

Estelle Creek Becomes First Crime-Free Certified Community

Estelle Creek became the first fully certified community of the Irving Police Department's Crime Free Multi-Housing Program (CFMHP). The community hosted a safety social in January, completing the final phase of the program.

Officer Beau Jones met with Estelle Creek residents and explained the CFMHP, and presented information about general safety principles and crime prevention. A certificate also was presented, which demonstrated the apartment management's commitment to the program and to providing their residents with the safest community possible.

The Irving Police Department implemented the pilot program in an effort to reduce crime at apartment communities. To be considered a certified member of the program, participating communities must complete three phases. The CFMHP is a free program, however some communities may experience costs associated with implementing the environmental design aspects of the crime prevention program.

The first phase of the program includes a one-day training class for owners, managers, leasing agents and maintenance workers. The class teaches employees how to spot illegal and narcotic activity, incorporate crime prevention through environmental design, and provide detailed information about the CFMHP.

During phase two, the community is inspected and required to apply crime prevention techniques, such as improving lighting and landscaping to reduce the likelihood of crime occurring on their premises. A lease addendum also will be added, giving the community the ability to evict residents who engage in criminal activity.

The third and final phase requires the apartment community to host a safety social, where residents are provided with program details and informed of ways to promote a crime-free environment. Once a community completes all three phases, they are eligible to post signs stating they are a CFMHP participant.

"We are hopeful that the implementation of this program will greatly reduce the crime rate among apartment communities," said Capt. Robert Jones. "Every apartment complex is encouraged to join to ensure a safer community for all Irving residents."

For more information, contact Capt. Robert Jones, in the Community Services Division of the Irving Police Department, at (972) 721-2669, or visit www.irvingpd.com/CFMHP.