

Police cadets from China may shadow Houston officers

By Robert Stanton Updated 4:11 pm, Friday, January 11, 2013



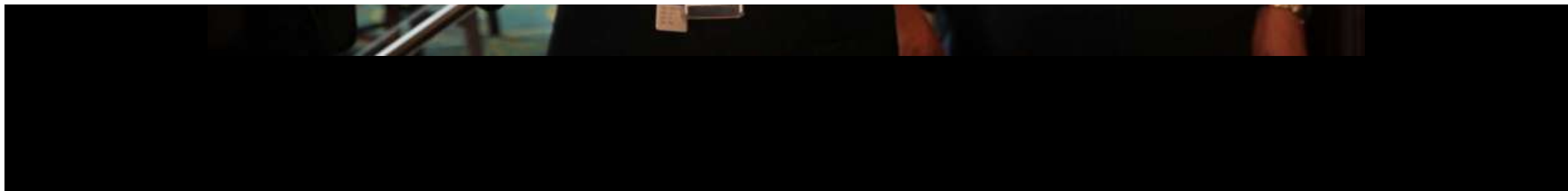


Photo: City Of League City



IMAGE 1 OF 8

Cadet Xiaoji "Cheney" Chen kicks off the internship with a welcome speech at the opening luncheon.

Some Chinese police cadets may be shadowing Houston patrol officers next year after League City officials announced plans to end the program in that city.

The Community Police Internship Program has been in place in League City and Alvin since 2010. The pilot program is based at **Sam Houston State University** in Huntsville, and the cadets spend four days each year with the local police departments to learn about American-style law enforcement.

"It exposes them to a policing style that will allow them to better understand the expectations of Westerners who go to China," said **Phillip Lyons**, a professor at SHSU's **College of Criminal Justice**, and coordinator of the program. League City police officers also benefit, he said, because "the very nature of the instruction causes them to think about what they do and how they can do it better."

The 16 cadets, students at at China's **Zhejiang Police College**, spend an academic year at SHSU studying criminal justice. They gain enough course credit to earn a degree at the university, as well as from their home college, Lyons said.

To add an experiential component, the cadets ride along with League City and Alvin police officers, tour the departments, visit the gun range and even stay with the officers' families.

At a recent La Marque city workshop meeting, some League City council members suggested that the city discontinue the program and focus more on community issues, such as school security and drug trafficking.

"We'll be stepping back," said League City Police Chief **Michael Kramm**. "It began here as a pilot program and they're looking to expand to larger agencies and more cities."

Ending the League City component, Kramm said, "affords other cities the experiences we've had in working with the cadets."

Kramm noted that several League City officials have traveled to China as part of a cultural exchange, with the travel costs picked up by Sam Houston State University.

Lyons said he expects the program to continue in Alvin, and he's has been in talks with **Houston Police Department** officials about expanding the program there. A few years ago, two Chinese cadets took part in the HPD air patrol before the operations were scaled back due to budget constraints.

"We do know that Houston's involvement is strong and we anticipate greater involvement with HPD," he said.

La Marque city officials also have expressed interest in hosting Chinese police cadets in their city, Lyons said.

Next year's cadet class is expected to grow to 20 students, Lyons said.

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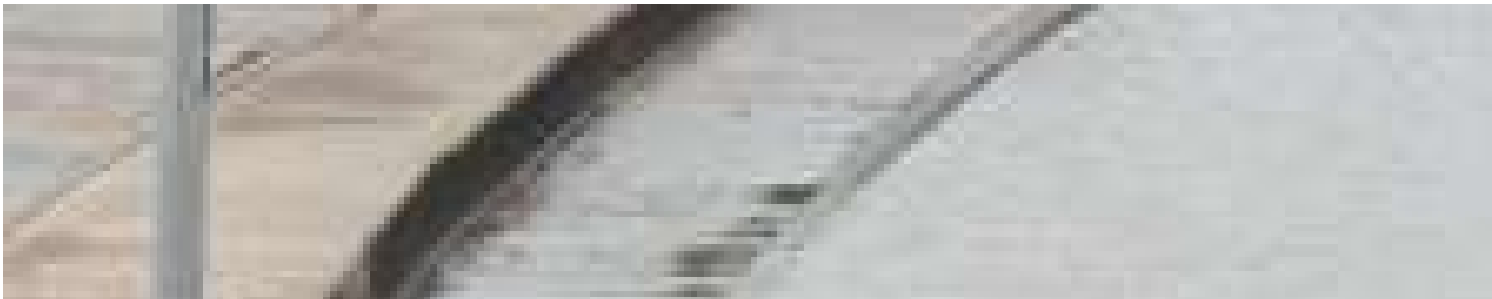
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