

## ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

Tuesday morning's San Antonio Express- News (12-28-2021) contains an excellent article about the Lytle Chief of Police Richard "Richey" Priest. I have interacted with Chief Priest numerous times and found him friendly and helpful. The article caused me to reflect on my experiences with the city. I have been back to Lytle for public functions and city council meetings many times and have always found the aldermen, mayor and city secretary friendly and open. Matt Dear, the city fire chief, and Tom Cate, the city attorney, have always been helpful. Former Mayor Mark Bowen, and current Mayor Reuben Gonzales have been a pleasure to work with.

My first interaction with the City of Lytle occurred when I visited the staff at the EMS building in Lytle. I discovered some issues with the building, went over to Lytle City Hall and introduced myself to Josie Campa, the city secretary. I had a pleasant visit with her. She was very positive, and I found that a few weeks later, all repairs were completed. What a pleasure!

Lytle has been a bit of a stepchild because it is so far away from the rest of the cities in Atascosa County. It has been said of Lytle that it is in three different counties, and that is accurate. However, it is more accurate to say that most of Lytle is in Atascosa County. New subdivisions are building to the east, and the city's growth in Atascosa is astounding. Interstate 35 goes right through Lytle on its way into San Antonio. Lytle's population has grown from 2,690 in 2011 to 3,091 in 2021. Lytle continues to grow as a shopping hub with restaurants and retail businesses. Thousands of Census population growth has happened in Atascosa County in the area. The last Census showed this growth and caused County Precinct 2 to shrink geographically. The second fastest growing precinct is Precinct 1. These unincorporated areas are adding to the voting and economic strength of Atascosa County.

There is no doubt that the manufacturing growth in southern Bexar County has contributed to this growth. Lytle is making an impact!

I wish to compliment Chief Priest on the well-deserved front-page article about his service. Well done, Chief!

Happy New Year. May God bless you in the coming year. I pray for God's grace and peace to cover you in all that you face in your lives.

Thank you for listening.