



## Crime Prevention

### .01 Policy

It is the policy of the Bladensburg Police Department to develop and perpetuate a firm commitment to proactive community crime prevention programs. The Department seeks to maintain close ties with and respond to the needs of the community in a courteous and professional manner. The Department strives to be an active partner with the community.

### .02 Terms

**Hot Spot:** Defined as small places in which the occurrence of crime is so frequent that it is highly predictable, at least over a 1-year period. Generally, the hot spot concept is applied to street crime rather than white-collar crime, organized crime, or terrorist crime.

### .03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation: N/A

Forms: N/A

### .04 Procedure

#### A. Community Services Unit

The Department's Community Services Unit has fundamental responsibilities related to crime prevention and community relations. However, every department member is responsible for conscientious efforts in crime prevention activities and community relations when in contact with the public.

The Community Services Unit will maintain close association with all organizational components to achieve a comprehensive and unified effort in crime prevention. Such an association includes coordinating specialized enforcement efforts and crime prevention programs.

#### B. Responsibilities

The Community Services Unit has specific responsibilities to achieve its goal of crime prevention. These responsibilities of the crime prevention function include:

- Target and establish programs by crime type, and geographic area (hot spots) on the basis of an analysis of local crime data;

- Target and develop programs designed to address community perceptions or misperceptions of crime to better educate the public of crime and its effects on the community;
- Conduct a documented evaluation of the effectiveness of the department's crime prevention efforts at least once every year;
- Organize crime prevention groups in residential and business areas targeted for such activities and maintain liaison with interested groups;
- Distribution of pamphlets, fliers, and newsletters on concerns of public and private safety; and,
- Maintain close liaison with interested community groups and attempting to incorporate the interest of those in the community in planning new programs.

The planning functions of the Community Services Unit should include:

- Business community;
- Local citizen's organizations;
- Local civic associations;
- Private security companies;
- Statewide agencies; and,
- The public in general.

#### C. Crime Prevention Programs

To achieve its goals, the Community Services Unit provides a variety of crime prevention programs designed to inform and educate the public on the impact of crime and how it can be prevented.

Crime Prevention Programs include, but are not limited to:

- Neighborhood Watch;
- Residential and Commercial security surveys;
- Operation Identification;
- Senior Safety;

## Crime Prevention

- Sexual Assault Prevention;
- Narcotic Awareness;
- Business Employee training in alarm response, retail theft prevention, and embezzlement;
- Bicycle Safety programs;
- Child Abuse Awareness; and,
- Gang / Bullying Awareness.

### D. Neighborhood Watch

One of the ongoing crime prevention programs conducted by the Community Services Unit is the Neighborhood Watch Program. The purpose of this program is to organize various neighborhood residents into a coordinated association designed to enhance the resident's awareness of local crime and boost their efforts to suppress criminal activity.

The Community Services Unit assists in organizing Neighborhood Watch groups in targeted areas based on analysis of crime data and upon request.

### E. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

The Community Services Unit actively seeks to provide input and guidance towards the reduction of crime and the fear of crime by recommending environmental changes to improve visibility, lighting, access control, landscaping, and site form and arrangement.

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HISTORY: Adopted April 1, 2014

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:



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