



# District 8 Public Safety & Youth Crime Prevention Action Plan

*A Community First Vision for Orange County, Florida*

---

When I speak with residents throughout District 8 including Meadow Woods, Southchase, Hunters Creek, Lake Nona, Moss Park, Sawgrass, Wyndham Lakes, and surrounding communities, I continue hearing the same concerns repeated over and over again. Families want safer neighborhoods without feeling over policed. Parents want accountability, but they also want fairness, transparency, and opportunity for their children. Residents want reckless behavior addressed, but they also want leadership that understands the root causes behind many of the issues affecting our communities today. The reality is this. Public safety is not simply about crime statistics or enforcement numbers. Public safety is about whether a parent feels comfortable allowing their child to walk home from school. It is about whether seniors feel safe crossing busy intersections. It is about whether residents trust the systems designed to protect them. It is about whether young people feel like they have opportunities worth protecting before

negative influences take hold. District 8 is rapidly growing. Areas like Lake Nona and Moss Park continue seeing major investment and economic expansion while communities like Meadow Woods, Southchase, Wyndham Lakes, Sawgrass, and portions of Hunters Creek continue experiencing infrastructure strain, traffic congestion, affordability concerns, youth disconnection, and growing public safety frustrations. If we continue waiting until problems become crises, taxpayers will ultimately pay much more later through emergency response costs, incarceration expenses, infrastructure decline, and reduced neighborhood stability. That is why I believe District 8 needs a prevention focused, community centered, and transparent public safety strategy that strengthens neighborhoods instead of dividing them.

*“The future of public safety in District 8 cannot be built through fear alone. It must be built through prevention, trust, opportunity, accountability, and community partnership.”*

## **The Reality Facing District 8**

District 8 is one of the most diverse and culturally vibrant areas in Orange County. Communities throughout Meadow Woods, Southchase, Hunters Creek, Sawgrass, Wyndham Lakes, Moss Park, and Lake Nona are home to working class Black families, Hispanic residents, Caribbean communities, Afrolatino households, immigrant families, Muslim communities, and multicultural neighborhoods that continue shaping the identity of Orange County every single day. Many of these communities already feel pressure from rising housing costs, overcrowded roads, rapid development, and fears surrounding displacement. At the same time, many Black and Brown families also continue facing concerns regarding perception, over scrutiny, and unequal treatment in public spaces. Whether people want to openly acknowledge it or not, young Black and Brown teenagers traveling through neighborhoods on electric bikes or scooters are often

perceived differently than others. Groups of teenagers riding together can quickly become the focus of suspicion even when no actual crime is occurring. Families throughout District 8 understand this reality deeply because many have experienced it firsthand. Florida's current political climate surrounding immigration enforcement and deportation fears has also created additional anxiety for immigrant and mixed status households. Many young people still do not fully understand their rights, how to safely handle stressful interactions, or how quickly situations can escalate online or in person. Ignoring these conversations does not protect our youth. Preparing them responsibly does.

## **The Growing Public Safety Challenges**

Residents throughout District 8 continue raising concerns regarding reckless driving, illegal speeding, unsafe intersections, dangerous roadways near schools, and increasing electric bike and scooter activity throughout subdivisions and apartment communities. Families across Hunters Creek, Wyndham Lakes, Sawgrass, Meadow Woods, Moss Park, and Southchase continue reporting near collisions involving pedestrians, scooters weaving through traffic, nighttime riding without visibility equipment, and minors operating high speed electric bikes without helmets or roadway awareness. At the same time, one of the biggest long term public safety concerns facing Orange County remains youth disconnection. Many teenagers continue lacking affordable after school activities, mentorship access, career exposure, transportation support, mental health resources, and structured evening programming. The Orange County Sheriff's Office already recognizes these concerns through initiatives including the Teen Academy, Police Athletic League programs, and youth mentorship services. Florida Department of Juvenile Justice prevention services and Orlando community programs also continue supporting intervention efforts across the region. The problem is not that nothing exists. The problem is accessibility, coordination, awareness, and consistency. Many families

either do not know these resources exist or cannot consistently access them due to scheduling, transportation, language barriers, or financial limitations.

## **My Prevention Focused Public Safety Plan**

I believe public safety begins long before crime occurs. That is why my approach focuses heavily on prevention, opportunity, education, and partnership instead of relying exclusively on enforcement after problems escalate. One of my primary proposals is the creation of the Safe Nights District 8 Initiative. This program would partner with schools, churches, recreation centers, HOAs, nonprofits, apartment clubhouses, and local businesses to create safe structured evening activities for youth between the hours of 3 PM and 10 PM. Programs would include mentorship nights, tutoring, financial literacy classes, gaming tournaments, entrepreneurship workshops, sports leagues, music programs, trade exposure, conflict resolution training, workforce preparation, and career mentorship opportunities. This approach allows District 8 to utilize infrastructure we already have instead of spending millions building entirely new facilities. I also support launching a Ride Smart District 8 Initiative focused specifically on electric bike and scooter safety. This initiative would prioritize education first through safety certification workshops, helmet giveaways, neighborhood riding guidelines, school safety campaigns, community riding demonstrations, and partnerships with HOAs and local organizations. Instead of criminalizing children after accidents happen, we should focus on preparing youth with the knowledge and tools needed to safely navigate their communities responsibly.

## **Community Trust & Youth Empowerment**

I also believe one of the most important conversations we can have is preparing young people for the realities they may face in the world around them. That includes understanding legal rights, safe interactions during stressful encounters, de escalation

skills, travel safety, social media awareness, responsible group behavior, and understanding how quickly situations can escalate due to misunderstandings or assumptions. These conversations should never be rooted in fear politics. They should be rooted in preparation, empowerment, dignity, and awareness. Public safety should never make communities feel targeted. Public safety should make communities feel protected, informed, and included. That is why I support establishing Community Safety Partnership Teams composed of residents, deputies, youth leaders, HOAs, schools, nonprofits, and local businesses working collaboratively to address neighborhood concerns before they become larger problems. These teams would focus on traffic safety, youth intervention, lighting concerns, abandoned properties, school zone safety, recreational planning, and neighborhood communication strategies that strengthen trust instead of division.

## **Final Vision**

My vision for District 8 is not built around fear, empty slogans, or unrealistic promises. I believe real public safety is built when families feel stable, informed, respected, and connected to the future of their communities. I support responsible growth, innovation, and economic opportunity. But I also believe growth should protect the people already living here instead of slowly displacing them. Communities should not lose their identity simply because development increases around them. The future of District 8 should be built through prevention focused leadership, community partnership, youth opportunity, transparency, balanced development, and long term investment into the people who already call these neighborhoods home. Because true progress is not measured only by development projects or rising property values. True progress is measured by whether working families can still afford to stay, whether young people feel hopeful about their future, whether communities feel safe, and whether every resident regardless of race, background, or immigration status genuinely feels like they belong in Orange County.

That is the future I believe District 8 deserves.

---

## **Key Sources & Existing Programs**

Orange County Sheriff's Office Youth Programs — [www.ocso.com/youth-opportunities](http://www.ocso.com/youth-opportunities)

OCSO Teen Academy & PAL Programs — [www.ocso.com/ocso-programs](http://www.ocso.com/ocso-programs)

Florida DJJ Prevention Services — [www.djj.state.fl.us/services/prevention-services](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/services/prevention-services)

Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force — [www.orangecountyfl.net](http://www.orangecountyfl.net)

Consumer Product Safety Commission E Scooter Safety Information — [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)