

CRAIG POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of Chief of Police
General Order

Date Issued: January 15, 1997

Revision Date: February 16, 2001

Subject: Objectives

Reference:

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

I. POLICY:

- A. The mission of the Craig Police Department is to commit its resources in partnership with the community to:
- ◆ Promote a safe and secure environment, free of crime and the fear of crime,
 - ◆ Maintain order and provide for the safe and expeditious flow of traffic,
 - ◆ Practice our core values of integrity, respect, service, and equality.
- B. Primary Objective – A society free from crime and disorder remains an unachieved ideal; nevertheless, consistent with the values of a free society, it is the primary objective of the Craig Police Department to as closely as possible approach that ideal. In so doing, the department's role is to enforce the law in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing both the statutory and judicial limitations of police authority and the constitutional rights of all persons. It is not the role of the department to legislate, to render legal judgments, or to punish.

II. FUNCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- A. Prevention Of Crime - Peace in a free society depends on voluntary compliance with the law. The primary responsibility for upholding the law therefore lies not with the police, but with the people. Since crime is a social phenomenon, crime prevention is the concern of every person living in society. Society employs full-time professional police to prevent crime, to deter it, and when that fails, to apprehend those who violate the law.

Crime is a symptom of ills within society that are not the responsibility of the department to cure. The department is responsible, through a policing philosophy that promotes community, government and police partnerships, proactive problem-solving and community engagement to address the causes of crime, fear of crime and other community issues. Through these alliances we will identify public safety problems affecting the quality of life in the community, develop strategies to address

those problems, and take the responsibility to implement solutions using all available resources

Community involvement is essential to facilitate a free flow of information between the public and the department to assist in the identification of problem areas and to inform the public of crime statistics and trends. Additionally, knowledge of the community is necessary so that each department employee may be instilled with a sense of concern for the crime problems and law enforcement needs in their assigned area of responsibility.

- B. Deterrence Of Crime - While there are certain crimes that cannot be deterred, crimes committed against property and against innocent victims in public places are reduced by police patrol. Street crime is curbed by the potential criminal's fear of immediate apprehension or by the increased likelihood of detection. The deterrence of crime requires the investigation of behavior, which reasonably appears to be criminally directed.

In deploying patrol forces to deter crime and to inspire public confidence in its ability to ensure a peaceful environment, the department must strike a balance between the desirable deterrent effect of visible patrol and any undesirable appearance of oppression. In the long run, however, it must be the people, not the department, who determine the limitations on their freedom.

- C. Apprehension Of Offenders - The administration of criminal justice consists of the identification, arrest, prosecution, punishment, and rehabilitation of a law violator, and it has as its objective the voluntary compliance with the law as an alternative to punishment. Once a crime has been committed, it is the duty of the department to initiate the criminal justice process by identifying and arresting the perpetrator, to obtain necessary evidence, and to cooperate in the prosecution of the case. The department must diligently strive to solve all crimes and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

- D. Recovery And Return Of Property - The actual costs of crime are difficult to measure; there cannot be a dollar value assigned to the broken bodies, ruined lives, and human misery which are its products. However, it is possible to observe the steadily mounting cost of lost and stolen property. To minimize the losses due to crime, the department makes every reasonable effort to recover lost or stolen property, to identify its owners, and to ensure its prompt return.

- E. Movement Of Traffic - To facilitate the safe and expeditious movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, the department must enforce traffic laws; investigate traffic accidents, and direct traffic. To enforce compliance with traffic laws and to develop driver awareness of the causes of traffic accidents, the department appropriately warns, cites, or arrests traffic law violators. Traffic accidents are investigated to protect the rights of the involved parties, to care for the injured, to determine the causes of accidents so that methods of prevention may be developed, and when a

traffic law violation is discovered, to gather necessary evidence to prosecute the violator. The department maintains intersectional control where necessary to direct vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to provide information to the public in assisting them to arrive at their destination safely and expeditiously.

- F. Public Service - Often, because there are no other public or private agencies available, the public relies upon the department for assistance and advice in many routine and emergency situations that develop. For this reason and because there is frequently a potential for a crime, the department regularly responds to incidents where it is not contemplated that an arrest will be made.

Saving lives and aiding the injured, locating lost persons, keeping the peace, and providing for many other miscellaneous needs are basic services provided by the department. To satisfy these requests, the department responds to calls for service and renders such aid or advice as is necessitated or indicated by the situation.

III RESOURCE OBJECTIVES

- A. Department Personnel - Police officers are frequently required to make decisions affecting human life and liberty in difficult situations where there is no opportunity to seek advice and little time for reflection. Law enforcement in a free and complex society requires an officer to have stamina, intelligence, moral courage, and emotional stability necessary to fairly and impartially deal with human beings in the many complicated and potentially explosive situations that he encounters. To obtain the caliber of personnel necessary to provide the public with professional law enforcement, it is essential that the department participates in the recruitment and selection of potential officers. Thereafter, the department must provide training for all officers and promote the most qualified.
- B. Utilization Of Resources - Law enforcement is one of the most expensive and complex services provided by the city. The quality and extent of service provided are necessarily limited by available resources, which are to a large extent dependent upon the revenue sources of the city. To ensure that the highest level of service is obtained from the resources at its disposal, the department must make use of the most efficient management and budgeting techniques available.

Approved by:

Date:

Walter K. Vanatta
Chief of Police