

PORT HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURAL ORDER

			ORDER NO: 45-04
SUBJECT: Community Oriented Policing			
EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/01/2011	DISTRIBUTION: A	REVIEWED: REVISIED:	Annual
REQUIREMENTS:			
ISSUED BY: Chief Joseph A. Platzer		FORMS: None	

I. PURPOSE

One of the primary missions of the Port Huron Police Department is to respond to community needs through a combined strategy of preventative, proactive, and reactive policing programs. Community Oriented Policing is an effective tool that can be used to support these strategies.

We are dedicated to improving the quality of life for our residents and pursuing the highest professional standards for our organization through the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing. Our agency will strive to develop strong relationships with our residents in order to foster greater cooperation. Our strong relationships will better enable us to prevent and fight crime by combining our diverse backgrounds, resources, ideas, skills, and styles to achieve common goals.

II. COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING - DEFINED

Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

II. POLICY

- A. The Port Huron Police Department will promote and support the philosophies of Community Oriented Policing. C.O.P will be part of the Port Huron Police Department's combined policing strategies.
- B. The Port Huron Police Department will align organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving.
- C. This agency will strive to obtain collaborative partnerships with individuals and

organizations we serve in order to develop solutions and increase public trust.

- D. The climate and culture of our agency will support Community Oriented Policing. Port Huron Police Department sworn and non-sworn personnel will support C.O.P. philosophies.
- E. Decision making, policy making, and/or strategic planning processes of this agency will align with C.O.P. practices and philosophies when applicable.
- F. Recruitment and selection of PHPD personnel will be completed with Community Oriented Policing practices/philosophies in mind.
- G. This agency will develop and practice performance standards and personnel evaluation methods that take into account practices of community policing philosophies by personnel. Performance, reward, and promotional structures should support sound problem-solving activities, proactive policing, and community satisfactions with police services.
- H. The Port Huron Police Department will enhance its accountability to residents and business owners by assigning specific officers and supervisors to defined “community policing zones.”

III. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community policing recognizes that the police rarely can solve the crime problem alone and encourages interactive partnerships with relevant stakeholders. The range of potential partners is large and these partnerships can be used to accomplish the two interrelated goals of developing solutions to problems through collaborative problem solving and improving public trust. Along with the police, the public should play a role in prioritizing public safety problems.

- A. Governmental partnerships that should be developed and/or maintained include the following:
 - St. Clair County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
 - St. Clair County Sheriff’s Office
 - Michigan State Police
 - St. Clair County Parole and Probation Departments
 - Port Huron Department of Public Works and Inspections Department
 - St. Clair County Department of Human Services
 - St. Clair County Friend of Court
 - City of Port Huron Code Enforcement Office

- B. Community partnerships that should be developed and/or maintained include the following:
- Port Huron Police Department Volunteers (V.I.P.S.)
 - Other volunteer groups
 - Formal and informal community leaders
 - Neighborhood Watch groups
 - Non-profit groups and/or service providers such as Safe Horizons, St. Clair County Child Abuse- Neglect Council, support groups, issue groups, and the church/faith community.
 - Local businesses
 - Local news and radio media

IV. GEOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICERS

- A. Community policing zones enhance customer service and facilitate more contact between police and citizens, thus establishing a strong relationship and mutual accountability.
- B. 18 “Community Policing Zones” are defined within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Port Huron. The zones are defined on a color coded map. A copy of the map is posted at various locations throughout the department and is on the Lt/Sgt. shared computer network drive.
- C. The community policing zones as well as the officer points of contact will also be available on the police department's website at www.porthuronpolice.org.
- D. There will typically be one or more Port Huron Police officers assigned to each community policing zone. Additional officers may be assigned to certain zones based on crime rates and/or special community needs. It is preferable that officers from different shifts be assigned to a zone.
- E. The assigned zone officer(s) will be responsible for citizen contacts and business contacts within their respective zone on a regular basis. The assigned zone officer(s) will also be responsible for monitoring crime activity, citizen complaints, and problems within their respective zones. Multiple zones will be monitored and officer activity for multiple zones will be supervised by an assigned sergeant and/or lieutenant from the road patrol division.
- F. Officers and supervisors will be encouraged and/or required to attend Neighborhood Watch meetings that are occurring within their respective zone(s).

- G. Port Huron Police Department supervisors will monitor crime activities, citizen complaints, and officer activities in multiple zones.
- H. Officers may be required to document citizen contacts within their zone for monitoring and statistical purposes.
- I. Zone assignments will be at the direction of the Chief of Police or designee.

V. PROBLEM SOLVING

Community Oriented Policing emphasizes proactive problem solving in a systematic and routine fashion. Rather than responding to crime reactively, community policing encourages agencies to proactively develop solutions to the immediate underlying conditions that are contributing to the problem. C.O.P. utilizes the “SARA” (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment) for problem solving.

- A. Scanning – Identify the problem, determine the nature of the problem, determine the scope and seriousness of the problem, and establish baseline measures.
- B. Analysis – Develop an understanding of the limits of current responses, establish correlation, and develop an understanding of cause and effect.
- C. Response – Develop and implement strategies to address an identified problem by searching for strategic responses that are both broad and uninhibited. The goals of the response can range from totally eliminating the problem, substantially reducing the problem, reducing the amount of harm caused by the problem or improving the quality of community cohesion.
- D. Assessment – Attempt to determine if the response strategies were successful by determining if the problem declined and if the response contributed to the decline. This information not only assists the current effort but also gathers data that build knowledge for the future. Strategies and programs can be assessed for process, outcomes, or both.

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