

GENERAL ORDER

G.O. 5-451

SUBJECT: CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



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I. PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. Purpose: To set the policy and establish the procedures concerning crime prevention and community relations at the Monroe Police Department.
- B. Responsibility:
 - 1. It will be the responsibility of every officer to be cognizant of and alert to the conditions which allow for criminal activity and to initiate actions to reduce or remove those conditions.
 - 2. It will be the responsibility of personnel assigned to the Detective Division to perform the functions of crime prevention. These functions include encouraging, developing, implementing and maintaining effective proactive programs and procedures which anticipate, recognize and access crime risks and initiate actions to remove or reduce those risks.
 - 3. It will be the responsibility of all Department personnel to contribute to the achievement of the established community relations objectives. This will be accomplished by all personnel conducting themselves personally and professionally in a manner that inspires confidence in and respect for the

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employee and this organization.

4. It will be the responsibility of the Captain to cause the distribution, collection, and analysis of a survey of citizen attitudes pertaining to the response, conduct, and performance of duties by personnel of this Department.

II. DISCUSSION:

- A. This general order deals with the function of the Monroe Police Department to take effective action toward reducing crime in this community. Among the recognized duties of police officers are the protection of life and property. Crime prevention is a responsibility shared by a police agency and the community it serves. While the community has an obligation to take reasonable steps to protect itself and safeguard its property, the police have an obligation to educate the community as to how it may help protect itself from the criminal element of society. The personnel of the Detective Division that are assigned crime prevention duties will interact with the community to encourage, promote and implement programs aimed at reducing crime risks and educating the community concerning the nature and patterns of crime.

This general order also deals with community involvement. This directive establishes formal relationships with the community organizations that exist in this jurisdiction. By establishing links with the community, this Department can learn of issues and respond to them before they become problems. By developing programs that increase the community's understanding of the activities and its role, this Department can increase public confidence, while lessening obstacles to implementing new programs and approaches that could fail for want of public understanding or accurate information.

III. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **CRIME PREVENTION:** The act of stopping crime before it takes place by either causing the criminal to believe there is no opportunity to commit the crime, or by educating the public not to be victims.
- B. **POLICE/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** The relationship between a law enforcement agency and the community it serves, including the various

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component segments of the community. Designed to achieve an understanding of the needs, goals and objectives of each and a desire to assist in meeting such needs, goals and objectives.

- C. PROACTIVE: Actions taken prior to the occurrence of an incident or crime.

IV. POLICY:

- A. It will be the policy of the Monroe Police Department to interact with the community to encourage and implement programs aimed at reducing the incidence of crime in the community.
- B. It will be the policy of the Monroe Police Department that procedures will be maintained, which focus on the anticipation, recognition, and appraisal of conditions conducive to criminal activity and initiate actions to reduce or eliminate those conditions.
- C. It will be the policy of the Monroe Police Department to remain committed to establishing a positive involvement with the community and various community organizations and to respond to their needs in a timely, professional manner.
- D. It will be the policy of the Monroe Police Department to promote and encourage interaction of personnel and the community through membership or participation in the various community organizations and by presentation of programs to the various segments of the community.

V. PROCEDURES:

A. CRIME PREVENTION:

- 1. CRIME PREVENTION FUNCTION: Preventing crime demands an integrated, coordinated Department response. This Department has established priorities based on pertinent data. The data will establish which crime types present the greatest problem; where the problems are most severe or where crime prevention activities could be most productive; and what types of programs would be most effective in combating crime, including the community's perception or misperception

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of crime. This Department's crime prevention function provides for the following:

- a. Targeting programs by crime type and geographic area on the basis of an analysis of local crime data;
- b. Targeting programs to address community perception or misperceptions of crime; and
- c. Evaluating the effectiveness of crime prevention programs. The DD Commander will prepare an evaluation report for the Chief of Police annually concerning the effectiveness of the programs.

2. CRIME PREVENTION REPRESENTATIVES: The Chief of Police, or the command level officer designated by the Chief of Police, shall appoint one or more officers of the Department to act as the crime prevention representatives of this Department. These representatives will implement the crime prevention activities of this Department. The crime prevention representatives will act to coordinate the delivery of crime prevention programs to the community. This Department has a liaison with the Chamber of Commerce and has an officer assigned to the Neighborhood Watch Program.

3. CRIME PREVENTION INPUT: The crime prevention representatives will provide security recommendations upon request to any:

- a. Interested citizen or businessperson who is in the process of constructing a new building or an addition to an existing building;
- b. Governmental agency whose functions relate to the development and/or revision of zoning policies, building codes, fire codes and residential and commercial building permits.

B. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

1. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FUNCTION: Employees of this Department are personally and collectively responsible for developing positive involvement with the community. Actions that can be taken to

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obtain these objectives include:

- a. Establishing a liaison with formal community organizations and other community groups, including but not limited to the Chamber of Commerce, Senior Citizen Center, Rotary, PTA/PTO (parent/teacher groups), professional associations, neighborhood watch groups, etc.;
 - b. Developing community involvement programs that promote public trust by initiating positive non-enforcement activities such as crime prevention programs, bicycle and bus safety programs, DARE programs, police explorer posts, bicycle patrol, internet safety seminars and fulfilling requests for personnel of this Department to address groups;
 - c. Publicizing Department objectives, problems and successes through the various media, including press releases, the annual budget, annual report, community network, etc;
 - d. Conveying information transmitted from citizen organizations through a network to Division Commanders and the Chief of Police;
 - e. Improving agency practices bearing on community involvement by monitoring and reviewing citizen comments;
 - f. Identifying training needs through interviews with citizen representatives, consultations with those involved in internal investigations, conferences with supervisors, etc;
 - g. Establishing community groups where these groups do not exist, such as neighborhood watch groups and assisting in the development of committees within various organizations.
2. **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REPORT:** The DD Commander will submit monthly reports to the Chief of Police the following:
- a. A description of current concerns voiced by the community;

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- b. A description of potential problems that have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the community; and
 - c. A statement of recommended actions that address previously identified concerns and problems; and
 - d. A statement of progress made toward addressing previously identified concerns and problems.
3. **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REPORT INFORMATION:** All Department personnel are directed to transmit relevant information concerning community concerns and problems to the DD Commander for inclusion in the Community Involvement Report to the Chief. This will reduce the likelihood of misinterpretation by the DD Commander preparing the report and ensures that information being gathered by Department personnel is incorporated into the decision-making process.
4. **CITIZEN SURVEYS:** The Captain will, once every three years, cause the distribution, collection, and analysis of a survey of citizen attitudes addressing the following:
 - a. Overall Department performance;
 - b. Overall competence of Department personnel;
 - c. Officers' attitudes and behavior toward citizens;
 - d. Concern over safety and security within this jurisdiction as a whole;
 - e. Recommendations or suggestions for improvements.