

# **CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE:** **PUBLIC SAFETY**



There is no more essential role of City Government than keeping citizens safe. It is an area where there is always room for improvement and we must strengthen efforts. When elected, fighting for citizen safety will be a top priority. People must always come first above all else.

**Create A Community Engagement Team:** This group of diverse individuals from varying communities will keep the City Council informed on citizen issues regarding public safety and law enforcement. They will create ideas, initiatives and outreach platforms to improve safety and communication between Police, Fire, City Hall and citizens.

**Be in The Communities:** A City Council member must spend time in the community to better understand underlying reasons for criminal activity so we know what programs to put in place to address issues.

**Leadership Program:** Our firefighters need better City support for a Leadership Development Program. We must provide this support to secure long-term commitments from good firefighters and strengthen the department.

**Bullying:** We must take bullying seriously, support school programs and develop community programs that stop bullying and deal with bullies in impactful ways.

**School Cooperation:** Reduce truancy through increased partnerships with school districts.

**Domestic Violence Housing:** Direct resources and support non-profit programs that shelter domestic abuse victims during their most vulnerable times, particularly the days after they leave abusers.

**Solve the App Problem:** Any criminal can download a phone App that allows them to listen to police communication in nearly real time. Transparency and monitoring police action is essential. However, we must create a delay that allows officers to take care of criminal activity while still allowing the public to hear what occurs.

**Firefighter Ambulance services:** It's time to take steps so Firefighters can pursue ambulance services.

**Staff the Police Department:** The Department is understaffed. We must fund our police department. This may include a ballot initiative asking citizens if they are willing to pay additional funds for police & fire safety.

**Mental Health Programs:** The City must create larger partnerships with non-profits and hospitals to ensure citizens get the care they need to remain safe.

**Abandoned Properties:** We can reduce criminal activity in neighborhoods by aggressively removing abandoned properties. Homes abandoned too long must be removed, condemned and action taken at the City level to deal with these properties.

**Recidivism:** We must invest in programs that reduce recidivism. This means creating new programs and partnerships with local and national initiatives.

**Diversions/Probations:** City Hall must work with prosecutors to ensure we're not allowing the same individuals to repeatedly take diversions or probation and be on the streets without adequate punishment.

**Residency:** We need to take a look at the residency requirement where it applies to public safety. If you want good officers, we need to recruit individuals who need time before they can move to Topeka.

**Community Policing:** Ensure officers stay in one area on patrol for long periods, instead of rotations, and work with businesses and neighborhoods to establish more Community Patrol Stations.

**Decriminalization:** We must review city and state laws to look for areas where we may be sentencing too strictly for certain offenses.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer".

