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Lubbock police chief says department needs to decentralize

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By Shaley Sanders, Anchor/Reporter [CONNECT](#)

LUBBOCK, TX (KCBD) - Recently, we ran a story about the most dangerous neighborhoods in Lubbock.

While looking into this data, we discovered an increase in multiple crimes like murder and robbery.

Thanks to a new crime mapping system, this is information every resident can access.

Lubbock Police Chief Greg Stevens said a number of factors could have contributed to the increase.

"Lubbock's population is growing and there could be some expected crime growth along with that. Lubbock has a great picture in terms of population growth compared to crime growth," Chief Stevens said.

Stevens said the department wants to avoid "knee-jerk" reactions and take an analytical approach when they see spikes in crimes.

"We are engaging in predictive policing, hot spots policing to try to put our resources in the right place at the right time," Chief Stevens said.

Chief Stevens said he is an advocate of substations.

"Lubbock is a large city and it is a large police department, and it will eventually, I think sooner than later, have to decentralize," Chief Stevens said.

In 2014, city officials talked about moving the police department into the current city hall building.

Stevens said that still puts officers far away from the communities they police.

Stevens has already made changes toward more community-oriented policing.

"We split the city in half. Half of the city to the south and half to the north. So the south half of the city, they brief at Fire Station 19. There is a community room there. We are beginning the process of moving into a geographic model of policing," Chief Stevens said.

He said he plans to divide the city into thirds in the near future.

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