

CHAPTER 45 – CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 45.1.1 Crime Prevention Programs
 - 45.1.2 Crime Prevention Groups
 - 45.1.3 Crime Prevention Input
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- 45.2.1 Community Involvement Function

CHAPTER 45 – CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This Directive relates to crime prevention and community involvement. While these concepts are distinct, they often merge when police services are provided and should be seen as means for strengthening community partnerships when formulating police strategies.

Preventing crime demands an integrated, coordinated agency response. Therefore, for a crime prevention function to meet its goals, it should maintain close ties with other functions that support and make possible the furtherance of the crime prevention effort, particularly by patrol officers in the field. All personnel shall maintain ongoing communications with all community members to evaluate crime trends, areas in need of attention and problem solving.

Community interaction provides the framework for the agency's implementation of action priorities. The department, in concert with the community, will decide which crime types present the greatest problem; where the problems are most severe or where crime prevention activities could be most effective in reducing crime; and the types of responses which would be most effective. The department utilizes the following for effective crime prevention programs:

The department maintains a specialized Crime Prevention Officer whose duties include the development, coordination and implementation of crime prevention training for the campus community which includes students, faculty and staff. Other officers may assist the Crime Prevention Officer with these duties.

- A. Through crime data, it is found that most campus crimes occur in or near the residence halls or common areas frequented by students/staff (gymnasium, dining areas). Therefore, the department's crime prevention activities include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Operation Identification for registering and identifying personal property;
 - 2. On-line registration of computers and bicycles;
 - 3. New Student Orientation sessions during the beginning of each semester;
 - 4. Attendance at Planning and Review Committee meetings to address crime prevention issues in new or existing University facilities;
 - 5. Public speaking engagements and safety presentations by request;
 - 6. Specialized training for female students, faculty, and staff on the concepts of R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) and S.A.F.E (Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange) using University sponsored instructors when and where possible;
 - 7. Other specific enforcement efforts as deemed necessary by the Chief of Police or his/her designee or the Crime Prevention officer.

- B. The Crime Prevention Officer has developed a program to be presented at New Student/Employee Orientation sessions. Within this program, the information discloses that students/employees working at the University are not exempt from criminal incidents and that reports from students/employees will more accurately help SUPD analyze crime data and assess directed patrol actions. This program will also address any community perceptions or misconceptions of crime within the service area.

- C. At least once every three years, the Patrol Commander, in conjunction with the Crime Prevention Officer, may conduct an evaluation of the agency's crime prevention program(s) to assess whether the needs of the community are being addressed.

The department is committed to evaluating and making adjustments to the community policing practices, programs, actions and attitudes that may contribute to community problems, safety issues and other concerns. By recognizing such problems at an early stage, preventive actions can be taken by the department to minimize future problems.

All departmental employees who receive or hear concerns regarding police activities, services, or individual employees are encouraged to forward this information to their supervisor or Division Commander.

The Crime Prevention Officer will be responsible for completing a quarterly crime prevention report and will forward this report via the chain of command to the Chief of Police. The pertinent information contained in this report will be discussed with command staff members. This report will, at a minimum, include the following:

- A. Description of current concerns voiced by the community;
- B. Description of potential problems that have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the community;
- C. Recommended actions that address previously identified concerns and problems; and
- D. A statement of progress made toward addressing previously identified concerns and problems.

Procedures for transmitting relevant information to the Crime Prevention Officer to be incorporated into the quarterly report are as follows:

- A. Any officer who receives information and/or concerns regarding crime prevention/community policing issues on- or off-campus shall submit a memo/email to the Crime Prevention Officer and to officer's Supervisor outlining the information received and the action taken by the officer to address the concern. All officers are tasked with responsibility and discretion to address the service needed and employ creative measures to solve the problem or concern without further assistance.
- B.

The University Police Department may either conduct a survey of citizen attitudes and opinions of the agency, or have the survey conducted by the Office of Student Affairs or Housing and Residence Life. This survey, conducted every three years, may solicit feedback in the following areas:

- A. Overall agency performance;
- B. Overall competence of agency employees;
- C. Citizens' perception of officers' attitudes and behavior;
- D. Community concern over safety and security within the agency's service area; and
- E. Citizen's recommendations and suggestions for improvements.

Surveys may be conducted by mail, in person, electronically or by telephone and may be combined with questions relating to victimization and other issues. A written summary of the survey's results should be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

Edwin Lashley
Chief of Police