

PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 30, 2012

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS AND RESPONSES FROM OFFICIALS

Why is the police officer to population ratio higher than some of the various studies?

Mayor Medrano noted those ratio standards are simply a guide. Factors unique to regions and localities have to be taken into account, such as, the border drug war and border violence spilling over to the Valley.

It was suggested that one Rancho Viejo police officer be available to answer the telephone instead of the Cameron County Sheriff's office.

It was explained that it would take at least four employees to have a 24 hour dispatch service, and it would not increase the patrol units on the town's streets.

Why can't the confiscated vehicles and equipment be sold and the money be put back into the budget.

The vehicles and assets that have been seized by the police department are still in litigation in the court system and have not been awarded to the Town.

What is the percentage of the crime increase?

Please see the Police Department Crime Statistics on this web page to view the increase and types of crimes being committed in the Town.

Why not increase the tax rate beyond the rollback rate to see if the residents would vote for approval of the increase?

The tax rate has been announced and published and it can be reduced but not increased.

Why not organize a citizen neighborhood watch group?

The last time this was considered only three people attended the kick off meeting. This can be reviewed again.

Why did the residents not hear about the home invasion?

A letter was mailed to all homeowners informing them of the crime, noting that it was not a random crime, and that it was an ongoing investigation.

Is Rancho Viejo a safe place to live?

Yes, Rancho Viejo is a safe place to live but the town is not immune from the criminal activities occurring in the border region. Mayor Medrano has asked all residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Police Department.

An increase in street lighting was suggested by several residents to deter crime.

Lighting is adequate in Rancho Viejo. According to our police department lighting will not be as effective a deterrent as officer patrols.