

Sustaining Safe Neighborhoods.

THE RANGE OF SAFETY ISSUES.

Small cities and towns have experience employing their police, fire and rescue teams to protect their citizens and businesses. The arising array of natural, social, broadband and transportation dangers presents new challenges intellectually and fiscally.

PARTNERSHIPS.

Small cities and towns usually have limited resources to devote to newly arising issues. Partnering with professional organizations, in-town associations and neighboring cities can be useful. The International City/County Managers Association, a local council of municipalities, the town's neighborhood associations and business groups are resources to utilize. Collaborations and cooperations in a time of expanding challenges is prudent and productive.

EXISTING CONDITIONS.

Public safety councils and organizations exist to support police, fire and emergency operations. Programs with local hospitals and health care providers already exist in most communities.

Flood insurance maps and programs also exist in most communities although these constraints to development are usually dealt with lightly. Flooding from normal or abnormal rain events is devastating to people with flooded homes. Unusual storm events such as tornadoes, hurricanes and "nor'easters" are becoming more usual and citizens depend on their local officials to provide warnings before the event and remedies afterwards.

Traffic fatalities among motorcyclists, pedestrians and pedalcyclists are increasing.

Many communities are accelerating the development of bike/ped systems to improve the safety and mobility of non-vehicular travelers. Motorcycle fatalities have more than doubled in 20 years; this warrants attention.

THE FUTURE IS ALMOST HERE.

Autonomous vehicles are being tested in many urban areas. Their impact on neighborhoods is thought to be predictable but the roll-out of AVs seems ripe for un-intended consequences.

Same day deliveries are convenient but the added number of new vehicles in the neighborhood changes the game. If they become autonomous, the game changes even more. For neighborhoods, what real-time deliveries means is more strangers in the neighborhood at all hours of the day and night compromising neighborhood safety.

5G is being anxiously awaited by gamers, AV providers and many consumers. The health dangers of short-wave frequencies that replace the longer wave 4G frequencies have yet to be documented. The placement of antennae near residences spaced at reduced intervals rather than today's the cell tower spacing creates some new challenges for local governments and utility providers independent of the potential health risks.

SUSTAINING SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS SAFELY.

Plans are needed for AVs, 5G, climate change and the social ills of bullying and school violence. **Neighborhood Associations**, working with their host cities, are the front-line defenders of their neighborhoods.