

## Ask the Chief

**Dear Chief:** Now that you have been here for a while what changes are planned and where do you see the department headed in 2012 and beyond?

**Dear Concerned Citizen:** My first nearly 7 months in Alamosa have been nothing less than extraordinary and I have spent much time learning (while evaluating) the community, people, and issues. Former Chief John Jackson and all members of the police department have established a great foundation for our future. I am convinced we must continue the momentum already built and not lose our desire to continuously improve. As a local community member wrote me recently; “keep on keeping on”.

2012 will be a prosperous year for us which will translate into our ability to provide greater services to our community. We will be moving police headquarters into our new facility in the old City Hall. This move will allow us to be more visible and accessible to the public and it allows us to be more efficient and collaborative with our City of Alamosa colleagues. Inherently, a new facility brings increased pride and professionalism of employees which ultimately translates to greater customer service.

As a result of a grant application and award we will adopt a new law enforcement policy and procedure manual called Lexipol. Lexipol has fast-become the industry leader in law enforcement policy and procedure as it provides constant oversight and updates to existing policies and keeps us on track to stay current with federal and state law, and industry best practices.

We will examine citizen initiated interest in restoring the Neighborhood Watch program. This program can be a very effective crime prevention tool, but is dependent on citizen participation. In addition to Neighborhood Watch, we are hopeful to implement a Citizen Volunteer program. Volunteer Programs have proven to be a valuable asset to law enforcement agencies as it breeds transparency and connection with community, increases responsiveness and delivery of services, and creates internal efficiencies.

Above is a snapshot of a few major activities we have planned for 2012. Meanwhile, inside the walls of our new facility we will continue prioritizing and providing professional development opportunities to all employees. We will monitor new technologies that allow us to support our ability to prevent crime and successfully prosecute criminals. We will continuously audit crime patterns and strategies and consider new strategies that might be more effective. We will implement a team policing schedule that complements employee development, employee accountability, and succession planning. We will continue looking at our internal alignment to insure we are effectively balancing workload and deploying our personnel resources appropriately. Finally, we will expand our professional law enforcement network by coordinating and hosting a law enforcement summit of police chiefs and command staff from similar-sized agencies and communities for the purpose of sharing strategies, successes, and best practices that assist in keeping our communities safe.

2012 promises to be an exciting year in the Alamosa Police Department.

Craig Dodd, Chief of Police