

Harris County Precinct 7 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and age.

CONSTABLE *May Walker*

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HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

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• WEBSITE: www.hctx.net/conpct7

CONSTABLE MAY WALKER'S Precinct 7 Newsletter



Volume 23

Be Aware! Be Alert! Be Careful!



Community Policing

**Working with Citizens to
Create Safer Neighborhoods
and Communities**

Constable May Walker

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FROM THE DESK OF THE CONSTABLE

Protecting Our Children from "Virtual Strangers"



Children are our most precious resource and keeping them safe from the dangers of the outside world is becoming increasingly difficult. Especially since we welcome that world into our homes each day and allow our kids to do the same through social media and the internet.

Parenting during the Digital Age is proving to be very challenging with all of the hidden dangers that children can be exposed to while surfing the internet.

Children tend to be trusting in nature and the anonymity that the internet provides to "virtual strangers" who our children confuse as "friends" is cause for concern. Statistically, internet crime has become the fastest growing crime in the U.S. with children as one of the top victims. That is why it is important for parents to arm themselves with knowledge when it comes to social media sites that could harbor danger for children.

Many parents may not be familiar with social media apps like **Kik Messenger, Snapchat, WhatsApp, OoVoo, Yik Yak, Ask.fm** or **Whisper** but these apps are very popular among children and teens. These social media sites flying under the parental radar are possibly exposing children to sexual predators, cyberbullying, and much more. In order to combat internet crime against our children, parents must be vigilant. Monitor your child's activity while on the computer internet sites, and social networking apps. Most importantly, talk to your children often and remind them regularly about all the potential dangers lurking in cyberspace.



Constable May Walker with students from the St. Mary of the Purification Catholic School

Harris County Tax Auction Moves to New Venue



After being held outside the Family Law Center in the downtown courthouse complex for the past 175 years, tax sale auctions move to Bayou City Event Center located at 9401 Knight Road. This regularly scheduled auction of properties on which taxes are delinquent is held the first Tuesday of each month. Registration of bidders begins at 8:30 a.m. Sales must be held from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Each of the Constables conducts sales of properties in their precinct and the sales are most often held simultaneously.

Harris County Housing Resource Center offers the following advice to homeowners facing the loss of their homes:

For the majority of families, a home is the most significant investment made, and a source of pride. The loss of a home due to unexpected events such as unemployment, change in income, divorce or illness can be financially and personally devastating. If your family is facing any of these changes and cannot pay the bills, now is the time to look closely at what you owe and what you earn, eliminating unnecessary spending and reaching out for help if you still cannot meet your financial obligations.

Taking action can help you protect your family from the loss of your home. For a complete listing or to locate providers in your area please call HUD's Housing Counseling Hotline at 800-569-4287 or go to <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/fc/>

Steps to Take When You May Be Unable to Pay Your Mortgage:

- Contact Your Lender NOW!
- Talk to a Housing Counseling Agency
- Prioritize Your Debts
- Explore Loan Workout Solutions
- Are You Eligible for Disaster Relief/Military Options?
- Beware of Predatory Lending Schemes
- Try Other Resources

Call 1-888-995-HOPE

Precinct 7 Bicycle Unit



The Precinct 7 Bicycle Unit responds to emergency and non-emergency calls for service from any constituent within the geographical boundaries of the precinct's contract area of Midtown. The Bicycle Unit deputies', Tanita Roe's and Jesse Maldonado's presence and visibility has greatly deterred and reduced criminal activity within the area. Patrolling the same subdivision continuously allows deputies to interact with business owners and residents on a regular basis. Through these interactions, deputies gain valuable information on how to better address the safety and crime prevention needs of the community.

An increasing number of individuals who live, work, shop, or dine-out in one of Houston's hotspots, Midtown, are being faced with the distress, anger, and aggravation with becoming victims of vehicle-related crimes. Most of the time, these crimes can be prevented. The following steps can help make your vehicle less appealing to criminals. Although, these methods are not fail proof by any means, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

Crime Prevent Advice from the Precinct 7 Bicycle Unit: Preventing Vehicle Related Crime

- Do not leave valuables like a briefcase, purse, laptop, or GPS system in view inside your car.
- Always lock your car door.
- Leave your vehicle registration at home. Do not leave vehicle insurance documents and personal papers in your glove box. Many of these documents contain personal information — a social security number, driver license, credit card number — that thieves can use to steal your identity or burglarize your home.
- Use an anti-theft device.
- Do not store an extra key under the car/fender/etc.
- Park where your car can be seen from the street.
- While out and about, stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- When parking your vehicle to go shopping, remember where you parked it! Always park in a well-lit and well-traveled area. Do not park in a remote dark area.
- When you return to your vehicle, scan the interior of your car to be sure no one is hiding inside. Check to see if you are being followed.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. You will be ready to unlock the door and will not be delayed by fumbling and looking for your keys.
- Do not resist if someone tries to take any of your belongings. Do not chase someone who robs you, they may have a weapon. **Call 911!**



Duties and Responsibilities of Harris County Precinct 7

SUBPOENA

Harris County Constable Precinct 7 is a law enforcement agency that has the responsibility of but is not limited to patrolling and responding to emergency and non-emergency calls within the geographical boundaries in its contracted area. Precinct 7's ultimate responsibility is serving civil papers that are issued through the offices of the Justices of Peace (Positions One and Two) and county, district, and federal courts. The **Subpoena** is one of the many papers served by law enforcement officials of Harris County Constable Precinct 7.

SUBPOENA - A subpoena is an order that commands an individual to appear in court on a certain day to testify or produce documents. An individual who receives a subpoena but fails to appear may be charged with contempt of court and subjected to civil or criminal penalties. In addition, a person who is served with a subpoena and fails to appear may be brought to the proceedings by a law enforcement officer who may serve a second subpoena, called an "instanter". A subpoena which request items be brought with the person is called a "*subpoena duces tecum*".



**Crime Victims'
Services Unit at
Harris County Constable Precinct 7**

The Harris County Precinct 7 Crime Victims Assistance Program

The Harris County Precinct 7 Crime Victims Services Unit is dedicated to helping victims and/or family members affected by crime or tragic circumstances regain power and control over their lives. We assist those in need by helping them obtain immediate financial and emotional support, crisis intervention, guidance, emergency assistance, and referrals to community resources for continued help.

All services are free of charge and available to anyone who suffers physical or mental harm or death as a result of criminally injurious conduct. The victim must be a U.S. citizen or Texas resident (undocumented persons are eligible to receive services). The victim must cooperate with law enforcement.

**Are You a
Victim of a
Violent Crime?**

HELP IS HERE!

We are committed to providing:

- High Quality Services
- Emergency Assistance
- Guidance
- Support
- Referrals
- Compassion
- Understanding

**5290 Griggs Road
PH 713-274-3521**

Spike in Traffic Fatalities Linked to Distracted Driving



Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. It is defined as being any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. Driving while distracted puts the lives of the driver, passenger, and bystander all at risk. In 2012 alone, 3,328 were killed in distracted driving crashes. An estimated 421,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver.

Texting while driving is considered to be the most alarming distraction since it requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation 71% of teens and young people say they have composed/sent SMS messages while driving and 78% have read an SMS message while driving. Precinct 7 deputies encourage drivers to focus on the road when behind the wheel.

Types of distractions include:

- Texting
- Talking on cell phone
- Eating and drinking
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using navigation system
- Watching video
- Adjusting radio, CD player, or Mp3 player

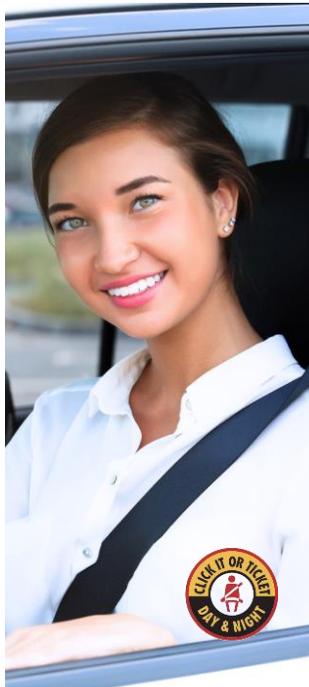
One Text or Call Could Wreck it All!

Buckle Up Teen Drivers!

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in every state. From 2003 – 2008, **2,600** 16 to 20 year olds were killed in **Texas**. Of those, **52%** were not buckled.

Teens need to recognize that wearing a seat belt is the **absolute best way** to protect themselves and their passengers from severe injury or death in the event of a motor vehicle crash. During a crash, being buckled up helps keep you safe and secure inside your vehicle, whereas being completely thrown out of a vehicle is almost always deadly.

In 2009, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved more than 13,000 lives nationwide. In **Texas** alone, seat belts saved **1,407** lives. **Texas'** goal is simple: to prevent tragic and untimely deaths of teens in our state by convincing both drivers and passengers to buckle up.



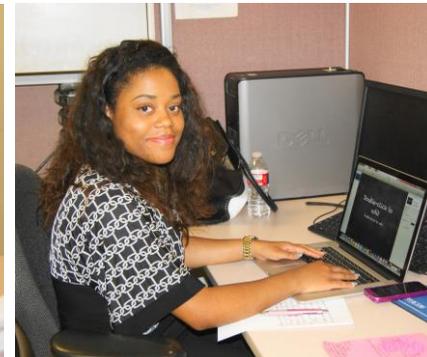
Welcome Aboard Pct. 7 Interns

The Precinct 7 Internship Program allows our department to give back to the community by offering area students a chance to put into practice things they have learned in the classroom. Not only do students gain valuable knowledge in the field of law enforcement; they are able to better evaluate their career interests before graduating and entering the workforce. Also, a growing number of interns are being offered employment opportunities with Precinct 7 or have found jobs with other agencies based on referrals.

Precinct 7 Internship Program

Area college students experience what it is like to serve the public within a professional environment while working as an intern in the Precinct 7 Student Internship Program. The program is an unpaid learning opportunity for students registered in a college credit-generating course at the time of their internship. Precinct 7 is able to accommodate interns from a multiplicity of academic programs. However, most commonly, we accommodate students who have an interest in the criminal justice field.

For more information about the Precinct 7 Student Internship Program email: Pamela Greenwood - pamela.greenwood@cn7.hctx.net



Building Safer Communities Takes Teamwork



In the high tech world in which we live, the best way to decrease crime and create safer communities and neighborhoods is still the old fashioned way. That is, neighbors looking out for each other and working with local law enforcement and other agencies by reporting suspicious activity or things that might attract a criminal element.



Events like NNO (National Night Out) have proven to be effective ways to strengthen neighborhood and police partnerships.

Become a team player when it comes to reducing crime in your neighborhood by doing the following:

- Get active! Join your Neighborhood Watch Program or attend Civic Club meetings or go to HOA (Home Owners Association) meetings or just get to know your neighbors and look out for them.
- Residents are encouraged to **be alert** and report things that may attract a criminal element, such as non-functioning street lights and overgrown vacant lots.
- Becoming familiar with your neighbors is an important aspect to having a safe neighborhood. By knowing your neighbors and frequently interacting with them they are more likely to **be aware** of and pay attention to suspicious activities at or near your home.
- Residents are encouraged to **be careful** and not take the law in their own hands. If you notice anything out of the ordinary or suspicious, report it to the proper authorities and let them handle it.



Deputies Apprehend the Toll Booth Robber



Thanks to a tip from a concerned citizen, Lt. Anil Sharma and Sgt. Odell Haynes were able to apprehend a suspect responsible for the aggravated robberies with a deadly weapon of two toll booths that occurred on New Year's Eve.

Responding to a tip, led the Precinct 7 deputies to the Almeda Inn, where the suspect had been spotted. The anonymous source recognized the criminal from mugshots shown on the local news. Knowing that the suspect was dangerous and possibly armed, thanks to information provided on the news, prompted the concerned citizen to call police.

The robbery suspect had been staying at the hotel for several days before being arrested. He may have continued to allude police and commit more crimes if it had not been for the anonymous tip.

A criminal is off the street and behind bars thanks to an area resident's decision to speak up.

If You See Something, Say Something!

In an effort to help reduce crime in the community and in our neighborhoods, Harris County Constable May Walker implemented the "If You See Something, Say Something" initiative in 2012.

If you witness any suspicious behavior or anything or anyone who appears strange and out of place, we ask that you report it immediately by calling the Precinct 7 Main Office at (713)643-6118 during regular business hours or our 24-hour dispatch when the main office is closed at (713)643-6602. In the event of an emergency, call 911. We also recommend that you program these numbers into your mobile phone for easy access in case of an emergency. You can also visit the Precinct 7 website to alert us electronically.

Website: www.hctx.net/conpct7
Not Reporting Crime, Encourages It!

Teen Dating Violence



What is Dating Violence?

Dating violence occurs when one person intentionally harms the person they are dating. This type of physical or emotional abuse happens to people of all races, cultures, incomes, and education levels. It can happen on a first date, or after you have fallen deeply in love. Each day, thousands of people of varying ages, and sexual orientations find themselves victims of dating violence.

In the United States, 1 in 10 female high school students say they have been physically abused by a dating partner in the past year. Dating violence is wrong and only escalates if kept quiet about and victims refuse to seek help.

Warning Signs

What Does Dating Violence Look Like?

- Dating violence is not an argument or bad mood every once in a while.
- Dating violence or (relationship abuse) is a pattern of disrespectful or violent behavior that someone uses against a boyfriend or a girlfriend.
- Dating violence can be physical but it can include constant insults and threats, isolation from friends and family, name calling, controlling what someone wears.
- Dating violence can occur at any age
- Dating violence can occur in all types of relationships, including same-sex relationships.
- No one deserves to be harmed, physically or emotionally.

What is Abusive Behavior?

- It is considered abusive to hurt or control others through physical, emotional, or sexual force.
- It is also abusive to call your partner names, criticize, embarrass, taunt, threaten, or make them feel unsafe.
- Relationships should be loving, respectful, nurturing, and appreciative.

Ending an Abusive Relationship

What can be done to break the Cycle of Abuse?

- Create a safety plan, like where you can go if you are in danger.
- Make sure you have a working cellphone handy in case you need to call for help.



Precinct 7 Law Enforcement Training Center



Training Coordinator
Lieutenant Holland Jones
Email
Holland.Jones@cn7.hctx.net
Phone
713-274-3561

The Harris County Precinct 7 Training Center is certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) and abides by its rules and regulations. Our instructors are dedicated to providing quality, comprehensive, and progressive TCLEOSE training and continuing education hours to the sworn personnel of any Texas law enforcement agency. All Precinct 7 training is free to any peace officer.

The Precinct 7 Training Center is located at 5290 Griggs Road, Houston, TX. 77021 Visit the Precinct 7 website and click on the Training Classes link under Training Events, in order to view our training calendar and to register for any upcoming classes. For more information, contact Training Coordinator, Lieutenant Holland Jones.

About the Training Center Coordinator

Lieutenant Holland Jones is the **Toll Road Division Supervisor & Training Coordinator for Harris County Precinct 7**. Among his many accomplishments, Lieutenant Jones is an experienced law enforcement manager and former Police Chief. He graduated from the University of Houston – Clear Lake with a Master's Degree in Criminology and is currently completing his Doctoral Studies in the Administration of Justice from Texas Southern University's Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs. Lt. H. Jones holds a Master Peace Certification, Instruction Certification, Field Training Instructor Certification, Crisis Intervention Certification, Emergency Management Certification and is a member of the State Bar of Texas, as a licensed Attorney.

Constable Excited about New K-9 Unit



Harris County Precinct 7 Constable, May Walker, is committed to providing high quality, innovative, community oriented services to meet the needs of the diverse neighborhoods located within Precinct 7's boundaries. That is why she is so excited about the newest addition to the Harris County Precinct 7 family, K-9 Handler, Michael Holbert and his faithful companion, Lulu.

After years of patrolling Houston's streets as a police officer with HPD, Constable Walker realized the effectiveness of using K-9 teams to help deter and combat crime. May Walker stated, "In the past, when Precinct 7 was not equipped with its own K-9 Unit, we had to call upon other local law enforcement agencies to assist through mutual aid." She continued, "Having our own K-9 Unit will help to improve our response time to incidents while allowing us to assist other local law enforcement agencies with cases."

Having officers patrol in well-marked K9 vehicles has proven to be an extremely effective way to deter crime. Precinct 7 is spread out over 94.37 miles with an estimated population of 400,000 residents and growing. Due to its considerable size, convenient location, and large population, there has also been an increase in the number of violent crimes and property crimes. That is why it is important to Constable Walker to have her department be adequately equipped and staffed to handle and assist in the ongoing effort of "taking a bite out of crime".

- Create a secret code with people you trust. That way, if you are with your partner, you can get help without having to say you need help.
- If you're breaking up with someone you see at your high school or college, you can get help from a guidance counselor, advisor, teacher, school nurse, dean's office, or principal. You also might be able to change your class schedules or even transfer to another school.
- If you have a job, talk to someone you trust at work. Your human resources department or employee assistance program (EAP) may be able to help.
- Try to avoid walking or riding alone.
- Be smart about technology. Don't share your passwords. Don't post your schedule on Facebook, and keep your settings private.

**Harris County Precinct 7 Domestic Violence Program
Deputy, Monica Bilbo,
PH (713)274-3519**

Human Trafficking Modern Day Slavery



"Human trafficking, also tagged "Modern Day Slavery", is reportedly, among the most lucrative of all criminal enterprises and one of the fastest growing types of crime in the world. Under Texas and federal law, human trafficking is the buying and selling of individuals for forced labor and/or commercial sex. Victims are young children, teenagers, men, and women.

Houston is number one (1) on the U.S top twenty human trafficking jurisdictions in the country due to its close proximity to the Mexican border and its seaports. It is a huge misconception that foreign nationals are the primary victims of this heinous crime. Over 100,000 U.S. children are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation. According to National Run-away Hotline, an estimated one out of every three children that run away is lured into sex trafficking within 48 hours of leaving home.

The average age of entry into sex trafficking is between 12 and 14 years old. Nowadays, traffickers and pimps are using modern technology as a means to facilitate their crimes. The internet provides traffickers an easy way to lure victims, as well as, a discrete and convenient means of later exploited them sexually or for forced labor.

The Harris County Precinct 7 Crime Victims Domestic Violence Unit is dedicated to helping victims of human trafficking regain power and control over their lives.

Help is just a phone call away.

**Harris County Precinct 7 Domestic
Violence/Human Trafficking Program
Deputy, Katrina Cotton
PH (713)274-3577**

Precinct 7 Outreach Programs



Christmas outreach

Each year Precinct 7 deputies and the group of clergymen, Ministers Supporting Precinct 7, deliver food and toys to financially disadvantaged families. The recipients of the 2015 Outreach Program were identified and selected based on recommendations from the Head Start Program Director at Bastian Elementary, Arnette King.

This is truly a labor of love for Constable May Walker, her staff, and the Ministers Supporting Precinct 7. Constable Walker encourages, "It is important for those who have to open their hearts and give to those who don't have as much."



Over 200 area seniors, 65-years and older, received turkeys for Thanksgiving thanks to the generosity of the Constable, deputies, staff and ministers.

Community Partners, The Houston Food Bank distributed fresh produce and The Texans YMCA distributed can goods.

Each year, on the last Monday in August, seniors who are 65 years or older and live in Precinct 7 start calling the Precinct 7 main office to register for turkeys.



Thanksgiving outreach



Community Job Fair



This Precinct 7 Job Fair is an annual event that is meant to expose area jobseekers to hiring trends, provide them the chance to explore career opportunities within a variety of companies at one location, and allow them to develop relationships that might lead to a job or new career.