

CHAPTER 12

Safety

Fargo will ensure safety through excellent police and fire service. The design of neighborhoods, districts, and public spaces will work to promote safety by increasing visibility and eyes on the street.



SAFETY

Public safety is paramount to quality of life. We want to feel safe and secure in our homes, the places we work and shop, the places we go to relax, and we especially want our schools and playgrounds to be safe. Public safety is necessary to ensure our health and normalcy of life. Comparatively, Fargo has always been a safe community. It is place where many people still leave their doors unlocked and simply do not worry about crime. However, Fargo is not immune to crime. The Fargo Police Department, which currently has 144 sworn officers, receives approximately 48,000 calls for service annually. Statistically, the numbers of offences per 1,000 people in Fargo are similar to or below cities in surrounding states with similar populations. And while the numbers of homicides and violent crimes are relatively low, crimes against property and drug related issues continue to be focus of law enforcement.

In past years Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota has actively worked to bring refugees from war-torn countries, as a result Fargo has seen a sharp increase of in-migration of new Americans, especially from African countries. In an effort to aid in their transition to a new country, the Fargo Police Department works with Lutheran Social Services to provide basic information to newly arriving refugees, including how to interact with the police, our state's alcohol laws, domestic violence, age of consent and driving laws. Most recently, the influx of new immigrants are refugees coming from Nepal and Iraq. In 2010, Fargo became the home of 312 new Americans. In addition to new Americans, the Native American community in Fargo represents more than 21 federally recognized nations from the U.S. and Canada. Each nation has its own beliefs, practices, traditions, cultural values, protocol, history and language.

Partnerships between the public and the police department are vital.



Neighborhoods, Infill, and New Development

The safety chapter is under development.

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