

5.03
CRAIG POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of Chief of Police
General Order

Date Issued: January 15, 1997

Revision Date: September 21, 2006

Subject: Community Policing & Involvement

Reference: CACP STD 140.1

To: All Personnel

I. POLICY:

The Craig Police Department is committed to an organization-wide philosophy and management approach that promotes Community Policing. The development of community, government and police partnerships leads to pro-active problem solving. This community involvement includes responding to the needs of and establishing a close working relationship with the community to develop partnerships that address the causes of crime, fear of crime and other community quality of life issues. Community policing requires compassion as well as ethics.

II. PROCEDURE:

A. The principles of modern policing originated with Sir Robert Peel in 1829. These principles are the basis for today's Community Policing, and guide the actions of department personnel.

1. The basic mission for which police exist is to prevent crime and disorder.
2. The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions.
3. Police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the law.
4. The test of police efficiency and effectiveness is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it.
5. The need for uncompromising integrity, service, respect and unwavering equality in application of police services.

B. Partnerships, Problem –Solving and Organizational Changes are Core Components of Community Policing.

C. Several inter-related principles must be applied to accomplish the Community Policing Philosophy. The department, and all its personnel, must actively promote the principles of:

1. Being Service orientated.
2. Having a Client/Customer focus.
3. Recognize a shared duty to prevent and solve problems.
4. Actively seek community involvement.
5. Empower the community and local government.
6. Be results-oriented.
7. Decentralize decision making as much as possible.

D. Problem Solving is a continuous process of looking at crime and disorder problems. This involves viewing the “crime triangle” with a holistic approach.

1. The Crime Triangle consists of the victim, suspect and location.
2. Affective problem solving focuses on all three, not just the suspect.
3. If you remove at least one of these factors, a crime cannot occur.

Problem solving is a process for analyzing a problem from several perspectives in order to seek the most thoughtful approaches possible, which should also be the methods most likely to succeed.

E. In most cases the department will utilize the S.A.R.A. (Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment) Model of problem solving. This will assist in documenting both successes and failures.

1. Scanning is used to identify and define a problem before moving to take action.

2. Analysis is used to understand the underlying conditions that create the problem by learning everything possible about the players, incidents, and history relating to the problem.

3. Response is used to develop a custom-made response based on the analysis of the problem.

4. Assessment, the final step, is to measure the impact of the response on the problem, and determine what future actions may be needed.

The department's goal is to have a positive impact on problems, thereby improving the quality of life in our community. This can be accomplished in five different manners.

- a. Eliminate the problem.
- b. Reduce the harm from the problem.
- c. Reduce the number of incidents.
- d. Improve the handling of the problem.
- e. Refer the problem to the proper authority.

All employee's are expected to pursue problem resolution to the fullest extent possible, and follow-up on the action taken to assure the problem has been resolved in one of the above manners. This follow-up includes communicating with the citizen(s) involved so that they are aware of the resolution and action taken.

Creative problem solving involves taking some risks. As a result, we will have some failures. Failure, with good intentions, is acceptable. However, they must be recorded and shared to be used as a learning experience. The same mistake should not be made twice.

F. Community relations' programs and activities serve as a supplement to the Community Policing philosophy.

1. The division commanders or their designees coordinate the specific crime prevention, community education, crime resistance and community relations' activities of the department. However, all employees are encouraged to suggest ideas for improvement of, or addition to, existing programs.

G. The department Community Relations activities will include:

1. Establishing liaison with formal community organizations and other community groups, and establishing community groups where appropriate.
2. Publishing department objectives, problems, and successes related to community relations.
3. Conveying information transmitted from citizen's organizations to the department.
4. Improving department practices bearing on police community relations.

5. Identifying related training needs through citizen interaction, consulting with internal investigations, and conferring with officers and supervisors.

H. Community relations - a shared responsibility.

1. The Craig Police Department is committed to responding to the needs of and establishing a close working relationship with the community as a Department-wide philosophy, not just a specific program.

2. All employees share responsibility for achieving community involvement and community relation's objectives, and play a vital role in the overall community relationship with the department. The success of community strategies and tactics depend on all police employees working in partnership with the community.

3. All employees of the department are responsible for maintaining favorable community relations.

4. The department may assign specific personnel who will have primary responsibility for community relations programming.

5. The division commanders have overall responsibility for community involvement programs.

6. Community relations reporting.

a. On an as needed basis the division commanders, or their designees, will keep the chief advised of any current concerns being voiced by the community, including:

i. A description of any potential community/law enforcement problems within the community.

ii. Any recommended actions that address these concerns and problems.

iii. The progress made towards resolving previously identified concerns and problems.

Authorized By:

Walter K. Vanatta
Chief of Police