

January 22, 2019

### **Joint Statement from the Mayor and Village Manager of the Village of University Park**

The Village is aware of the concerns of the residents related to the upsurge in violent crime over the last week and various other concerns related to the Orland Park mall shooting suspect being a University Park resident. This is an issue that is sometimes difficult to control, however there is no excuse for violence. I have reached out to a group that I work with "Mayors Against Guns" for support. Also, I plan to have a meeting and announcement to ask that all residents that own some type of security devices such as a Ring or Nest to come together. It has a shared option that each house can share the alerts of what is displayed in their area. I like to refer to as a **Technical Neighborhood Watch**. Furthermore, I have discussed with the Police Department to invest in drones (that fly around the community with a visual attached). We The Southland Mayors, have just recently agreed to create a safety committee that includes all of the Police Chiefs in the South Suburban areas to work together for such a situation as this. Again, this does not negate the support of our local residents to assist, unite and give all the suggestions and support you may be willing to give.

The Village of University Park and its Police Department take violent crime very seriously. In 2017, the Village experience an upsurge of violent crime that was unexpected and uncontrollable. In 2018, the Village had some violent crimes, but no homicides attributed to violent crime. We are diligently working to place resources where needed, but there are limitations that are beyond the Village's control, such as hiring timeframes and training academy availability for new recruits. The Village is working diligently to find solutions to curb crime and institute programs for our children and young adults. I too believe that the Village should invest in its youth and young adults because they are the future of University Park.

Also, it is even more important in my opinion to open dialogue with all residents and local stakeholders in all demographic groups. I urge all of our residents to come forth and provide constructive, interactive, open, and sincere input and observations. We can and will work together to make our community safer, more secure, and effective in that areas of crime prevention and community engagement.

Thank you,

Mayor Vivian E. Covington

John E. Pate, M.S.  
Village Manager & Director of Public Safety