

# Nowakowski focused on crime prevention

by **Michael Ferraresi** - Feb. 17, 2009 12:09 PM  
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A councilman whose district stretches through three police precincts, from Maryvale to South Mountain, has been tabbed as the newest member of the Phoenix public safety and veterans subcommittee.

Michael Nowakowski will replace outgoing Councilman Greg Stanton, who resigned to join the Arizona Attorney General's Office. Nowakowski, 45, will take Stanton's seat when the subcommittee reconvenes in March.

The councilman who represents District 7, the southwest region of the city, said one of his goals for 2009 is to continue to develop a think tank of neighborhood associations and Block Watch groups to better educate south Phoenix residents on crime prevention.

Nowakowski said he would like to study the impact of police Cmdr. Tim Hampton's success in the Maryvale precinct, where most crime dropped by the end of 2008, and try to duplicate programs across other precincts.

Nowakowski, who is a former Catholic leader and was a member of the Police Chief's Advisory Board for more than 16 years and who remains active within the Hispanic community, said he wants to remain focused on helping residents during what will likely be a challenging year.

**Question: How will the city's decision to cut more than 7 percent of the police and fire budgets, or about \$54 million, impact residents or other city programs residents rely on?**

**Answer:** It's not just slashing public safety by about 7.9 percent, it's all the other programs in the city, from parks and recreation and other departments like human services. All of that is about public safety. It's not just about officers on the streets, it's about prevention, also.

**Q: How might those cuts affect after-school programs?**

**A:** They'll have to eliminate some of them. Right now, what they're trying to figure out (is) how much of a fee parents would have to pay for them.

When you talk about taking away the after-school programs and parks and recreation programs, we leave the kids no choice but to be out on the streets. It affects the quality of life for everyone in the city; it affects the police.

**Q: Was there anything about how the city managed public-safety cuts that could have been handled differently?**

**A:** I really believe we need to start looking to get some outside help. We need to form some kind of blue-ribbon committee - some concerned-citizen committee, if you will. It needs to be a mix of people like CEOs whose companies are going through big cuts but also CEOs of non-profits whose companies take care of those social services. You need a combination of both.

**Q: Maryvale crime dropped in 2008. What will it take to continue that trend this year?**

**A:** That's exactly what we're talking about: empowering neighbors and giving them the tools they need.

If something is working in Maryvale, let's go in there and reproduce it throughout the city. You need to get someone (like Hampton) who's out there on the streets on a daily basis to understand what's going on out there.

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2009/02/17/20090217phx-publicsafety0218.html>