



FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2018 COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT

PRINCIPLE 1

Crime Prevention is the responsibility of the total community

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office believes that crime prevention efforts should involve a wide variety of community members and activities, in addition to agency efforts. We have relationships with individuals, agencies, community organizations, municipal governments, members of the faith community, and others. In addition, we have procedures in place where community members can submit complaints, crime concerns, and criminal activity tips in a variety of formats, including anonymously.

PRINCIPLE 2

The police and community share ownership, responsibility, and accountability for the prevention of crime.

The Sheriff's Office is held accountable by the community in several ways. As an elected official, the Sheriff is accountable to the citizens of the county through the election process. The Office also accepts ownership, and exercises transparency - publishing crime statistics and communicating with the community through traditional media, social media, and personal talks, appearances, and discussions. The agency, partnering with a volunteer chaplain and a local clergy person, participates in a program promoting safety and security planning in houses of worship that was featured in a presentation at the 2018 IACP conference.

Organizations we collaborate with include:

Frederick County Health Dept.

Municipal governments

Frederick County Public Schools

Frederick County Dept. of Fire and Rescue

Child Advocacy Center

Child Protective Services

Business Watch Groups

Neighborhood Watch Groups

Mobile Crisis Counseling

Sheriff's Office Citizen's Advisory Committee

Heartly House

Community Action Agency

Frederick County Public Library

Optimist Club

Frederick County Parks and Recreation

Houses of Worship

PRINCIPLE 3

Police effectiveness is a function of crime control, crime prevention, problem solving, community satisfaction, quality of life, and community engagement.

The Sheriff's Office takes pride in our efforts to maintain the high quality of life in Frederick County. These efforts involve a range of activities including traditional policing and enforcement, crime prevention education programs, problem solving discussions and efforts, and community engagement and involvement. The Sheriff's Office supplements its traditional policing efforts with meetings with other stakeholders like businesses, MD State agencies, and judges, to solve problems.

The county has a mechanism in place to solicit community comments, complaints, and suggestions on the county website, which helps to track problems and assess community satisfaction. In addition, the Sheriff and other Command Staff attend meetings of community organizations and host "town hall" style meetings around the county. Other efforts at community engagement include a highly respected School Resource Officer program, a Junior Deputy Academy, National Night Out, a Citizen's Advisory Committee, and increased use of social media.

The Sheriff's Office is also engaged with three small municipalities in a unique manner. The Office contracts with the municipalities to provide Community Deputies. These deputies are assigned long-term to their communities and get to know the residents, business owners, and unique problems of each town. Because of the close relationship, they are also able to work with town officials to problem solve issues that are outside the realm of traditional law enforcement. They also utilize the town's communication systems (email and newsletters) to communicate about crime trends and safety issues. The Community Deputies engage with community members in a variety of ways, including presentations at schools (Read Across America, career days, classroom presentations), civic organizations, and town meetings.

The Community Deputies cooperate with the towns to reduce the availability of unwanted medications by managing a Drug Drop Box Program. Citizens can place unwanted medications in secure storage boxes which the deputies empty, and then ensure the safe disposal of the drugs. This program properly diverts hundreds of pounds of drugs that might end up being used illicitly, and is a cooperative venture with the towns, Sheriff's Office, Health Department, and Ft. Detrick.

PRINCIPLE 4

Mutual trust between the police and community is essential for effective policing.

We recognize that mutual trust is essential, and that good performance is one key way to maintain that trust. Deputies are held to a high standard in their routine duties. In addition, mutual trust is enhanced by openness and transparency fostered by attendance and representation at community events, involvement with local media and social media, communication with Neighborhood and Business Watch groups, and by prompt response to crime trends or complaints.

Complaints or crime tips that come in through official or unofficial channels are quickly passed on to whatever unit is appropriate to handle them, and supervisors and commanders follow up to check progress.

The Sheriff's Office fosters mutual trust through geographic based patrol assignments. Deputies are generally assigned consistently to the same patrol area so they can be familiar with the people, businesses, and problems in that area, and so that the residents and business owners may get familiar with the deputies.

Additionally, deputies interact with citizens in a variety of non-enforcement roles and interactive patrols where people can meet and observe the deputies in other professional settings, such as walking and bike patrols, parades, funeral escorts, carnivals, open houses, and other community events. These interactions help to foster familiarity and trust, as citizens get to know deputies in non-threatening circumstances.

PRINCIPLE 5

Crime prevention must be a flexible, long term strategy in which the police and community collectively commit to solving the complex and chronic causes of crime.

Frederick County is fortunate to have an excellent quality of life. We recognize that it takes the efforts of law enforcement, and other governmental and community organizations, to maintain that. Supervisors are given the flexibility to adjust how they deploy their personnel on short notice to address problems.

The Sheriff's Office is engaged with a variety of stakeholders on a long term basis to address problems of crime, addiction, and mental health issues. We work with the Health Department, Way Station, and Mobile Crisis to address problems that are not solved by traditional law enforcement alone. We are initiating a program, working with other county entities and the Health Dept., to turn a vacant corrections facility into an addiction treatment facility.

PRINCIPLE 6

Community policing requires the knowledge, access, and mobilization of community resources.

Sheriff's Office personnel are familiar with organizations already mentioned that provide community services related to homelessness, mental health problems, and addiction, and are encouraged to make use of them for problems that are not solved by traditional law enforcement alone. Community care providers attend roll call and other meetings or training sessions to keep deputies informed of their capabilities and resources. We are fortunate to have a printed guide to community resources and access to a constantly staffed call center that provides referrals to other community resources.

Deputies also work with county and municipal entities such as permitting, zoning, licensing, and highway engineering, to solve problems that are outside the realm of traditional enforcement.

PRINCIPLE 7

Community Policing can only succeed when top management, police, and government officials enthusiastically support its principles and tenets.

The Sheriff's Office has for many years had a "Community Policing Manual", and community policing concepts are addressed in the agency general orders. Support from many levels of governmental officials is evident in the continued support from Sheriff's Office, county, and municipal officials for the Community Deputy Unit, and other efforts by personnel in other sections of the agency.

PRINCIPLE 8

Community Policing depends on de-centralized, community based participation in decision making.

Front line supervisors are empowered to assign personnel as needed on short notice to address specific problems identified by crime analysis, deputy's knowledge of crime in their areas, or community complaints and observations.

The Sheriff's Office has a volunteer Sheriff's Advisory Committee that meets regularly to provide input and advice from community members.

Deputies who are assigned to the three municipalities as Community Deputies are experienced deputies who are empowered and trusted to work with residents and municipal leaders to collaborate on problem solving.

PRINCIPLE 9

Community Policing allocates resources and services based on analysis, identification, and projection of patterns and trends, rather than incidents.

The Sheriff's Office uses a variety of means to decide how personnel and efforts are allocated. A Crime Analyst tracks criminal activity, reports on patterns and trends, and makes recommendations for personnel assignment and enforcement efforts based on trends and predictions. This encourages a data driven approach. Hot Spots are identified and targeted. Personnel from several units respond to these identified problems to bring a variety of skills and abilities for the solution. This includes patrol personnel, criminal and narcotics investigators, traffic enforcement specialists, and a PACE unit which has a great deal of flexibility and specialized ability to address problems in ways outside the realm of traditional uniformed enforcement.

PRINCIPLE 10

Community Policing requires an investment in training with special attention to problem analysis and problem solving, facilitation, community organization and communication, mediation and conflict resolution, resource identification and use, networking and linkages, and cross cultural competency.

Sheriff's Office training meets or exceeds state standards. In-Service and roll call training includes topics outside the traditional realm of law enforcement, including dealing with mental health issues, persons with disabilities, networking with and using community resources outside law enforcement, and de-escalation. Reality based scenario training encourages problem analysis and problem solving.

Over 30 deputies have attended Crisis Intervention Training, and several have attended MCCPI Crime Prevention classes. New policies and training have been implemented related to gender diversity and understanding.

Sheriff's office personnel have interacted with dozens of community stakeholders like businesses and houses of worship to conduct training in Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events, and Safeguarding Houses of Worship.

Community organization and communication efforts include the efforts of the Community Deputies, Neighborhood Watch, and Business Watch.