

**CITY OF FERGUSON
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

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CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY POLICING

220.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish policy and procedure for the Ferguson Police Department crime prevention and community policing programs. The Crime Prevention and Community Policing functions are under the direct control of the Bureau of Administration.

220.01 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ferguson Police Department to maintain a pro-active approach to the prevention and suppression of crime and to establish a variety of community relations programs that are offered specifically to the citizens of Ferguson. While crime prevention and community involvement are the responsibility of all members of the department, the Community Relations Officer (Crime Prevention Officer) will have a primary responsibility of implementing and managing crime prevention and community involvement programs.

220.02 COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Community Relations Officer will work closely with data entry in conducting crime analysis to determine crime patterns and trends by time, day, location, type of crimes, known perpetrators, and other relevant data useful in direction patrols and developing programs. In part, this analysis will be used to:

- A. Report monthly crime analysis to the Chief of Police, Bureau Commanders and specific police department components as necessary.
- B. If requested and with the approval of the Chief of Police, make available crime trend

GENERAL ORDER 220.00

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information to local government officials, for consideration in local planning and development issues, ordinances proposals, or budgetary planning.

- C. Develop programs to educate and empower the citizens and business owners of the community to maintain the safety of Ferguson.
- D. Provide the community with factual information about crime so as to correct perceptions and misperceptions about crime in our community.
- E. Periodically evaluate programs for effectiveness or continued need, and make adjustments or develop new programs accordingly.
- F. Development and Management of Crime Prevention Programs and other programs including presenting material at meetings to keep senior citizens alert and involved in crime prevention.

220.03 COMMUNITY RELATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

Positive community relations are the daily responsibility of all members of the department, commissioned and non-commissioned alike. The department is charged with constantly improving our practices as they relate to community involvement. The Community Relations Officer will coordinate formal community relations programs and activities to include:

- A. Coordinating with all components of the police department and establishing community groups wherever and whenever the need is identified;
- B. Write and edit press releases, announcements to publicize the objectives, problems, and success of the department's community involvement efforts;
- C. Report to the command staff for action on all feedback, comments, suggestions, or other information from citizens, media and organizations.

220.04 CRIME PREVENTION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- A. ***Neighborhood Watch Program*** - The Neighborhood Watch Program is composed of citizens interested in decreasing crimes that occur in residential neighborhoods. The Program is started by volunteer block captains recruiting interested neighborhood residents to attend a training meeting conducted by the Community Relations Officer. The residents will then be trained to protect their property and themselves by securing their homes, identifying their personal property, and maintaining a trained watch in their neighborhoods to report all suspicious activity to their police department immediately. Update meetings are held periodically to include new residents and review reported incidents in their neighborhood. The Community Relations Officer will coordinate Neighborhood Watch Captains and represent the department at neighborhood watch meetings.

B. **School Resource Officer (SRO)** - Full time police officer(s) are assigned as a liaison between the School District and the Police Department. The main responsibility of the SRO is to work with faculty, staff and students to provide a safe learning environment. Duties of the School Resource Officer(s) also include teaching safety and drug awareness classes, monitoring student activities, counseling, and assisting school staff with law enforcement related problems. The SRO(s) will investigate any reported crime or incident involving a student occurring on campus and request any additional services needed during the investigation.

C. **DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)** - D.A.R.E. is a cooperative program between local schools and the police department in which a specially trained police officer teaches children. More than just a drug program, D.A.R.E. uses innovative approaches in teaching life coping skills such as decision making, self-esteem and resistance techniques to help children deal with the daily pressures that they face.

D. **Citizen Police Academy** - The Community Relations Officer will coordinate and present instruction during Citizen Police Academy sessions, which are scheduled as demand requires. For additional information on Citizen Police Academy see *G.O. 226.00 Law Enforcement Specialized Units*.

E. **Vacation Watch** - Citizens are encouraged to notify the Police Department when they will be out of town and their residences are left unattended. A short form is filled out and the home is checked to ensure security.

F. **Crime Free Multi-Housing** - This program is aimed at reducing crime in apartment complexes. The program benefits Apartment and Condominium residents by providing programs concerning personal safety and how to make their apartment-condominium secure. The Community Relations Officer initiates the training of managers of Apartments and Condominiums of the **Crime Free Multi-Housing Program**. The program was designed to help tenants, owners and the managers of rental property keep drugs and other illegal activity off their property.

220.05 COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER – SPECIALIZED TRAINING

The Commander of the Division of Operational Support is responsible for insuring that the Community Relations Officer receives the training needed to perform the duties of that position, including training in the area of police media relations. The Community Relations Officer will then be available to provide guidance to commanders, supervisors and officers regarding the wording of press releases and media interviews.

220.06 COMMUNITY POLICING PHILOSOPHY

A. All employees assigned to the Ferguson Police Department are involved in the Community Policing Philosophy. All officers are expected to address both criminal and non-criminal matters affecting the citizens of the City of Ferguson.

- B. The Community Policing concept is to provide a means of coordinating and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of police services in an established area. Effective communication and cooperation between the patrol officers, the Crime Prevention Officer (Community Relations Officer) and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation will greatly enhance the success of this team approach to solving community problems.
- C. Simply stated, Community Policing is a philosophy that says interacting with, and working as full partners with the community to reduce crime and improve the quality of life makes better sense than ignoring people's needs, interests, and input.

220.07 PATROL OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO COMMUNITY POLICING

- A. Seek to improve professional policing by using a proactive approach which involves an analytic effort. Problem oriented policing makes the assumption that many crimes are fostered by persistent problems in the community.
- B. Be familiar with Neighborhood Watch Coordinators and make regular contacts with them to address issues related to individual neighborhoods.
- C. Patrol officers, when not on radio assignments, shall create an effective working partnership between the community and the police.
- D. Where feasible, foot or bicycle patrols are established to increase interaction between the police and neighborhood residents and to enhance the citizen's sense of access to the Department.
- E. Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings and other neighborhood meetings, when possible.
- F. Report crime patterns that can be addressed through the use of additional Department resources or special enforcement activities to the watch commander.
- G. Traffic enforcement initiatives:
 1. Monthly traffic enforcement sites;
 2. Identify new sites from citizens' complaints, high accident locations, and hazardous driving locations.
- H. Ensure homes are checked when listed on the "Vacation (House) Watch" list.
- I. Identify and notify owners of open garage doors and other security concerns discovered during the midnight shift.

J. Distribute crime prevention literature to crime victims (i.e., Home Safety, Domestic Violence, Neighborhood Watch, Identity Theft, etc.).

220.08 CRIME PREVENTION RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Establish and maintain Neighborhood Watch Programs in various neighborhoods throughout the community.
- B. Identify and update a list of Neighborhood Watch Coordinators.
- C. Discuss with watch commanders and patrol officers issues and concerns of various neighborhood groups.
- D. Identify and report to watch commander's crime patterns that require additional Department resources or special enforcement activities to be properly addressed. Assist with developing an enforcement strategy.
- E. Assist in analyzing areas to deploy the mobile radar trailer.
- F. Coordinate Crime Prevention Presentations/Resource Exhibits such as:
 - 1. Personal Safety;
 - 2. Elder Adult Safety;
 - 3. Domestic Violence;
 - 4. Child Safety;
 - 5. Home/Business security surveys.

By order of:



Distribution
All Department Personnel

COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON
Chief of Police

MPCCF Reference 24.1, 24.2, 31.5