



# SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

Call 911 for emergencies | Call 563-589-4415 for non-emergencies

## What is the City doing to promote **Public Safety**?

The City of Dubuque has a comprehensive commitment to public safety. In fact, public safety is one of the key elements of Dubuque's Comprehensive Plan, a document that outlines the vision for the future growth and development of the city. As a key element of the comprehensive plan, public safety is a major consideration when it comes to prioritizing city resources. In addition to fire, police, emergency communications, and emergency medical services, public safety has a broad definition that includes water, sewer, public health, facility design and maintenance, neighborhood partnerships, and inspection services for zoning, housing, building, engineering, health and environmental codes and regulations.

Enhanced Neighborhood Support is an ongoing campaign and below is a summary of activities ongoing, currently under way, or planned for the near future.

**Enhanced Neighborhood Support** is a campaign by the City of Dubuque working with partners in the private sector, neighborhood organizations, not-for-profits, and social and human service organizations to build a stronger and more resilient Dubuque. Enhanced Neighborhood Support is a community-wide effort with some focus areas based on funding opportunities and a recognition of locations where gun violence has occurred. The public safety element in the Comprehensive Plan and community input (such as the Safe Community Task Force's recommendations) guide the City's activities for Enhanced Neighborhood Support to address common neighborhood problems such as crime, nuisances, and problem properties with the overall goal of improving neighborhood resiliency.



### Neighborhood Partnerships

- Promoting neighborhood involvement and communication among residents
- Monthly meetings with Downtown and Washington Neighborhood representatives
- City staff attendance at neighborhood association meetings
- City staff meet monthly with Dubuque Landlord Association representatives
- Neighbor2Neighbor: Resident-driven program being piloted in 12 neighborhoods to increase interaction, collaboration, and strong, positive relationships among neighbors
- City's Internal Working Group meets monthly to problem-solve neighborhood issues.

### Police, Fire, 911

- Since 2005, the City of Dubuque's footprint has grown by 13%, extending the City's policing strategies as well as increased staffing levels, going from 95 sworn officers to 109 over the last decade.
- Supplemental policing, special enforcement projects, and directed patrols in targeted areas began in Fall 2014 and are ongoing efforts
- Four patrol investigator positions created through internal patrol restructuring to establish a Neighborhood Response Team to provide additional coverage and investigation in targeted neighborhoods
- Community-Oriented Policing: Department-wide philosophy focused on community engagement since 1995 that involves detailed examination of underlying issues for crimes and seeks more long-term solutions through engaging neighbors and partners.
- Continuing collaboration with rental property owners/managers including providing almost 24,000 tenant background checks since 2012 and offering 17 sessions of "Successful Rental Property Management" workshop to nearly 1,100 attendees
- Budget funds and a federal grant allowed the police department to purchase 120 body-worn cameras.
- The Dubuque Fire Department's fire protection rating from the Insurance Services Office was recently ranked among the top 3% of fire departments in the nation. The department was also awarded a Silver EMS Recognition Award from the American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline for excellence in the care of stroke patients.
- In April 2016, the 911 center began using Emergency Police and Fire Dispatch Protocols from the National Academy of Emergency Dispatch, which includes standardized questioning on calls, reducing unnecessary vehicles being dispatched to calls.



## Expansion of Security/Traffic Cameras

- City network of cameras has grown to approximately 930 security and traffic cameras
- Installing infrastructure to support another 96 cameras to be installed in Spring 2017 in Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project area.
- Working on LED retrofit lights to assist cameras in Port of Dubuque, in AY McDonald Park, and on Main Street, Bluff Street, and other areas with historic lighting.
- Planning for camera installations in 2016/2017 on West Locust Street from Loras Boulevard to Rosedale Avenue
- Additional camera monitoring stations to be installed in police station in the Fall of 2016



## Enhanced Street Lighting

- Over 4,000 street lights in Dubuque, nearly half are City-owned with remainder owned by Alliant Energy.
- 429 City-owned lights converted to LED since May 2015.
- Mid-block street lights in portions of Dubuque and replacement of older City street light poles and upgrade replacements to LED planned for FY2017.
- 125 new LED lights were installed on existing poles in the downtown area in Fall 2015
- 11 new mid-block poles and LED lights were added in the Washington Neighborhood in Summer 2016.
- More than 600 City trees have been trimmed and 38 trees removed since fall 2015 to improve lighting and as needed for upgraded or recently installed LED lights.
- Yard lighting incentive/rebate program available to all residents. Call 563-589-4150 for details.

## Problem Properties & Public Nuisances

- Comprehensive Housing Activities for Neighborhood Growth & Enrichment (CHANGE) is a special project of partners to enhance neighborhood support by creating homeownership, converting problem properties, and continuing a path toward neighborhood revitalization throughout the city of Dubuque.
- City and partners are negotiating acquisition of problem properties for rehabilitation and resale as owner-occupied homes. Goal is another 100 properties over the next 5-7 years. Since 2006, 55 properties have been purchased and rehabilitated and nearly 530 households have received financial assistance through the City's rehabilitation program.
- Continuing partnerships with public and private sector to renovate challenged properties and encourage home ownership
- Increased enforcement of public nuisance ordinance and monitoring for patterns for early intervention with neighborhood issues
- Increased enforcement of vacant and abandoned building/property ordinance
- Increased accountability for rental property owners/managers and tenants for issues with rental properties. Over 300 unlicensed rental units have

been licensed through a recent campaign, and enforcement is ongoing. Once licensed, properties are inspected at regular intervals, criminal background checks are performed on tenants, and landlords attend the City's Successful Rental Property Management class.

- The 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, along with local amendments, was adopted by the Dubuque City Council in March and went into effect in July 2016. It applies to all property types and provides a standard for property maintenance and establishes minimum requirements for light, ventilation, and occupancy limitations; plumbing facilities and fixture requirements; mechanical and electrical requirements; and fire safety requirements in existing structures and properties.

## Washington Neighborhood Redevelopment Strategy

- Continuing revitalization initiative launched in 2004
- Median household income, education attainment levels, home ownership, and retail support are increasing.
- Business outreach program under way

# Supporting Community Partnerships:

The City continues to support a wide range of community partnerships and initiatives to improve public safety, equity, and quality of life for all residents.

As recognized by the Safe Community Task Force, **safety cannot be achieved solely through enforcement and infrastructure. It also requires active involvement of residents, and long term prevention efforts.** As Police Chief Mark Dalsing has said, "You cannot simply arrest your way out of crime. That is a short-lived approach. You need to take a holistic approach and do long-term problem solving with community partners." In 2015, Mayor Buol and the City Council asked state legislators to form a committee to study the increase in reports of shots fired, shootings, and murders across the state. In response, that crime study committee is scheduled to meet before the beginning of the 2017 State Legislative session.



## EMPOWERING AND CONNECTING RESIDENTS TO RESOURCES

### Project HOPE (Helping Our People Excel)

Since 2008, the City of Dubuque and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque have partnered to support Project HOPE. Together with a strong set of partners, Project HOPE seeks to improve inter-agency collaboration and increase access to services in order to connect disengaged youth and adults to education and employment opportunities. Project HOPE initiatives include:

#### Opportunity Dubuque

Opportunity Dubuque is designed to assist the unemployed and underemployed, high school students interested in hands-on learning, dislocated workers who need to brush up on new skills to become more marketable, and referrals from local community groups and non-profits.

- 549 students have been accepted and placed into the program
- 419 have graduated (Advanced manufacturing - 227, information technology - 83, healthcare - 74, construction - 10, and transportation and others - 20) and 49 in training or scheduled for training (85% graduated or in training)
- 358 of the graduates (93%) are employed or continuing education 6 months after completion\*
- 30+ employers in construction, healthcare, culinary, advanced manufacturing, transportation and information technology participating

\*NICC was able to contact all but 35 graduates

#### Re-engage Dubuque

Re-engage Dubuque is a partnership between the Dubuque Community School District, Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC), the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and the City of Dubuque through the Project HOPE initiative. Re-engage Dubuque connects young people ages 16 to 21 who did not complete high school to alternative education options and post-secondary education/training. Re-engagement coaches work with these young people to develop personalized plans for completing a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) and exploring options for further study.

- Since August 2012, the initiative's coaches have connected 434 local high school dropouts to education opportunities including online courses, alternative and/or traditional high schools, and adult education programs. One-hundred-twenty-six have completed the program and approximately 100 are currently active.

### My Brother's Keeper

In late 2014, Dubuque joined over 100 cities across the nation in accepting the "My Brother's Keeper" Community Challenge. The initiative challenges communities to ensure that efforts to support youth in meeting their potential are effectively reaching those youth most at risk, particularly young men of color.

### Circles Initiative

The Circles Initiative is part of an innovative national movement that connects volunteers and community leaders to families wanting to make the journey out of poverty. There are barriers that keep even the most motivated from achieving prosperity. Circles breaks down these barriers by expanding opportunity and support for families as they create their own paths to stability.

- Only six months after graduating from the program, 50% are employed, 44% are enrolled in an education program, and 6% have completed a certificate or degree.
- Eighteen months after graduating, 71% are employed, 57% are enrolled in an education program, and 14% have completed a certificate or degree.

### Inclusive Dubuque

Inclusive Dubuque is a local network of almost 60 community leaders from faith, business, education, nonprofits, and the City of Dubuque who are dedicated to advancing justice and social equity in our community. The Network works collaboratively to eliminate bias in our community. While this goal would be difficult for a single organization or individual to achieve, each network member contributes by:

- Providing data and information to inform decisions
- Supporting equity education learning opportunities
- Creating and sharing equity tools.

All community members are welcome to participate in the Network.

### Family Self-Sufficiency

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program for Housing Choice Voucher Program participants. The program encourages communities to develop local strategies to help participants obtain employment that will lead to economic independence and self-sufficiency. Since 1997, 102 people have graduated from Dubuque's FSS program. The program has tripled in size and normally serves between 125 and 150 families throughout the year.

- 90% of the graduates are off housing assistance program
- Graduates increased their annual income by 254% and their earned annual income by 611% while completing the program

### Every Child | Every Promise & Grade-Level Reading

Every Child | Every Promise served as a catalyst for the Dubuque Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. This effort by funders and non-profit partners seeks to ensure that more low-income children succeed in school and are prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship. The initiative focuses on the most important predictor of school success and high school graduation: grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

# Reporting Crime or Suspicious Activity

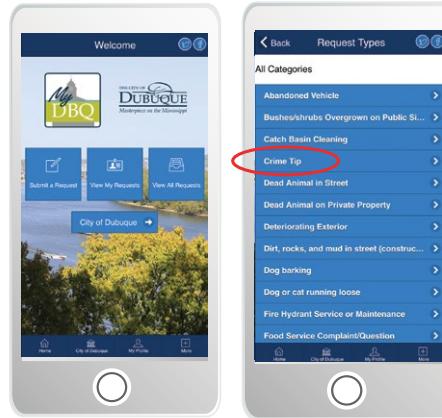
There are a variety of ways to submit information to the Dubuque Police Department, including anonymous tips.



**1) Call 911 for emergencies and 563-589-4415 for non-emergencies.**

**2) Download the FREE MyDBQ app**

Submit a "Crime Tip" using the app, available for free on the App Store and Google Play.



**3) Submit a tip at [www.cityofdubuque.org/police](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/police)**

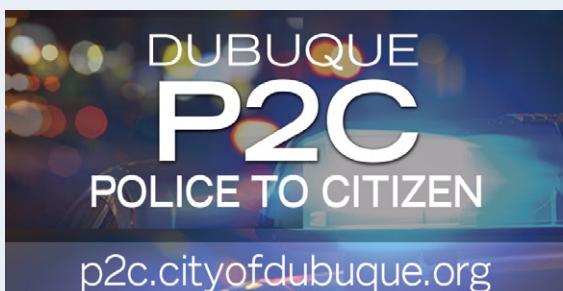
**Please note:** Tips submitted through MyDBQ and the City's website are monitored during regular business hours, Monday - Friday. For more time-sensitive tips, please call 563-589-4415 (non-emergency) or dial 911 in the case of an emergency.

The City of Dubuque website features a prominent police badge and contact information for the Dubuque Police Department. The page includes links for alerts, videos, parks & recreation, and community services. A sidebar provides quick links to various city services and a featured video section.

**Other ways to stay informed:**



[www.cityofdubuque.org/ID4PD](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/ID4PD)



The Dubuque Police Department Crime Prevention Unit offers training and assistance to Dubuque residents, including civic groups, neighborhood associations, businesses, senior citizens, and youth organizations. Training topics include, but are not limited to: personal safety, home security, Successful Rental Property Management training for landlords, scam/fraud prevention, workplace violence/active aggressor, and a variety of other crime prevention topics. In addition to training, the Crime Prevention Unit also offers: on-site security assessments (business, residential, and rental), crime prevention literature and materials, and child passenger safety seat inspections. For more information, call 563-589-4410 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/police](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/police).