



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor Jones and Members of the Board

FROM: Randi Gallivan, Town Clerk

DATE: February 18, 2021

RE: Crime Survey Results

**DISCUSSION:**

At a previous meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of hiring a security guard due to the lack of off-duty patrol officers available from the Sheriff's department. To further the discussion, Trustee Josie Cockrell volunteered to conduct a survey of crime in Foxfield to get resident input. She sent the survey to everyone on the Town's email list and received 118 responses from 113 households. The results are attached. The most common crime in Foxfield is mail theft/mailbox vandalism.

Would the Board like to continue exploring the idea of hiring a security guard and if so, how would you like staff to proceed?

**ATTACHMENT:**

**Exhibit A:** Foxfield Crime Survey Results

## Foxfield Crime Survey

Jan. 19, 2021 to Feb. 1, 2021; 118 responses from 113 addresses

### **Question 1:** *Have any crimes been committed on your property recently?*

Crime was reported at 21 out of 113 addresses (18.6%)

- 13 mail related incidents (10 theft, 2 damage to mailbox)
- 1 home was broken into
- 5 vehicle related incidents (2 cars stolen, 3 cars broken into)
- 3 instances of theft (license plates, statues, a bench)
- 1 instance of trespassing

### **Comments**

- Trespassing, mischief inside the barn
- November - Mail thief- Checks stolen and cashed
- March 2020 - Car Theft
- April, 2020. Car broke into.
- November - Theft of license plates and bracket from car
- August mail theft
- Mid September some misc statues came up missing the day after being put out.
- May 2020 stole a medal bench we transported here from NY
- We think, but we are not absolutely certain, that mail was stolen from our mailbox.
- Spring 2020. Mail stolen from mailbox.
- 1/2/21. Unlocked pickup cab ransacked and garage door opener taken
- Last couple years. Mailbox theft.
- Mail theft; about a month ago.
- Mail box broken and theft. Lost Amazon packages. During last 10 months
- Mail theft November 2020
- Mail theft 1/18
- Nov 2020 / mail stolen
- This year someone hit our mailbox (again) and dented it. We have a locked mailbox, and they were unable to open it, but we had to pound out the dent.
- Car stolen from driveway, 2018, car broken into 2020 house broken into 2020
- Sept 2020, Mailbox Damage
- November 2020, packages stolen off the front porch 2 separate times

**Question 2: Are you aware of any other crimes that have been committed in Foxfield recently?**

48 Yes (41.0%); 69 No (59.0%); 117 responses

**Comments**

- Vandalism to mailboxes. Latter part of 2020.
- 3/2020 - 7AM drunk driver passed out in car on Richfield
- 5/2020 - walking early am presence warned off mailbox theft 2X Easter and Davies near [REDACTED] home
- 6/2020 - needles / garments found in Open Space
- 9/2020 - 2:30 am visitor at door on Norfolk
- 10/2020 - police activity in Open Space
- 11/2020 - persons trespassing / graffiti Drainage area under grates
- Continued - ""parking"" on Costilla JW and various other areas in town late night to early am
- same time - more theft in vehicles and open garages/out buildings
- Camera caught mail theft, trespassing, stop sign running and prowling
- Oct, 2020. Mailboxes being stolen from.
- Ongoing theft of mail and packages from USPS and delivery services
- various reports of mail theft on Next Door
- Mail theft, strange people coming to door
- I did see them on the Foxfield e-mail updates
- If I recall correctly, it was mail theft. It has been in the last several months.
- These are only the most recent ones: Summer 2020 - mail stolen from neighbor's mailbox. Fall 2019 - bench stolen from neighbor's property. December and January - two mailboxes knocked off mailbox posts. January 2020 - two street signs on Hinsdale knocked down.
- Growing and dealing drugs in a house up the street.
- Mail box theft
- Mail theft, damaged mailboxes, stolen packages.
- Stole mail. Cars parked in front.
- On going mail theft
- Theft and damage to property on a regularly basis(weekly)
- Mail theft. Vehicle theft/burglary
- The drug activity in the house next door to us about a year ago. Police were on the scene at the time.
- Mailbox theft
- Only what I've seen posted on NextDoor (mail theft & suspicious people/cars). Neighbor did have mailbox lock broken off sometime in the last month.
- Speeding along Hinsdale Avenue
- Theft from propert and mailbox theft

- car thefts and mail stolen last 6 months
- NextDoor
- ongoing mail/pckg theft
- Mail theft, a few months ago
- I have read about a number of people having their mail stolen. One person even had their entire mailbox stolen and dumped in a field. I read about these incidents on NextDoor.
- Mail stolen 2020
- During the last year... mail theft, package theft, people going through trash and recycling bins (when out for trash day) for, presumably identity theft, one of our expensive bicycles was stolen from our yard about 1 1/2 yrs ago.
- Multiple reports on residents having mail stolen from their mailboxes.
- Mail theft, stolen tires, stolen packages during December and January
- People have reported their mail being stolen and packages off their porches refer to Nextdoor for dates
- December - Porch Pirates
- Porch pirates during Christmas as well as mail being stolen
- Various dates. Mail theft.
- neighbor package theft about 2 months ago
- Mailbox tampering
- Fall 2020; property theft; Jan 2021 Mail Theft
- Mail theft
- NO DETAILS - JUST HEARD FROM OTHERS
- Porch pirates, stolen mail
- Packages at neighbors stolen off of front porch in December as well as comments on Nextdoor about mail being stolen
- Police raid on a house due to drug trade. I don't recall the date, but within the last year I believe.
- Mail theft

**Question 3: Are you aware of any other concerning (but not necessarily criminal) activity occurring in the community?**

34 Yes (29.3%); 82 No (72.6%); 116 responses

**Comments**

- Open space loitering. Suspicious driver in neighborhood at early morning hours
- Breaking into mailboxes
- traffic
- Cars broken into (██████████ - Pitkins, ██████████ - Davies)  
Theft (██████████)  
Mailbox and package Theft - many  
Foxfield Spring Clean up 2020 - newly painted blue dumpsters were delivered Friday afternoon / Saturday am freshly painted graffiti was discovered.
- loitering and trespassing
- Homeless/ Drug activity down by the tunnel (accessed off of Norfolk Ct)
- Mail being stolen from boxes
- street racers, who are NOT commuting through so the gates will not help.
- Strange people coming up to the door that deliver or live here
- I live adjacent to OLOL and see a lot of vehicles park there with the looks of an exchange.
- Occasional excess driving speed.
- Concerned about the traffic and outsiders traveling through Foxfield. Would prefer a closed community 24/7. Also concerned that the private security that the town hires will leave the area while on duty. My husband was instrumental in helping our town in NY place monitoring stations around our town to ensure the hired guard remained within our town limits during his shift.
- mail boxes being vandalized
- Called in suspicious person carrying a heavy looking reusable plastic bag. She was walking west on E Hinsdale Ave. and she was stopping and watched every car pass her as if she knew them. Was crisscrossing road. I drove up behind her and asked her if she needed anything. She was very agitated and replied "I just want to know why you are driving so slow". When I replied the speed limit is 25 mph, she said "I wouldn't know". End of conversation.
- discrimination and harassment from Ken and Karen neighbors
- I've heard things happen at night, near Arapahoe and Parker area.
- Suspicious people and cars roaming neighborhood
- People trying to get into mail boxes
- ██████████ operating multifamily residence. Multiple Apartments in house
- Rental property near us has many visitors throughout the day who are there only briefly.
- Noise

- Cars driving around. Have seen mail boxes open.
- Frequent running stop sign at Waco & Easter
- The intersection of Easter and Waco has a 4-way stop. 90% of the cars going through the intersection don't stop. Cars also speed down Waco and Easter. We have kids and live at the corner of Easter and Waco. Cars not obeying the road laws is concerning.
- The house that is unoccupied that has been the scene of police activities and the bomb going off in the garage
- Bad guys apparently checking automatic garage doors.
- Mailbox theft
- Neighbors have expressed concern around increase of people in town due to property development/construction, activity at JW Church
- People lurking around property
- Speeding down Richfield- love to Gate the entire community
- Mail Theft and package theft
- Mail theft
- Mail being stolen garage break-ins

**Question 4: Do you think hiring a private security guard would be beneficial for our community?**

| No    | Probably Not | Unsure | Possibly | Yes   |
|-------|--------------|--------|----------|-------|
| 24    | 28           | 22     | 29       | 15    |
| 20.3% | 23.7%        | 18.6%  | 24.6%    | 12.7% |

**Comments**

*No*

- Private security has no authority to take action to protect the community. What effort would be taken to have them acquaint with normal activity in town? Seems a slippery slope
- I doubt the effectiveness of private security as a deterrent, given the expansive nature of Foxfield’s properties. Porch pirates and mailbox thieves seem the primary concerns, at least on Nextdoor. I’m not sure that one guard cruising the neighborhood would happen to catch these opportunists.
- private to expensive
- The gates are supposed to limit unauthorized access, shouldn’t we be waiting to see if they have an impact on criminal activity before we’re looking to hire security?
- I used to see Arapahoe County Sheriff drive through the neighborhood on occasion. Maybe this would help to curb the criminal activity.
- Private security for a community is as much security theater as TSA is. Far better would be a community watch with suggestions about how to watch out for each other, tips on how to secure properties like ours, and actually noticing and checking on our neighbors and strangers coming through. It's harder because it requires being involved and communicating but it works MUCH better.
- I think this would be a total waste of money. There are other things to spend our money on or just lower the taxes if the coffers are overflowing and you think you need to spend the money.
- I’m really not interested in having private security in Foxfield. The occasional off duty officers are fine.
- Stop wasting tax dollars. Foxfield is not an HOA, but your sure trying hard to make it one.
- over 10 years, cameras and gates will be much cheaper.
- Lower the Mill Levy rather than hire another person
- Arapahoe county Sherriff is quick and responsive . Don’t need a security guard.
- I think the money it would cost would better the community by actually putting in the walking paths that have been promised for years

*Probably Not*

- I would like more information about why we are looking at private security. If it’s the lost of mail. The solution would be get a locking mails box.

- I'd be curious to see results from the survey across the community. I'm also curious, if there are reports of crime, how that is impacted by the gates we will soon have. I feel that would be a good deterrent and obstacle for some criminal activity and might accomplish the goal at hand. A period of observation might be helpful after the gates but before we commit to hiring security personnel. Thank you for all the work putting this together.
- The only thing I think could be beneficial is for guarding against mail theft.
- what is the need for this and has something happened in the community to start this survey?
- Criminals are barely deterred by actual law enforcement much less security guards, who would have to call for law enforcement to take any action anyway. The best deterrent outside of constant police presence is friendly neighbors. Get to know your neighbors and let us all watch out for each other.
- We had a strange man on our street last summer who ran from the police when we called. Other than that, all has been well.
- In my opinion our community is well rounded and have home security systems or surveillance cameras in every home. Very cheap to buy and install one if needed. You can remote monitor, save , forward saved videos for investigation as needed. I am also not aware if any criminal activities took place in the community so this is purely opinionated view of mine.
- Once the gates are in, the drive through traffic will decrease, so crime will also decrease, especially mail theft.
- At this time no, but continue to monitor and review every year for any changes.
- at this time I feel Foxfield is a very nice ,safe place to live
- I live on a cul-de-sac so, perhaps I am insulated however, I feel completely safe with my current security system and would prefer to see city funds spent on trails. Additionally, will the implementation of the gates affect any current criminal activity? Perhaps we should revisit this six months after the install.

#### *Unsure*

- can we afford it?
- Foxfield pretty big so I don't know how a security person could patrol the area. But I am definitely open to the idea of it
- My wife, [REDACTED], has also responded to this survey, but did not mention the following: In the past, other small towns (Bowmar and Columbine Valley) hired their own part-time policeman (one person), who was effective at decreasing traffic violations, but not other types of crime. The policeman was never in the right place at the right time. They had problems with retaining people because the job was monotonous and uneventful. At the time, town officials said it was more effective to encourage residents to report criminal activity (e.g., Crime Watch) because residents were present in more areas and present more of the time. There was some discussion among a group of Arapahoe County mayors and city council members about multiple businesses and entities jointly hiring a person who would be on call full-time and who could respond to reports from property owners when a crime was actually occurring. There was also discussion of security cameras, but to my knowledge, no decisions were made to hire security guards or install security cameras. We will probably encounter the same issues.
- What about the cost ? The town doesn't have infinite revenue.



- Would love to hear statistics regarding private security
- Thank you for setting up this survey.
- I don't know if a private security guard would be able to prevent thefts, but it would be nice to think so. We might need someone to help with the gates when we get them set up in case people try to damage them.
- A well coordinated cohesive relationship--almost personal. Otherwise we have a feel good exercise with "a company".
- Thank you for soliciting resident feedback and all you do for the town.

#### *Possibly*

- I am not sure if the security guard is to stay in a security facility to allow entry and exit to the town? If so, this would definitely help to reduce crime
- Perhaps before hiring someone, as you are thinking, you might want to check with other towns that have done this, if/how it worked for them. Thank you for looking into this!!
- If they can't issue tickets for speeding, not sure what they would be doing.
- It wouldn't hurt to test for a period of time. Keep records of observation & incident prevention to see if there is a benefit, etc.
- I am sure cost will be a key.
- Thank you for the survey. My family and I feel very safe in Foxfield, but would like the mail theft to stop and cars to obey the intersection of Easter and Waco along with speed limits.
- Nice initiative. Thanks for considering this.
- Speeding continues to also be a problem.
- Nothing at this time.
- Depending on the patrol, the security presence may deter criminal
- I rather see more gates, less speeding and access to Foxfield.
- I see criminal activity seeping into Foxfield currently. Piney Creek esp. is experiencing many crimes of opportunity (petty theft/ car theft / burglary) is it a matter of time that one discovers Foxfield's proximity and spaciousness lends to their success? Prevention - presence as a deterrent.
- Thank you for exploring this option and working to improve our town!
- a lot depends on the cost
- I believe security present will make our town even better!!
- I don't know if it would help to have security but it is not a bad idea to try it out.

#### *Yes*

- Alternative suggestion: neighborhood watch per ward in coordination with sheriff department
- If we cannot get the at least the same patrols/ stop sign monitoring then we need to purchase it. Thanks for listening
- Permanent gates is the ultimate solution.

- We could try it and see what happens. A security presence could help deter any illicit activities. Although we would be in favor of enclosing the entire community. We should weigh the options - hiring security indefinitely as an on-going cost. Or a one-time cost to enclose our entire town.
- I think it might deter folks from looking at doing anything in our town.
- Having security stroll and drive around is a good deterrent . We support it
- I think having the presence of a security officer could be a deterrent.
- Thank you