

An Open Letter to Magnolia, Waverly, and Riverfield Residents

From the Mayor of the City of Josephine

Your Safety Matters – Let’s Work Together

As neighbors and members of the greater Josephine community, your safety and peace of mind are our top priorities. We want to make sure every family in Magnolia, Waverly, and Riverfield knows that the City is committed to providing professional, coordinated, and reliable public safety services—and that your voice matters in the decisions that affect your neighborhoods.

For several years, the City of Josephine has proudly provided police protection and emergency services to your neighborhoods. Our officers have responded to calls, patrolled your streets, and built relationships—because we view you as part of our greater Josephine community.

Recently, following a study and recommendation by an independent consultant, the City updated its public safety service rates to reflect the actual cost of providing 24-hour police coverage, including operating expenses. In response to the updated rates, the Magnolia MUD Board and Riverfield developer have begun exploring other options for police services. While comparing options is understandable, these decisions can have real implications for the safety, response times, and peace of mind of every family in your neighborhoods.

What This Change Could Mean for Residents

- **Longer Response Times:** Emergencies happen without warning and require fast action. Without Josephine Police coverage, response times may increase, as county resources are already spread across wide areas.
- **Dispatch Complexity:** Many residents may not realize that your neighborhoods straddle two counties—Collin and Hunt—which adds complexity to emergency dispatching. Calls must be routed to the correct agency, and not all radio systems allow seamless communication between different agencies. Coordination between multiple departments can take extra time, which may affect response during emergencies.
- **Investment in Your Safety:** The new Public Safety Building—located near your neighborhoods—was funded in part by MUD developer fees and designed specifically to serve both your communities and the City of Josephine. Working together ensures this shared investment can protect nearby residents as intended.
- **School Safety and Coordination:** Roderick Elementary, located within Magnolia Pointe MUD, benefits from close coordination between CISD, police, fire, and EMS. Responders who train and work together regularly are able to respond more quickly and effectively to incidents, keeping schools and neighborhoods safer.
- **Less Local Presence:** Officers from outside providers may not have the same familiarity with your streets, schools, or neighbors that Josephine officers have developed.

Our officers care deeply about your community. They are not just service providers—they are your neighbors, invested in keeping you safe every day.

A Little Background

Magnolia Pointe (including Waverly) and Riverfield were created as Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs)—separate from city limits but within Josephine’s service area. Although the City is not required to provide police services to MUDs, Josephine stepped up when asked—because safety shouldn’t stop at a city boundary.

As your communities have grown, so has the need for more officers to keep everyone safe. The updated rates ensure we can maintain the right number of staff, provide proper training, and keep equipment up to date to meet the needs of our growing community.

It’s important to understand that MUD taxes do not go to the City of Josephine. They primarily repay developers for infrastructure within your neighborhood. MUDs operate independently from cities, which by state law limits access to certain municipal services and local representation.

It’s also important to note that City residents pay the same rate for public safety as MUD residents. The only difference is that City residents are not billed through their utility account; instead, their public safety portion is funded through their property tax.

Resident Involvement and Moving Forward—Together

Our goal isn’t to create division—it’s to ensure that all residents in and around Josephine are protected by a coordinated, professional, and sustainable public safety system.

MUD Boards are typically small—just five members—making decisions that affect thousands of residents. In Magnolia and Waverly, five individuals are making choices that impact approximately 7,000 people. The Riverfield MUD makes choices for approximately 1,100 people. Attending MUD Board meetings and sharing your perspective ensures your voice is heard and considered in decisions about public safety and neighborhood services.

We also encourage you to:

- Ask questions about who will respond when you call 911.
- Learn more about MUD governance and how it affects your neighborhood.
- Support efforts to improve coordination between MUDs and cities for the benefit of everyone.
- Advocate for MUD reform legislation so that Josephine is better able to provide equitable services to all neighborhoods.

The City of Josephine remains ready and willing to serve your communities. We believe cooperation—not competition—is the key to keeping every family safe and every neighborhood thriving.

Together, we can ensure that Magnolia, Waverly, Riverfield, and Josephine grow stronger, safer, and better connected for generations to come.

With appreciation and respect,
Jason Turney, Mayor