



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** November 9, 2020
SUBJECT: Consider Ordinance 3671, establishing the North Richland Hills Police Reserve Program.
PRESENTER: Mike Young, Assistant Chief

SUMMARY:

The Police Department desires to establish the North Richland Hills Police Reserve Program ("Police Reserves") to assist the department with serving the community in a law enforcement capacity. Qualified individuals will serve a minimum of twelve hours a month to augment police operations in general, as well as patrol and investigative needs throughout the department. Reserve Officers will be required to meet the same minimum training standards as that of full-time officers.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Police Department recognizes a potential to seek resources of qualified law enforcement individuals that no longer wish to serve in a full-time capacity for a variety of reasons. A primary opportunity currently exists through those that retire from this agency, yet still have a desire in continuing to serve their community. Another opportunity exists where peace officers retire in the area with expertise that would be beneficial to the department if a police officer reserve program existed.

If approved, the Police Reserves would be managed by the Police Community Resources Division in accordance with Texas Local Government Code 341.012. When qualified peace officers are identified and subsequently pass a background investigation they will be considered for a volunteer position of Reserve Officer. Successful candidates will be approved by City Council through a resolution as required by state law. Reserve Officers will only serve in a supplementary capacity to that of full-time police personnel. Once authorized, they will be assigned to a police division that best serves the needs of the department coupled with the desires of the Reserve Officer. Reserves will be required to work a minimum average of twelve hours per month to maintain their status as a Reserve Officer. The Chief of Police will have the authority to remove any Reserve Officer that does not suit the needs of the department.

Reserve Officers will be required to meet the same training requirements as that of full-time officers. All persons serving in this capacity will not receive financial compensation from the city and will not be eligible for retirement benefits. As per state law, Reserve Officers will be eligible for worker's compensation benefits in case of any injury while performing their duties.



This program will serve as an asset to the city as a whole by bringing together volunteer police services comprised of individuals that have talents who live in and around the community. The North Richland Hills Police Department seeks to tap into the resources of experienced law enforcement officers that want to continue using their skills, but no longer desire to serve as a police officer in a fulltime capacity. By approving this ordinance the Police Department will be able to create a low cost program with a high value activity through the use of uniquely knowledgeable volunteers that desire to continue serving.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Ordinance No. 3671.