

Chief of Police of Pearl River

Kevin E. Casmere
Jack Sessions
Floyd Trascher

Independent
Republican
Republican

Questions and answers:

1) Citizens throughout St. Tammany Parish, including Pearl River, have become very concerned about the impact of crime on our quality of life. As Chief of Police, what actions will you take to improve safety for the residents, while addressing the crime rate?

Kevin E. Casmere

I will increase police presence instructing officers to actively patrol the streets throughout the community looking for and investigating suspicious activity. I would also encourage citizens to report any suspicious activity observed. Officers will evaluate each traffic stop conducted. Through their training and experience Officers will analyze if any further crime has been committed. I will establish community watch programs to effectively deter criminal activity. I would set up video surveillance cameras in problem areas with a live feed going to the police department.

Jack Sessions

As the Chief of Police, we have implemented a webpage link for citizens to submit concerns about crime, illegal activity including drugs, with an option to be anonymous. We will continue to consistently patrol throughout our town including businesses and neighborhoods.

Floyd Trascher

Expand community policing, implement a Neighborhood Watch Program, implement a "see something, say something" program, Step up neighborhood patrols, and implement a "0" Tolerance policy on substance abuse.

2) Many communities have experienced problems in recruiting and retaining police personnel. What is your plan to ensure that the Pearl River Police department has the sufficient staff and resources to fulfill its duties?

Kevin E. Casmere

I plan to actively search for and recruit qualified personnel to fill vacancies within the Police Department. If needed I will run adds on job search forums as well as use social media to fill vacancies. I will train reserve officers for fulltime positions in the event that a position becomes available within the Police Department.

In my experience low morale will make personnel seek other job opportunities. I believe the one key factor in retaining personnel is to raise the morale within the department. I plan to boost the morale within the department by personnel feedback, recognition of officers, departmental incentives, and team building activities. I will continue to research ways in order to increase my officer's rate of pay. I will assess the way workload is conducted and find better ways to accomplish more with existing resources I think increasing the efficiency of the department will help to better utilize existing resources.

I will take advantage of free training provided by other agencies and utilize governmental grants that are offered in order to increase the knowledge/experience of my team. I will continue to strive to provide the Police Department with the latest technology that is available for law enforcement.

Jack Sessions

I have advocated for and received raises for our officers. I strive to ensure that our officers have up to date equipment and training opportunities. Properly compensating and equipping our officers is a priority of mine that I am passionate about continuously pursuing.

Floyd Trascher

Perform regular performance appraisals with merit recontinuation, update policies and procedures within the department, conduct regular departmental meetings for staff input, expand the reserve officer program to encourage law enforcement careers through experience and training.

3) Crime prevention requires both vigorous enforcement of the laws and a criminal justice system that works with the police to ensure fair and timely convictions. This requires an effective working relationship between the law enforcement and the District Attorney. How do you plan to establish this effective partnership?

Kevin E. Casmere

I would reach out and set up a meeting with the District Attorney's Office for introduction. In this meeting I will find out what issues are hindering prosecution of cases. I will try to setup a seminar with the District Attorney that officers can attend in reference to learning what is needed in their reports and investigations. I plan to train officers extensively on what is needed in reports and how to effectively write precise reports. Officers will be trained on how to properly secure warrants and legal effective interrogations. I will get evidence, documents, reports and other paperwork the District Attorney will need to prosecute cases in a timely manner. I will check in with the District Attorney's Office monthly to make sure there are no issues.

Jack Sessions

During my present tenure as the Chief of Police, the District Attorney and I have established an effective working relationship. The District Attorney and I have collaborated to tackle various issues that have occurred while serving as Chief of Police. They are always readily available and eager to assist anytime the need arises.

Floyd Trascher

Solicit the cooperation of all law enforcement agencies, schedule regular meetings with the District Attorneys Office staff to coordinate the advancement of training to provide successful prosecution of charged offenders by providing the necessary evidence and information by their office for successful prosecution.