



NEWS RELEASE

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Vienna Police Department Raises Money for Cancer Charity

All November long the Vienna Police Department's male officers are going "undercover" to participate in the Zero Cancer Grow-and-Give fundraising campaign. For the fourth year in a row, Police Chief Jim Morris relaxed the department's no-beard policy to enable officers to participate in #NoShaveNovember with the goal of raising awareness about prostate cancer and to generate support for research to find a cure.

"Juan Vazquez, the police department's public information officer, lost his father to prostate cancer some years ago so it means a lot to him that we participate," Morris said. "For the last three years, our department has taken home first place and raised the highest amount of any public safety organization in the country for the cancer charity. While another win for the department would be fantastic, it's all about raising awareness and keeping everyone healthy. That's our main priority and goal every year."

Nearly 250,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in the United States this year alone, and the illness is very treatable if diagnosed early. Participating officers hope that their "scruffy" efforts to support life-saving research will inspire others to learn more about the illness and donate to the campaign to help find a cure for prostate cancer.

In addition to raising awareness and funding research to find a cure, the Zero Cancer organization provides educational materials to men and their families and offers screenings for men who would otherwise be unable to afford them.

Last year, the Vienna Police raised more than \$3,000, the highest fundraising total in the nationwide competition for the First Responder category. This year's goal is to match or exceed that figure for the non-profit organization. To support the Vienna Police Department's Grow-and-Give Team, visit <https://bit.ly/VPDGrowandGive24>.

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