

Cradock Civic League



Joanna Hall, President

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Portsmouth City Council
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To the Honorable Mayor Holley and Vice-Mayor Moody, and the Members of the Portsmouth City Council;

The Cradock Civic League voted Tuesday, March 2, 2010 to write a letter to restate its support for the City of Portsmouth Sheriff's Department Pilot Program – "Community Enforcement Unit". The "Community Enforcement Unit" has aided and provided support to Cradock's NIO officer, Bill Baker, and Cradock's Neighborhood Watch Group – "Cradock Watch". The crime statistics in the last two years have seen an impressive drop. This is greatly due to the teamwork between the Cradock NIO, the CEU and the Cradock Neighborhood Watch. Nevertheless, there are still major crime problem areas within the Cradock neighborhood and it has not been completely resolved. The Cradock Civic League believes that the Portsmouth City Council should not prematurely terminate the CEU Program without a contingency plan in its place. The Cradock Community had benefited greatly from the additional law enforcement presence provided by the CEU unit. There is still much work to be done. This summer will be a pivotal point in Cradock. The summer is an "intensive" time for the community because many of the youth are not involved in positive summer programs and the summer provides ample opportunity for gang activity and recruiting. The George Washington Skate Park is slated to open in late June or early July and the Elizabeth River Projects will have teams of volunteers working on site clearing for the Paradise Creek Park. We want to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the visitors that will be using or involved with the work of the parks. We will need more law enforcement presence than ever on the streets of Cradock this summer. The Cradock Civic League once again states its support for the CEU. The Cradock Residents support this effort and believe it enhances and strengthens the Cradock Watch and the NIO.

While the residents of Cradock understand these are trying and difficult economic times, we need to insure that we do not take a step backwards. By supporting the CEU Program, this will confirm the City of Portsmouth Council's commitment to the Cradock Neighborhood. It will plant seeds of trust and encourage would-be homebuyers to continue to invest their future and finances into Cradock by purchasing homes within the neighborhood.

The Cradock Civic League submits this letter of support to the Portsmouth City Council and asks the City Council to publicly and financially to continue to support the CEU Program by voting yes. Please help Cradock to restore its historic streetscapes and build a strong community by supporting the CEU Program. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Joanna Hall, President
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