

Ask the Chief of the Anna Police: A weekly column allowing readers access to useful information about law enforcement issues in the Anna area.

This column is the personal opinion of Kenny Jenks and is based on his 29+ years of policing experience. It is not necessarily the official opinion of the City of Anna or the Anna Police Department. If you wish to Email, include your name and address in the correspondence. Your information will be edited before sending it to print.

I receive between 75-100 Emails each week from persons who would like to converse about the activities of the police in Anna and surrounding areas. I can't respond to or print all of them, but I do read them! This week:

***A Lady from Tara Farms writes on the report a concern tab/City Web-Site: I have reported this issue to the local police department several times. There are NUMEROUS persons who run the stop sign located at Thousand Oaks Dr and Magnolia (in the Tara Farms subdivision). I have recorded the license plate numbers and have given those to the police. There are several of these same residents who drive over the posted speed limit of 25 and use their cell phones within the school zones and even when sitting in line or leaving after dropping off their children at JKB. There are also parents who drive more than 25 mph thru the school zone and pass other vehicles on CR 371 (Mantua) on the curves or when the clearly marked no passing zones are in affect. Does someone have to be injured or worse yet killed before we get some attn to these ongoing and previously reported issues? My son is autistic and is never out without adult supervision, but other children in this subdivision are out on their bikes, walking to and from school and these other parents just ignore all the posted speed limits, cell phone use, and stop signs? What responsibility will the police department and city hold should something happen to someone since this has been reported several times?***

Anna area motorists: this person wants you put on notice. Stop violating the law while driving in and around her neighborhood and the elementary school. The area has been added to the close patrol list and will be patrolled as time and call loads will allow.

Our citizen's heart is in the right place but the knowledge of the law is a tad bit lacking. As far as taking down a license plate and giving it to the police, how does that identify the driver of a vehicle and qualify as evidence that a traffic violation occurred? It would be the driver and not the vehicle that is responsible for any violations that are committed, first of all. Second, most traffic violations are victimless misdemeanors. Meaning, a representative of the state (the police in this case) would have to observe the violation. A citizen cannot enforce speed

laws, stop sign violations, cell phone in a school zone violations, nor could they take any enforcement action for the types of violations the citizen notes in her writing or simply tell the police that it occurred and create a prosecutable case. Since the police can't be everywhere at the same time, some drivers and other citizens simply get away with breaking the law.

Finally, the Police Department and the City have no responsibility for someone's unlawful driving any more than police officers can be held accountable for what criminals do. Instead, our society expects that most adults will voluntarily comply with laws to promote safety inside of their communities and not engage in unlawful behavior. The individual person will hold all of the responsibility for any incidents that arise from their actions.

**Outdoor Storm Sirens Tested (weather permitting):** First  
Wednesday of the month @ noon

**\*Phone numbers: Emergency???? Dial 911.** To have a police officer sent to you in a non-emergency, call 972-547-5350. During normal business hours, the APD number is 972-924-2848.

If you have a question or comment, please email: [kjenks@annatexas.gov](mailto:kjenks@annatexas.gov)