). Only 17.6% felt very safe. An equal amount (41.2%) of respondents felt somewhat safe or reasonable safe.

Respondents were then asked: "How about during the day? How safe do you feel or would feel being out alone in your community?" During the day 58% indicated they felt very safe and 19.4% felt somewhat safe (see table 9). (note: these figures may not indicate the true feeling of respondents since a choice of "unsafe" was not provided.)

Respondents were asked: "Are you afraid to be in your home alone at night?" One-half of the respondents indicated they are never afraid (see table 10). Almost the other half (46.9%) indicated they are sometimes afraid, followed by 3.1% indicating "always". It is noteworthy that the 46.9% indicating "sometimes" were almost an equal number of males to females and the 3.1% indicating "always" afraid were males in the upper age bracket.

The final question in this section asked: "Do you feel that you may be the victim of any of the following crimes within the next year?" Respondents were presented with eight categories from which to choose and were allowed to choose as many as might apply. Fourteen (14) respondents indicated they felt they might become a victim within the next year. Over one-half (69.2%) felt they would be a

TABLE 17

QUESTION: Circle the corresponding letters from above that you would consider as the top five (5) priority tasks of your Constable.

| DUTY | NUMBER RECEIVED | % |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Patrol area residences, etc | 20 | 71.4% |
| Investigate Drugs | 17 | 60.7% |
| Investigate child abuse | 16 | 57.3 |
| Identify and execute arrest warrants | 13 | 46.4% |
| Investigate felony crimes | 13 | 46.4% |
| Traffic enforcement | 9 | 32.1% |
| Investigate misdemeanor crimes | 9 | 32.1% |
| Continue training | 8 | 28.6% |
| Conduct school programs | 7 | 25.0% |
| Investigate cruelty of animals | 6 | 21.4% |
| Identify and execute hot checks | 5 | 17.9% |
| Accident investigation | 4 | 14.3% |
| Perform crime prevention surveys | 4 | 14.3% |
| Enforce boating safety | 4 | 14.3% |
| Active in community affairs | 4 | 14.3% |
| Give crime prevention seminars | 3 | 10.7% |
| Enforce game laws | 3 | 10.7% |
| Seek grants | 3 | 10.7% |
| Handle mental health patients | 2 | 7.1% |
| Community awareness/education | 2 | 7.1% |

TABLE 18

QUESTION: How many times have you been in contact with your Constable?

| | | |
|-------------|----|--------|
| Never | 17 | 51.5% |
| 1-2 times | 5 | 15.2% |
| 3-4 times | 4 | 12.1% |
| more than 4 | 7 | 21.2% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 33 | 100.0% |

TABLE 19

QUESTION: Regarding the most recent incident, rate the Constable's effectiveness in handling your call.

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------|
| Excellent | 13 | 81.3% |
| Good | 3 | 18.7% |
| Fair | 0 | 0 |
| Poor | 0 | 0 |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 16 | 100.0% |

victim of burglary (see table 13). The next highest selected category was vandalism (23.1%), followed by assault with body (7.7%). No other category was selected.

CRIME EXPERIENCE

Respondents were asked only one question regarding their experiences as a victim of crime. The question asked: "During the past year, have you or a member of your household been a victim of any of the following crimes?" Respondents were provided with a list of crimes. Only 11.8% of the respondents indicated they had been a victim of crime and all respondents (100%) had been a victim of vandalism. Regarding burglary and other theft, 75% of the respondents indicated they had been victims of these crimes (see table 13).

PERCEPTIONS OF THE CONSTABLE DEPARTMENT

Respondents were asked 11 questions to measure their views of the Constable Department. Respondents were given a brief statement as to where the Constable receives his power and authority. The first question dealt with the duties of a Constable. Respondents were given 21 duties of a Constable and asked, based on their view the importance of each as (5) very important, (4) important, (3) no opinion, (2) not important and (1) should not do (see table 16). The results are as followed:

a. PATROL AREA RESIDENCES, STORES, & SUBDIVISIONS:

A total of 65.6% of the respondents felt it was very important to make patrol, with 24.1% indicating it was important, for a combine total of 89.7% indicating its importance. Only 3.4% indicated patrol was not important with 6.9% believing a Constable should not patrol.

b. TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:

Nearly one-half (42.9%) indicated traffic enforcement was very important, with 25% indicating this type of enforcement important. This indicates 67.9% of respondents rate traffic enforcement as important. Only 14.3% felt a Constable should not enforce traffic laws.

c. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION:

An equal number of respondents felt accident investigation was very important and important (34.8% each). Only 4.3% felt a Constable should not conduct accident investigations.

d. GIVE CRIME PREVENTION SEMINARS:

Nearly one-half (48.1%) of the respondents felt this duty was either important (40.7%) or very important (7.4%). Many respondents may not understand what a crime prevention seminar is because 37% indicated they did not have an opinion.

e. PERFORM CRIME PREVENTION SURVEYS FOR RESIDENCES:

Again respondents may not understand crime prevention

surveys because 33.3% indicated they had no opinion of this duty, however, a total of 44.4% indicated the importance with 14.8% rating this duty as very important and 29.6% showing it to be important.

f. IDENTIFY AND EXECUTE ARREST WARRANTS:

Respondents felt this was another important duty, with 44.8% indicating very important, while 41.4% showed it to be important.

g. IDENTIFY AND EXECUTE "HOT CHECK" WARRANTS:

Over one-half (59.2%) of the respondents rated this duty as being important, with 29.6% rating it as very important. Only 3.7% indicated a Constable should not do this duty.

h. ENFORCE GAME LAWS:

This duty may be the most controversial duty, with 25.9% of respondents indicating a Constable should not perform this duty and 14.8% indicating this duty is not important; a combination of 40.7%. However, an equal number of respondents believe this duty is very important (22.2%) and important (22.2%), whereas, 14.8% do not have an opinion.

i. ENFORCE BOATING SAFETY:

One-fourth (25%) of the respondents felt enforcing boating safety is a very important duty of a Constable, whereas, 35.7% felt it was important. It should be

noted, however, 21.4% do not believe it should be a duty of the Constable.

j. INVESTIGATE DRUG TRAFFICING:

There is no doubt respondents placed a high importance on this duty with 60.6% indicating this duty as very important and 30.3% indicating important. Only 6% felt this should not be a duty of the Constable.

k. CONDUCT SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

Nearly one-half (46.4%) indicated this was a very important duty of the Constable and 39.3% rated as being important.

l. INVESTIGATE FELONY CRIMES:

One-half (50%) of the respondents felt this was a very important duty of the Constable. Only 12.5% indicated the Constable should not investigate felony crimes.

m. INVESTIGATE MISDEMEANOR CRIMES:

Over one-half (53.3%) of the respondents felt investigating misdemeanor crime was an important duty of the Constable and 30% felt it was very important. Only 3.3% indicated it was not a duty of the Constable.

n. CONTINUE TRAINING:

A well trained Constable is important to the respondents with 96.4% indicating either "very important" (60.6%) or "important" (30.3%).

o. ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING:

Almost one-half (42.9%) felt it is very important for the Constable to be active in community affairs and 39.3% indicated it was important. There were 14.3% with no opinion.

p. RESPRESENT COUNTY AT REGIONAL MEETING & EVENTS:

This may be another duty respondents may not understand; with an equal number of respondents indicating this as a very important duty (22.2%), with 22.2% of the respondents indicating "no opinion" (22.2%). However, 37% indicated it was an important duty, whereas, 18.5% felt it was not important.

q. SEEK GRANTS/PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE SERVICE:

No one indicated this was not an important duty or one that the Constable should not perform. A large percentage (84.5%) indicated either "very important" (23%) or "important" (61.5%). Again, a few respondents (15.4%) did not have an opinion.

r. INVESTIGATE CRUELTY OF ANIMALS:

Nearly one-half (44.8%) of the respondents felt this duty to be very important and 20.6% indicated it to be important. Only 13.8% felt this type of investigation should not be performed by the Constable.

s. INVESTIGATE CHILD ABUSE:

A large percentage (71.9%) of respondents felt this to be very important with 21.9% indicating it to be important.

Just 3.1% did not believe this to be a duty of the Constable.

t. HANDLE MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS:

Over one-half (53.6%) of the respondents felt this duty was either very important (14.3%) or important (39.3). One-fourth (25%) did not have an opinion and 17.8% did not believe it to be a duty of the Constable.

u. COMMUNITY AWARENESS/EDUCATION THRU NEWSPAPER:

One-half (50%) of the respondents indicated they felt it was important the Constable be involved in community educational programs and 17.8% felt it to be very important.

Respondents were then given the letters, "a" thru "u", and asked to circle the corresponding letters from the preceding question they would consider as the top five (5) priority tasks of the Constable. The number one answer was (a) patrol area residences, stores, and subdivisions with 71.4%, followed by (s) investigate child abuse (57.1%) (see table 17). Identify and execute arrest warrants (f) and investigate felony crimes (l) followed with each receiving 46.4%. Both (b) traffic enforcement (32.1%) and (m) investigate misdemeanor crimes (32.1%) followed sixth.

Respondents were then asked: "How many times have you been in contact with your Constable?" Over one-half (51.5%)

indicated they had never been in contact with their Constable, whereas, 21.2% had been in contact more than 4 times (see table 18).

The respondents were then asked to rate the Constable's effectiveness. The question asked: "Regarding the most recent incident, rate the Constable's effectiveness in handling your call." Respondents were given the choices of: excellent; good; fair; and poor. Only 47% of the respondents answered this question, with 81.3% selecting excellent, whereas, the remaining 18.7% selected good (see table 19).

Respondents were also asked: "Regarding the most recent incident, the Constable could improve on the following characteristic (s). Nine categories were provided from which to choose and respondents were told to choose as many as applied. Only 64.2% of the respondents answered this question. One-half (50%) selected "no improvement" whereas, 22.5% indicated "knowledge of people and area" (see table 20).

Respondents were then asked: "How do you feel about the overall effectiveness of your Constable's Department?" Again the respondents were given the four choices of excellent, good, fair and poor. Over one-half (51.7%) indicated excellent with the remaining 48.3% indicating good

(see table 21).

Respondents were asked: "If you were a victim of a serious crime, would you feel comfortable having your Constable investigate the crime?" Choices of "yes", "no" and "rather have the Sheriff Department" were given. Only 23.5% of the respondents indicated they would rather have the Sheriff Department, with the remaining 76.5% being comfortable with the Constable investigating their crime (see table 22).

To determine if the Constable was well-known in the community, respondents were asked: "Before receiving this survey, did you know the Constable?" Only 18.7% indicated they did not know the Constable, leaving 81.3% indicating they knew the Constable (see table 23).

Respondents were then asked: "Before receiving this survey, did you know the duties of a Constable?" Over one-half (51.5%) did not know the duties of their Constable (see table 24).

Respondents were then given information comparing the present salary of the Constable to other law enforcement related positions in the county. Respondents were then asked: "Do you feel that the salary received by the Constable is a reasonable salary compared to others?" Nearly three-fourths (74.2%) of the respondents felt the salary was not reasonable compared to the others (see table

25).

Respondents were then asked: "Would you support a change?"

A large percentage (92.9%) of the respondents indicated they would support a change.

A space was provided for respondents to make any additional comments. The following are comments received:

1. No person in the law enforcement field; Constable, Troopers, Sheriff, etc, could ever be paid enough in my opinion. I think the pro athelets should switch paychecks with these people and they would still be underpayed.

2. Unable to complete much of this since I do not know present workload, qualifications, etc.

3. There are 3 single women in this subdivision and we do need to have someone to patrol thru here at night.

4. I frankly do not know if crime is worse in our community but I do think it's worse in general. I do not know any statistics.

5. I like to see Justice done for all.

6. I wish we had more officers of the law like Greg Magee. Thanks Greg!

7. Besides the official duties of a Constable, his

visibility in his precinct creates a feeling of security which I consider to be very important.

8. I believe our Constable would make a good Sheriff.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There were 50% of the respondents in this survey that indicated burglary was the biggest crime problem in the precinct and 69.2% feared they would become a victim of burglary within the next year. Of the respondents that indicated they had been a victim of a crime within the past year, 75% had been a victim of burglary. It would appear there is truly a fear of burglary among the community.

The Constable Department should implement programs targeted at reducing this fear. These programs should include higher visibility of patrol. Respondents rated patrol of area residences, stores and subdivisions as the top priority task (71.4%). Although studies have shown routine patrol has no major effect on the prevention of crimes, it does help to reduce the fear of crime; as indicated in one of the respondent's comments: "...his visibility in his precinct creates a feeling of security."

Respondents also believed "drugs" were the second biggest crime problem (23.5%) and drug users (38.2%) commit most of the crimes in the community. For those that believed the

crime problem was getting worse, the number one reason was the use of drugs and narcotics (17.9%). With the general thought that drug use and burglary go hand-in-hand, the Constable Department should implement programs targeted at usage of drugs.

An increase in crime prevention seminars might be helpful. Although 37% of the respondents did not have an opinion on crime prevention seminars, many may not be familiar with them. Increasing the number of citizens informed of crime prevention techniques and of what to look for in drug trafficking may help to reduce these fears of crime.

No doubt with 67.8% of the respondents indicating the importance of community awareness and education thru newspapers and newsletters, the Constable Department should examine the use of the local newspapers in educating and informing the citizens of the precinct. Since the local newspapers are weekly papers, it would be possible to have a weekly crime prevention article. This could be an avenue to educate the public of techniques and informing of future meetings.

Since 51.5% of the respondents indicated they did not know the duties of the Constable these articles could help to inform the public of these duties. The crime prevention meetings can also help the Constable with his knowledge of the people and area, since 22.5% of the respondents

indicated the Constable could improve in that area.

Finally, if programs are implemented, after a year of being in effect this survey should be conducted again and the results compared. However, one must keep in mind, with the increase of newspaper articles and meetings the knowledge of these crimes will reach a larger proportion of the population and the results of the fear of these crime may increase.

TABLE 1

QUESTION: What is the sex of the person completing this questionnaire?

| | | |
|--------|----|--------|
| Male | 14 | 41.2% |
| Female | 20 | 58.8% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0% |

TABLE 2

QUESTION: What is your age?

AGE:

| | |
|-------|----|
| 31 | 1 |
| 37 | 1 |
| 38 | 2 |
| 39 | 1 |
| 40 | 1 |
| 42 | 1 |
| 46 | 1 |
| 49 | 1 |
| 50 | 1 |
| 55 | 2 |
| 58 | 1 |
| 59 | 1 |
| 60 | 2 |
| 62 | 2 |
| 65 | 2 |
| 66 | 1 |
| 67 | 1 |
| 68 | 3 |
| 69 | 2 |
| 70 | 1 |
| 71 | 1 |
| 75 | 1 |
| 76 | 3 |
| ----- | |
| TOTAL | 33 |

TABLE 3

QUESTION: What is your race?

| | | |
|-------|----|--------|
| Black | 6 | 17.6% |
| White | 28 | 82.4% |
| <hr/> | | |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0% |

TABLE 4

QUESTION: How long have you lived in San Jacinto County?

| | | |
|-------------------|----|--------|
| 1-2 years | 1 | 2.9% |
| 3-4 years | 4 | 11.8% |
| More than 4 years | 29 | 85.3% |
| <hr/> | | |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0% |

TABLE 5

QUESTION: What is the biggest single crime problem in your community?

| | | |
|------------------|----|-----------|
| Burglary | 17 | 50.0% |
| Other theft | 4 | 11.8% |
| Assault | 0 | 0 |
| Vandalism | 1 | 2.9% |
| Drunk Driving | 1 | 2.9% |
| Other * | 1 | 2.9% |
| Vehicle theft | 1 | 2.9% |
| Farm equipment | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 |
| Arson | 0 | 0 |
| Drugs | 8 | 23.5% |
| Speeding/traffic | 3 | 8.8% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 36 | 105.7% ** |

* Respondent did not indicated what they felt was "other" problem.

** Respondents were to select only one category, however several selected more than one.

TABLE 6

QUESTION: Over the past three years, do you feel the crime problem in your community is:

| | | |
|----------------|----|--------|
| Getting better | 15 | 45.4% |
| About the same | 14 | 42.4% |
| Getting worse | 4 | 12.2% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 33 | 100.0% |

TABLE 7

QUESTION: If the crime problem is getting worse in your community, what do you think are the reasons?

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----|--------|
| Laxity of the courts | 1 | 3.7% |
| Moral decay | 2 | 7.1% |
| Population increase | 3 | 10.7% |
| Too much leisure time | 2 | 7.1% |
| Laxity of law enforcement | 4 | 14.3% |
| Increased mobility of population | 2 | 7.1% |
| The economy | 2 | 7.1% |
| Breakdown of family life | 2 | 7.1% |
| Less parental discipline | 5 | 17.9% |
| Use of drugs and narcotics | 5 | 17.9% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 28 | 100.0% |

TABLE 8

QUESTION: How safe do you feel or would feel being out alone in your community at night?

| | | |
|-----------------|----|--------|
| Very safe | 6 | 17.6% |
| Somewhat safe | 15 | 41.2% |
| Reasonable safe | 7 | 41.2% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 28 | 100.0% |

TABLE 9

QUESTION: How about during the day? How safe do you feel or would feel being out alone in your community?

| | | |
|-----------------|----|--------|
| Very safe | 18 | 58.0% |
| Somewhat safe | 6 | 19.4% |
| Reasonable safe | 7 | 22.6% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 31 | 100.0% |

TABLE 10

QUESTION: Are you afraid to be in your home alone at night?

| | | |
|------------------|----|--------|
| Always | 1 | 3.1% |
| Sometimes | 15 | 46.9% |
| Most of the time | 0 | 0 |
| Never | 16 | 50.0% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 32 | 100.0% |

TABLE 11

QUESTION: What type of people do you think commit most crimes in your community?

| | | |
|--------------------|----|--------|
| Juveniles | 7 | 20.6% |
| Drugs users | 13 | 38.2% |
| People of all ages | 7 | 20.6% |
| Unemployed persons | 4 | 11.8% |
| Habitual criminals | 2 | 5.9% |
| Others | 1 | 2.9% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0% |

TABLE 12

QUESTION: During the past year, have you or a member of your household been a victim of any of the following crimes? *

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|--------|
| Burglary | 3 | 75.0% |
| Vehicle theft | 2 | 50.0% |
| Farm equipment theft | 1 | 25.0% |
| Other theft | 3 | 75.0% |
| Assault with weapon | 1 | 25.0% |
| Assault with body | 1 | 25.0% |
| Arson/attempted arson | 1 | 25.0% |
| Vandalism | 4 | 100.0% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 16 | |

* Only 4 respondents indicated they had been a victim. The figures represents the number of crimes committed against the four. The percentage is taken from the four.

TABLE 13

QUESTION: Do you feel that you may be the victim of any of the following crimes within the next year?

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|--------|
| Burglary | 9 | 69.2% |
| Vehicle/farm theft | 0 | 0 |
| Assault with weapon | 0 | 0 |
| Vandalism | 3 | 23.1% |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 |
| Other theft | 0 | 0 |
| Assault with body | 1 | 7.7% |
| Arson/attempted arson | 0 | 0 |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 13 | 100.0% |

TABLE 14

QUESTION: Do you think most of the crime in your community is committed by the people who live there or by outsiders?

| | | |
|--------------------|----|--------|
| People living here | 1 | 3.3% |
| Outsiders | 13 | 43.3% |
| Both | 16 | 53.4% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.0% |

TABLE 15

QUESTION: During the next year, do you feel that the crime problem in your community will:

| | | |
|---------------------|----|--------|
| Get better | 9 | 28.1% |
| Stay about the same | 20 | 62.5% |
| Become worse | 3 | 9.4% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 32 | 100.0% |

TABLE 16

QUESTION: The follow question lists many duties of a Constable. In the space provided, please answer by number as to the importance you place on the duty. The answers being: (5) very important, (4) important, (3) no opinion, (2) not important, and (1) should not do.

| DUTY: | 5 | 4 | 3 | | 2 | 1 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|--|------|------|
| | | | (%) | | | |
| Patrol area residences, etc | 65.6 | 24.1 | | | 3.4 | 6.9 |
| Traffic enforcement | 42.9 | 25.0 | 7.1 | | 10.7 | 14.3 |
| Accident investigation | 34.8 | 34.8 | 17.4 | | 8.7 | 4.3 |
| Give crime prevention seminars | 7.4 | 40.7 | 37 | | 11.1 | 3.7 |
| Perform crime prevention surveys | 14.8 | 29.6 | 33.3 | | 11.1 | 11.1 |
| Identify arrest warrants | 44.8 | 41.4 | 13.8 | | 0 | 0 |
| Identify hot checks warrants | 29.6 | 59.2 | 0 | | 7.4 | 3.7 |
| Enforce game laws | 22.2 | 22.2 | 14.8 | | 14.8 | 25.9 |
| Enforce boating safety | 25 | 35.7 | 10.7 | | 7.1 | 21.4 |
| Investigate drugs | 60.6 | 30.3 | 0 | | 3.0 | 6.1 |
| Conduct school programs | 46.4 | 39.3 | 10.7 | | 0 | 3.6 |
| Investigate felony crimes | 50.0 | 28.1 | 9.3 | | 0 | 12.5 |
| Investigate misdemeanor crimes | 30.0 | 53.3 | 10 | | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Continue training | 64.3 | 32.1 | 3.6 | | 0 | 0 |
| Active in community affairs | 42.9 | 39.3 | 14.3 | | 3.5 | 0 |
| Represent county at meetings | 22.2 | 37.0 | 22.2 | | 18.5 | 0 |
| Seek grant/programs | 23.0 | 61.5 | 15.4 | | 0 | 0 |
| Investigate cruelty of animals | 44.8 | 20.6 | 10.4 | | 10.4 | 13.8 |
| Investigate child abuse | 71.9 | 21.9 | 3.1 | | 0 | 3.1 |
| Handle mental health patients | 14.3 | 39.3 | 25 | | 3.6 | 17.8 |
| Community awareness/education | 17.8 | 50.0 | 21.4 | | 3.6 | 7.2 |

TABLE 23

QUESTION: Before receiving this survey, did you know your Constable?

| | | |
|-------|----|--------|
| Yes | 26 | 81.3% |
| No | 6 | 18.7 |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 32 | 100.0% |

TABLE 24

QUESTION: Before receiving this survey, did you know the duties of a Constable?

| | | |
|-------|----|--------|
| Yes | 16 | 48.5% |
| NO | 17 | 51.5% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 33 | 100.0% |

TABLE 25

QUESTION: Do you feel that the salary received by the Constable is a reasonable salary compared to others?

| | | |
|-------|----|--------|
| Yes | 8 | 25.8% |
| No | 23 | 74.2% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 31 | 100.0% |

TABLE 26

QUESTION: Would you support a change?

| | | |
|-------|----|--------|
| Yes | 26 | 92.9% |
| No | 2 | 7.1% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 28 | 100.0% |

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. WHAT IS THE SEX OF THE PERSON COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE?

MALE _____ FEMALE _____

2. WHAT IS YOUR AGE? _____

3. WHAT IS YOUR RACE?

BLACK _____ SPANISH SURNAME _____ WHITE _____ OTHER _____

4. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN SAN JACINTO COUNTY?

LESS THAN 1 YEAR _____ 1-2 YEARS _____ 3-4 YEARS _____
MORE THAN 4 YEARS _____

5. WHAT IS THE BIGGEST SINGLE CRIME PROBLEM IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
(SELECT ONLY ONE)

BURGLARY _____ VEHICLE THEFT _____
OTHER THEFT _____ FARM EQUIPMENT THEFT _____
ASSAULT _____ ROBBERY _____
VANDALISM _____ ARSON _____
DRUNK DRIVING _____ DRUGS _____
OTHER _____ SPEEDING/TRAFFIC LAWS _____

6. OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, DO YOU FEEL THE CRIME PROBLEM IN
YOUR COMMUNITY IS:

GETTING BETTER _____ ABOUT THE SAME _____ GETTING WORSE _____

7. IF THE CRIME PROBLEM IS GETTING WORSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY,
WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE REASONS? (CHECK AS MANY AS NEEDED)

LAXITY OF THE COURTS _____ THE ECONOMY _____
MORAL DECAY _____ BREAKDOWN OF FAMILY LIFE _____
POPULATION INCREASE _____ LESS PARENTAL DISCIPLINE _____
TOO MUCH LEISURE TIME _____ USE OF DRUGS & NARCOTICS _____
LAXITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT _____ OTHER _____
INCREASED MOBILITY OF POPULATION _____

8. HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL OR WOULD YOU FEEL BEING OUT ALONE IN
YOUR COMMUNITY AT NIGHT?

VERY SAFE _____ SOMEWHAT SAFE _____ REASONABLY SAFE _____

9. HOW ABOUT DURING THE DAY? HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL OR WOULD YOU
FEEL BEING OUT ALONE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

VERY SAFE _____ SOMEWHAT SAFE _____ REASONABLY SAFE _____

10. ARE YOU AFRAID TO BE IN YOUR HOME ALONE AT NIGHT?

ALWAYS _____ MOST OF THE TIME _____
SOMETIMES _____ NEVER _____

11. WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE DO YOU THINK COMMIT MOST CRIMES IN YOUR COMMUNITY? (SELECT ONLY ONE)

JUVENILES (UNDER 18 YRS.) _____ UNEMPLOYED PERSONS _____
DRUG USERS _____ HABITUAL CRIMINALS _____
PEOPLE OF ALL AGES _____ OTHERS _____

12. DURING THE PAST YEAR, HAVE YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD BEEN A VICTIM OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CRIMES? (CHECK AS MANY AS APPLIES)

BURGLARY _____ ASSAULT WITH WEAPON _____
VEHICLE THEFT _____ ASSAULT WITH BODY _____
FARM EQUIPMENT THEFT _____ ARSON/ATTEMPTED ARSON _____
OTHER THEFT _____ VANDALISM _____

13. DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU MAY BE THE VICTIM OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CRIMES WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR? IF SO, PLEASE CHECK WHICH ONES?

BURGLARY _____ ROBBERY _____
VEHICLE/FARM THEFT _____ OTHER THEFT _____
ASSAULT WITH WEAPON _____ ASSAULT WITH BODY _____
VANDALISM _____ ARSON/ATTEMPTED ARSON _____

14. DO YOU THINK MOST OF THE CRIME IN YOUR COMMUNITY IS COMMITTED BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE OR BY OUTSIDERS?

PEOPLE LIVING HERE _____ OUTSIDERS _____ BOTH _____

15. DURING THE NEXT YEAR, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE CRIME PROBLEM IN YOUR COMMUNITY WILL:

GET BETTER _____ STAY ABOUT THE SAME _____ BECOME WORSE _____

THE CONSTABLE RECEIVES HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY FROM THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION. HE IS THE CHIEF PROCESS SERVER OF THE JUSTICE COURT OF HIS PRECINCT. BESIDES BEING A PROCESS SERVER FOR THE COURTS, HE IS ALSO A PEACE OFFICER WITH INVESTIGATIVE AND ARREST POWERS. HERE IN SAN JACINTO COUNTY THE CONSTABLES SERVE ALL CIVIL PROCESS. ALSO WITH THE LOW NUMBER OF DEPUTY SHERIFFS AVAILABLE, THE CONSTABLE IS SOMETIMES CALLED UPON TO ANSWER CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS.

THE FOLLOWING QUESTION LISTS MANY DUTIES OF A CONSTABLE. IN THE SPACE PROVIDED, PLEASE ANSWER BY NUMBER AS TO THE IMPORTANCE YOU PLACE ON THE DUTY. THE ANSWERS BEING:

TABLE 20

QUESTION: Regarding the most recent incident, the Constable improve on the following characteristic (s).

| | | |
|---------------------|----|--------|
| Appearance | 1 | 5.5% |
| Sincereness | 0 | 0 |
| Courteousness | 0 | 0 |
| Knowledge of people | 4 | 22.5% |
| No improvement | 9 | 50.0% |
| Knowledge of law | 1 | 5.5% |
| Tact | 1 | 5.5% |
| Compassion | 1 | 5.5% |
| Informative | 1 | 5.5% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 18 | 100.0% |

TABLE 21

QUESTION: How do you feel about the overall effectiveness of your Constable's Department?

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------|
| Excellent | 15 | 51.7% |
| Good | 14 | 48.3% |
| Fair | 0 | 0 |
| Poor | 0 | 0 |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 19 | 100.0% |

TABLE 22

QUESTION: If you were a victim of a serious crime, would you feel comfortable having your Constable investigate the crime?

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|--------|
| Yes | 26 | 81.3% |
| No, rather have Sheriff | 8 | 23.5% |
| ----- | | |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0% |

18. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN IN CONTACT WITH YOUR CONSTABLE?

NEVER_____ 1-2 TIMES_____ 3-4 TIMES_____ MORE THAN 4_____

19. REGARDING THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT, RATE THE CONSTABLE'S EFFECTIVENESS IN HANDLING YOUR CALL.

EXCELLENT_____ GOOD_____ FAIR_____ POOR_____

20. REGARDING THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT, THE CONSTABLE COULD IMPROVE ON THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTIC (s) (CHECK AS MANY AS APPLY)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| APPEARANCE_____ | KNOWLEDGE OF LAW_____ |
| SINCERENESS_____ | TACT_____ |
| COURTEOUSNESS_____ | COMPASSION_____ |
| KNOWLEDGE OF PEOPLE/AREA_____ | INFORMATIVE_____ |
| NO IMPROVEMENT_____ | |

21. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF YOU CONSTABLE'S DEPARTMENT?

EXCELLENT_____ GOOD_____ FAIR_____ POOR_____

22. IF YOU WERE A VICTIM OF A SERIOUS CRIME, WOULD YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE HAVING YOUR CONSTABLE INVESTIGATE THE CRIME?

YES_____ NO_____ RATHER HAVE THE SHERIFF'S DEPT_____

23. BEFORE RECEIVING THIS SURVEY, DID YOU KNOW YOUR CONSTABLE?

YES_____ NO_____

24. BEFORE RECEIVING THIS SURVEY, DID YOU KNOW THE DUTIES OF A CONSTABLE?

YES_____ NO_____

THE CONSTABLES RECEIVES AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$14,500. COMPARING OTHER SALARIES, THE LOWEST PAID DEPUTY MAKES \$16,935 AND THE HIGHEST PAID DEPUTY MAKES \$19,705. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S INVESTIGATOR MAKES \$19,000. THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE CLERK MAKES \$15,777. EACH YEAR WE MUST DECIDE IF TO REQUEST AN INCREASE. THIS MIGHT MEAN A BUDGET CUT FOR ANOTHER DEPARTMENT OR AN INCREASE IN TAXES.

25. DO YOU FEEL THAT THE SALARY RECEIVED BY THE CONSTABLE IS A REASONABLE SALARY COMPARED TO OTHERS?

YES_____ NO_____

26. WOULD YOU SUPPORT A CHANGE? YES_____ NO_____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: