



# Crowley Crime Control and Prevention District



## **PURPOSE**

A Crime Control and Prevention District is a special purpose district created for the purpose of improving crime prevention and reducing crime. In 1989, the Texas Legislature recognized that smaller cities within large metropolitan areas are greatly impacted by "big city" crime without the "big city" resources to fight the crime problems they face. The Legislature passed the Crime Control and Prevention District Act to enable cities to create a special district that can collect a sales tax specifically dedicated to crime control and reduction.

## **ESTABLISHMENT**

In 2005, voters approved a ballot measure that allowed the City of Crowley to create a Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) and approved a rate of one-half (1/2) of one (1) percent of the existing sales tax revenue to fund community safety and crime prevention initiatives. Since its creation, the CCPD has collected over \$7 million used towards augmenting the Crowley Police Department budget. The funds generated have been used to build the new Crowley Police Department; purchase police vehicles, equipment, and radios; and to fund various community safety and crime prevention programs.

This brochure provides a brief overview of the proposed Crowley Crime Control and Prevention District by addressing questions most frequently posed by individuals wishing to gain additional information.

- 1. How is the District funded?** The Crime Control and Prevention District is funded through a local sales tax adopted by the city creating the district. The Act permits a tax rate of one-fourth to one-half of one percent. The Crowley CCPD will be funded through a sales and use tax at the rate of one-half (1/2) of one (1) percent.
- 2. How much will the tax cost?** The sales tax rate will be one half (1/2) of one cent. The additional tax will total *five (5) cents on a \$10.00 purchase and fifty (50) cents on a \$100.00 purchase.*
- 3. Who will pay for the CCPD?** Anyone making a purchase of taxable items in Crowley will pay the sales tax, including those who do not reside within the City.
- 4. How much money will the sales tax raise?** Based on the city's sales tax history, the tax is projected to collect approximately \$750,000-\$850,000 a year.
- 5. Will the tax increase my water bill?** NO, the sales tax is not collected on electric, natural gas or water. Sales tax is collected on the garbage collection portion of the city utility bills, but does not apply to water.
- 6. Will an increase in the local sales tax hurt Crowley businesses?** NO, the increase should not impact local sales. The total sales tax in the City of Crowley will continue to be 8.25% which is typical of the surrounding cities.
- 7. Am I already paying this tax?** If you shop in **Fort Worth** (8.25%), **Burleson** (8.25%), **Benbrook** (8.25%) and many other North Texas cities, you are already paying this tax to those cities.
- 8. What will the proceeds from the sales tax be used for?** The law authorizes expenditure of district funds for the specific purpose of reducing or controlling crime. The CCPD Board of Directors adopts a budget annually in June to address immediate needs within the Police Department and community.
- 9. How will a CCPD benefit Crowley?** The Board recommends projects that will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Police Department without creating future burdens on the city's General Fund. These projects should allow the Police Department to continue to provide quality service to the citizens, especially during this period of rapid growth.
- 10. Who oversees the CCPD?** A Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the district. The Board evaluates and approves projects and programs to be funded by the district.
- 11. Who determines how the funds are spent?** State law provides a specific process for expending district funds. The Board must establish a budget for each year. Prior to adopting the budget, the Board must hold a public hearing on the proposed budget. Once adopted the budget must be approved or rejected by the City Council. The City Council cannot amend the budget approved by the Board. If the council rejects the budget, the Board and Council must meet to negotiate a compromise on the budget. If no compromise is approved the Board may not authorize expenditure of district funds.
- 12. How is a District created?** The city initiates the process by creating a district with a temporary Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must establish a crime control strategy and budget to cover the first two years of the district. Once the Board and City Council approve the plan and budget, the Board calls an election. The district can only be authorized through a vote of a majority of registered voters voting in the election. Crowley held an election on May 7, 2005 where the citizens voted to create the CCPD.
- 13. How are the CCPD funds kept separate from other funds?** Sales taxes collected from the CCPD, are reported separately by the State Comptroller and the information is available to the public. State law requires that all CCPD funds be deposited in a special account that is separate of all other city accounts and funds.
- 14. Is the CCPD permanent?** NO, the District initially was created for 5 years. In May 2010, the City held another election where the citizens voted to continue the CCPD for another 10 years. Prior to the expiration of the CCPD, if voters wish to continue the district another election to authorize continuation must be held. The CCPD can be continued for a period of 5, 10, 15 or 20 years. Otherwise, the district will cease and the sales tax can no longer be collected.
- 15. How do we know the funds were spent for their budgeted purpose?** State law requires that the District have an annual audit by an independent auditor. The audit and other District records are open to public inspection during normal business hours. Finally, the Police Department is required to prepare an annual report of the projects and programs undertaken with District funds and evaluate the impact of those programs. The report is provided to the CCPD Board of Directors, the City Council and is available to the public upon request.
- 16. What if the residents of Crowley want to abolish the tax before the period is up?** Citizens may petition for an election to dissolve the District at any time during its existence. If a majority of the voters favor dissolution, the District will be dissolved and the tax will cease upon payment of any short or long term indebtedness.
- 17. How can I get more information about the proposed Crime Control and Prevention District?** A copy of the complete "Crowley Crime Control and Prevention District Plan is available at Crowley City Hall (201 E. Main St.) or the Crowley Police Department (617 Bus. FM 1187 West).
- 18. When and where do I vote?** Change: Early voting will be conducted at Crowley Recreation Center, 405 S Oak St, Crowley TX 76036 from 7am to 7pm each weekday July 6, 2020 to July 10, 2020. The election will be held Tuesday, July 14, 2020 from 7am to 7pm at the same location.