



Chief of Police  
K.D. Smith

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## *Lakewood Police Department*

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City Manager  
Robert Franklin

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Dear Lakewood business owner,

It has come to my attention that some confusion exists in Lakewood about the proper phone number to use in case of an emergency. You should always **dial 911 for life-threatening emergencies** and most people do know that. To report a crime or request an officer for any other reason the proper number to dial is **862-8600**. This is the best way to assure a Lakewood Officer is dispatched whenever possible.

The Lakewood Police department uses the Metro Davidson County dispatch system for many reasons.

- 1) Metro can dispatch every emergency service offered in Davidson County. Those services are all funded with your property tax dollars. Lakewood has access to various specialized units such as the SWAT team, Bomb squad, or Hazmat team – these are but a few of the emergency services your taxes already fund.
- 2) To set up and run a similar dispatch system in Lakewood would cost millions. Money that should not be spent to duplicate existing services you have already paid for.
- 3) Lakewood seldom has more than one officer on duty at a time. Metro keeps up with all dispatched officers and automatically sends help when one fails to call back in. Our officer's safety is compromised if no one is available to follow up.
- 4) Metro dispatch can send an officer even if the Lakewood Officer is on another call.
- 5) Lakewood is currently in the process of working with Metro in regards to the officers having access to the computer-aided dispatch. When that becomes available, it will allow the officers to see all pending calls and respond in a more timely fashion.

The Lakewood Police Department wants to respond to every call in Lakewood. We believe the safest and most time and cost efficient way of dispatching officers here is through the Metro Dispatch system. We want to use every asset available to deliver emergency services in Lakewood.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 847-3711.

Sincerely,

KD Smith