

PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC SERVICES



Public Safety and Public Services (water, wastewater, storm drainage, parks and trees, etc.) are some of the core services that cities and service agencies provide to their residents or clients. Input received from City residents and project participants through phone surveys, public outreach meetings, stakeholder meetings and key issues workshops have continued to indicate that public safety and public services are of significant interest to City residents.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to request participant input regarding your perceptions of the safety and level of service of the City relative to the services that the City of Chico provides to its residents.

When we surveyed Chico residents they told us that safety was extremely important. Why do you think public safety is an issue for Chico citizens?

The majority of workshop participants indicated that safety is a core issue because it is fundamental to the quality of life that Chico residents enjoy. Respondents indicated that the prevention of crime helps to maintain a relaxed and worry-free atmosphere (or community) that leads to a positive perception of the City. A small number of respondents indicated that they had experienced theft and other crimes. Almost all respondents wanted Chico to be as safe as possible and a place where residents can feel comfortable letting their kids play outside without fear.

Over the past 20 years, has Chico become more or less safe?

Workshop participants were split on this answer. Some respondents felt that the streets were safer because there was a larger police presence in the downtown area, especially during special events and college holidays. Other respondents said they felt that crime had increased, but felt that the perceived increase in crime was inevitable due to the overall growth of the City. None of the workshop participants indicated that they considered Chico to be an “unsafe” place to live, especially as compared to other cities in California.

Are there certain areas of Chico that are less safe than others? If so, where and why?

Some answers given included Nord Avenue, the West Sacramento area, and the areas between Rancharia and 6th Avenue, where it was stated that there is little visible police presence. Other responses suggested that the downtown area felt unsafe at night and that an increased visible police presence in the area might encourage more adults to frequent downtown services. A few responses indicated that they believed that newly-annexed areas and homes on cul-de-sacs were less safe than other places in the City. A few responses also listed the Canyon Oaks areas as being unsafe at night due to a large presence of amateur street-racers who make the roads very unsafe for other drivers and for people who live in that area.

Are there services that the City currently provides that you do not believe are functioning efficiently or which you believe are unnecessary?

Most answers referenced the lack of police presence in the areas listed previously. It was stated that police presence seems exclusive to the downtown areas and around the University and not enough presence in outlying residential areas.

Are there services that the City does not currently provide that you think the City should be providing?

Answers included the need for local “beat-cops” on bikes that could patrol neighborhoods and parks. Police Safe Rides and free late-night public transit to reduce drunk driving were also listed.