

## **City Makes Safety a Priority with Convenience Store Standards**

New guidelines have been approved for convenience stores to increase safety measures for residents, customers and store employees. The guidelines are intended to help address the following:

- Nearly half of all business robberies occur at convenience stores.
- Suspects leave little evidence, reducing the possibility of arrests.
- An unsafe environment exists for employees and customers.
- Stores are easy targets without proper prevention measures.

“These standards are especially important following the approval of beer and wine sales by Irving voters,” said Police Chief Larry Boyd.

The guidelines require the following safety features be put into effect:

- An alarm system, silent panic or hold-up alarm must be installed.
- Surveillance cameras that capture the images of the store’s interior and exterior are to be added, with signage and permit required.
- Enhanced installation requirements for ATMs.
- An unobstructed view of the cash register.
- A trespass affidavit, which authorizes police to enforce trespass laws on the store owner’s behalf.
- Safety training for employees
- A drop safe.

All of Irving’s 250-plus convenience stores are required to comply with the new requirements. Equipment requirements must be in place by January 2010.

To schedule safety training, send an e-mail to [crimeprevention@cityofirving.org](mailto:crimeprevention@cityofirving.org).