

# **N**ew Ordinances Help Transform Irving

The city has experienced substantial results—such as a 17 percent decrease in crime, and the vacancy and demolition of several substandard buildings—through the enforcement of stronger ordinances and various citywide initiatives.

A number of ordinance changes to preserve development/redevelopment opportunities have been adopted by the City Council and additional ordinance changes are being considered. New regulations address issues such as commercial building standards, alcohol regulations and carports. Details are outlined on Page 3.

One ordinance change that has been implemented by the city to strengthen standards for multifamily complexes is the revised Minimum Building Standards (Chapter 8) ordinance.

## **Keeping Apartment Residents Safer**

New regulations require that lower-tiered apartment complexes participate in an abbreviated version of the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program (CFMHP), a program offered by the Police Department to reduce crime in apartment

communities through training and environmental design. Apartment complexes that voluntarily participate in the program consistently report 23 percent fewer crimes.

Managers of lower-tiered apartments also must conduct criminal background checks on prospective tenants in an effort to exclude individuals who have a history of chronic criminal behavior. Most well-managed apartment properties already use this strategy to reduce the potential for problems. Ultimately, exceptions will be up to the discretion of the city's local judge.

## **Regulation Benefits**

- Reduces crime
- Promotes a safer community
- Enhances management capability
- Requires management accountability

Enforcement of the CFMHP will not begin until adequate training opportunities have been provided to apartment staff.

For more information visit [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org).