
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS POLICE

GENERAL ORDER

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SUBJECT: Community Relations and Crime Prevention

REFERENCE: CALEA Ch.45

CROSS REFERENCE:

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I. PURPOSE

- A. To continue Departmental efforts in improving relations between the Police Department and the citizens of the Unified Government Jurisdiction.
- B. The Department is committed to correcting actions, practices and attitudes that may contribute to community tension and grievance.
- C. The maintenance and improvement of community relations is the responsibility of all Department personnel.
- D. The Community Policing Unit is the unit primarily responsible for developing and coordinating the Department's community relations function.

II. OBJECTIVES

- A. To coordinate and improve rapport and good relationships between the police and the public.
- B. To serve as a conduit for the public to the Police Department.
- C. To respond to questions put forth by the public and to offer informative presentations to the public concerning police services.
- D. To assist the Police Department and public in resolving community problems.
- E. To explain and interpret to the public, police-community programs as designated by the Chief of Police. To discuss and explain overall Department objectives, problems, and successes in the community.
- F. To represent the Department in presentations to schools, community groups, civic organizations, club, etc.
- G. To establish neighborhood watch groups and other community groups throughout the city.
- H. To keep the public informed of the goals of the Department and the successes of their programs.
- I. To inform the public of the steps being taken to solve departmental problems.

III. COMMUNITY POLICING FUNCTIONS

- A. Maintain contacts with group and civic leaders for the purpose of remaining abreast of problem areas regarding police-community relations.
- B. Research and analyze ideas and concepts relative to strengthening ties between the Police Department and the community it serves.
- C. Continually reevaluate existing Department programs for crime prevention and awareness and provide for their upgrading and enhancement when necessary.
- D. Maintain constant lines of communications with other law enforcement entities and responsive community organizations for feedback concerning enrichment of police-community relations.
- E. Responsible for conducting hospitality programs and visitation tours requested by outside organizations or school groups. Of primary importance will be the maintenance of the safety of visiting groups and security of specific Department operations. Any tours will receive prior approval of the affected bureau director or his/her designee.
- F. Will coordinate efforts with the Training Academy in devising police-community training sessions for Police Department personnel and other individuals when appropriate.
- G. The Unit will maintain current files regarding the aspects of police-community relations, and will likewise process all correspondence relative to that field. All personnel assigned to the Unit will be knowledgeable and versed in the aspects of police-community relations.
- H. Establish neighborhood watch groups and/or other community groups where such groups do not exist.
- I. Publicize programs that involve the community and request community input. These programs should help address the public's perceptions and misperceptions of area crime.
- J. Maintain a list of interpreter vendors. The Kansas City, Kansas Police Department does not endorse any particular vendor on the list.
- K. Coordinate efforts with the crime analysis function to ascertain crime types by geographic location. This will allow personnel to focus their presentations on crime prevention information specific to the affected area.
- L. Make "traffic safety and crime prevention" educational materials readily available to the public. The dissemination of materials helps support enforcement's efforts and enhances public understanding of these programs.
- M. Provide crime prevention input to the community and officials for public meetings that address zoning issues, and residential/commercial building permits.

- N. Include the enforcement of codes violations and work cooperatively with Codes Enforcement personnel to use building codes, etc., as a means of crime prevention and neighborhood improvement.

The evaluation should cover decisions regarding whether a specific program should function as is, be modified, or be discontinued. The report will be submitted to Bureau Director and the Chief of Police.

IV. ACCOUNTABILITY

- A. All programs designed by the Community Policing Unit will be submitted and reviewed by the Bureau Director prior to implementation.
- B. Community Policing personnel assigned to the community relations function will maintain detailed activity logs and the records will be reviewed and evaluated by the Bureau Director.
- C. Community input through neighborhood watch groups and the Police Advisory Board will be encouraged to meet the needs of the community.
- D. A survey of citizen attitudes and opinions will be conducted every three years which will include:
 - 1. Overall Department performance;
 - 2. Overall competence of Department employees;
 - 3. Officer's attitudes and behavior towards citizens;
 - 4. Concern over safety and security within the Department's service area as a whole;
 - 5. Concern over safety and security within the district where the respondent lives;
 - 6. Recommendations and suggestions for improvement.
- E. The Commander of the Community Policing Unit will prepare and submit, to the Chief of Police and the Bureau Director, a quarterly report which will include the following:
 - 1. A description of current concerns voiced by the community;
 - 2. A description of potential problems that have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the community;
 - 3. A statement of recommended actions that address previously identified concerns and problems; and
 - 4. A summary of all programs presented during the period.
 - 5. A statement of progress made towards previously identified concerns and problems.
- F. The Commander of the Community Policing Unit will gather information from neighborhood members, community groups, and patrol division commanders in their respective areas of responsibility and will use this information to prepare and submit an annual evaluation of the Department's crime prevention and community relation programs. The report will include any recommendations for improvement of existing programs, suggestions for new approaches to crime prevention, and whether each existing program should be continued.
- G. The Commander of the Community Policing Unit will prepare and submit a written annual evaluation of all enforcement and prevention programs relating to juveniles. The evaluation should consider both quantitative and qualitative elements of each program.