

First Friday Noontime Forum Series
“Continuing the Growth and Prosperity of Downtown Lancaster”

Highlights -Part IX

Part IX – August 2006 – Discussion with Police Chief Sam Gatchell

- ❖ Perception of crime is created by the media—all references when a crime is committed are to “Lancaster”, not the municipality where the crime occurred.

- ❖ Reality—We have a safe city. Lancaster has experienced a 65% reduction in violent crime. Neighboring cities have seen a significant increase in crime.

- ❖ Video surveillance by the Safety Coalition deters crime and allows for expedient apprehension of criminals.

- ❖ There is a direct connection between litter and crime—KEEP IT CLEAN.

- ❖ In the future the police will be working more closely with other city departments—inspections, housing.

- ❖ Gang activity is limited for the time being – gang activity is prevalent in surrounding cities.