

Salisbury University Police Department

CHAPTER 45 – CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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CHAPTER 45 – CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This Directive relates to crime prevention and community involvement. While these concepts are distinct, they often merge when police services are provided and should be seen as means for strengthening community partnerships when formulating police strategies.

45.1 Crime Prevention

45.1.1 Crime Prevention Programs

Preventing crime demands an integrated, coordinated agency response. Therefore, for a crime prevention function to meet its goals, it should maintain close ties with other functions that support and make possible the furtherance of the crime prevention effort, particularly by patrol officers in the field. All personnel shall maintain ongoing communications with all community members to evaluate crime trends, areas in need of attention and problem solving.

Community interaction provides the framework for the agency's implementation of action priorities. The department, in concert with the community, will decide which crime types present the greatest problem; where the problems are most severe or where crime prevention activities could be most effective in reducing crime; and the types of responses which would be most effective. The department utilizes the following for effective crime prevention programs:

The department maintains a specialized Crime Prevention Officer whose duties include the development, coordination and implementation of crime prevention training for the campus community which includes students, faculty and staff. Other officers may assist the Crime Prevention Officer with these duties.

- A. Through crime data, it is found that most campus crimes occur in or near the residence halls or common areas frequented by students/staff (gymnasium, dining areas). Therefore, the department's crime prevention activities include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Operation Identification for registering and identifying personal property;
 - 2. On-line registration of computers and bicycles;
 - 3. New Student Orientation sessions during the beginning of each semester;
 - 4. Attendance at Planning and Review Committee meetings to address crime prevention issues in new or existing University facilities;
 - 5. Public speaking engagements and safety presentations by request;
 - 6. Specialized training for female students, faculty, and staff on the concepts of R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) and S.A.F.E (Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange) using University sponsored instructors when and where possible;
 - 7. Other specific enforcement efforts as deemed necessary by the Chief of Police or his/her designee or the Crime Prevention officer.

- B. The Crime Prevention Officer has developed a program to be presented at New Student/Employee Orientation sessions. Within this program, the information discloses that students/employees working at the University are not exempt from criminal incidents and that reports from students/employees will more accurately help SUPD analyze crime data and assess directed patrol actions. This program will also address any community perceptions or misconceptions of crime within the service area.

- C. At least once every three years, the Patrol Commander, in conjunction with the Crime Prevention Officer, may conduct an evaluation of the agency's crime prevention program(s) to assess whether the needs of the community are being addressed.

45.1.2 Organizing Prevention Groups

All department personnel will assist the Crime Prevention Officer in organizing crime prevention groups as information or concerns are determined. Some of these include:

- A. Campus Crime Watch or Neighborhood Watch
 1. These informal groups of residents, faculty or staff band and work together to watch out for each other on and off university property and report problems or suspicious activity to police which may affect the safety and security of the university and any member(s). Resident Life staff can assist in this effort within their areas of responsibility.
 2. Once Campus Crime Watch groups are established, the Crime Prevention Officer will serve as the primary liaison officer who will encourage the group's efforts by providing information, engage in safety presentations focusing on crime awareness and distribution of educational materials and services. Any activity concerning these groups will be documented in the quarterly report.
- B. Targeted Programs
 1. Based on current analysis of crime date, by type and geographic location, programs will be specifically targeted on particular topics such as domestic violence, theft prevention, roommate conflict and so forth.
 2. Although the Crime Prevention Officer will be the primary contact for services, all officers and civilian personnel will be responsible for providing these services as needed or coordinating with personnel to ensure that the services are provided.
 3. Residential Assistant (R.A.) training will be scheduled to provide an overview of campus crime trends from the previous academic period and to set the groundwork to apply crime prevention measures.
 4. Security Surveys of residence halls and other campus locations.

45.1.3 Crime Prevention Input

On request, the Chief of Police and/or other assigned personnel will provide crime prevention recommendations and input to other University departments, boards and committees, and other interested groups on campus or in the community. This may be accomplished during the university's safety walks around campus held each semester which is designed to note and address improvements which would reduce the opportunity for criminal activity and increase campus safety.

45.2 Community Involvement

45.2.1 Community Involvement Function

The Department's commitment to effective community involvement is emphasized by its proactive approach to community policing; an essential element of which is an active crime prevention program designed to increase safety and awareness within the community.

All University Police Department personnel shall take an active role in engaging the campus community in community policing partnerships via educational and safety awareness programs, crime prevention training and regular interaction with the community served by the SUPD.

- A. All agency employees (sworn and civilian) serve as a liaison with on- and off-campus residential complexes, administrative buildings/complexes and the campus at large. SUPD maintains one officer who serves as the Crime Prevention Officer and he/she will assume responsibility for the scheduling and/or dissemination of crime prevention training in their liaison areas, as well as developing a rapport with the service community.

Through interaction and partnership with the community (students, staff, faculty, visitors, etc), officer(s) will identify needs, services and assess feedback received in order to establish community groups as needed. Feedback will be obtained on any initiatives implemented by SUPD.

- B. All employees and community stakeholders will collaborate to develop initiatives as appropriate for enhancing community involvement within our service (campus) community.
- C. The department will publicize its objectives, problems, and successes on our web site, crime prevention literature/materials, through campus alerts and through the annual Clery Act reporting requirements.
- D. As part of any presentation to community groups, each agency member should make every effort to solicit feedback on the program's strengths and areas for improvement. That information should be relayed to each Division Commander for improvement on police/community interaction and any training needs for agency personnel and community members.
- E. By identifying the needs of the community through interviews, feedback, and investigations, the Crime Prevention Coordinator, in conjunction with the Patrol Commander, shall work on establishing community groups, as they are needed. They will also provide to area members feedback on their initiatives and work cooperatively with all members toward continuous improvement of agency efforts.
- F. As part of each officer's responsibilities, in cooperation with other stakeholders (on- and off-campus), he/she will work with the Crime Prevention Officer to develop problem oriented program objectives and strategies. In this approach, the officer learns that he/she shares a role and a responsibility within the community for safety and security and the overall environment each serves.

45.2.2 Quarterly Progress Report

The department is committed to evaluating and making adjustments to the community policing practices, programs, actions and attitudes that may contribute to community problems, safety issues and other concerns. By recognizing such problems at an early stage, preventive actions can be taken by the department to minimize future problems.

All departmental employees who receive or hear concerns regarding police activities, services, or individual employees are encouraged to forward this information to their supervisor or Division Commander.

The Crime Prevention Officer will be responsible for completing a quarterly crime prevention report and will forward this report via the chain of command to the Chief of Police. The pertinent information contained in this report will be discussed with command staff members. This report will, at a minimum, include the following:

- A. Description of current concerns voiced by the community;
- B. Description of potential problems that have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the community;
- C. Recommended actions that address previously identified concerns and problems; and
- D. A statement of progress made toward addressing previously identified concerns and problems.

45.2.3 Procedures for Transmitting Information

Procedures for transmitting relevant information to the Crime Prevention Officer to be incorporated into the quarterly report are as follows:

- A. Any officer who receives information and/or concerns regarding crime prevention/community policing issues on- or off-campus shall submit a memo/email to the Crime Prevention Officer and to officer's Supervisor outlining the information received and the action taken by the officer to address the concern. All officers are tasked with responsibility and discretion to address the service needed and employ creative measures to solve the problem or concern without further assistance.
- B. All supervisors and commanders who review calls for service and reports who determine crime prevention efforts are necessary for the given situation shall ensure that steps are taken by the Crime Prevention Officer or any other officer to address the problem.
- C. Civilian employees who learn of any such information will forward a memo/email to the on-duty supervisor who will ensure this information is distributed to the Crime Prevention Officer and the appropriate Division Commander.

45.2.4 Survey of Citizen Attitudes and Opinions

and

45.2.5 Survey Summary to Chief of Police

Surveys are useful for several purposes; however, the survey should be used as a platform for organizational learning, asking questions specific questions about the quality of policing in the campus community.

The University Police Department may either conduct a survey of citizen attitudes and opinions of the agency, or have the survey conducted by the Office of Student Affairs or Housing and Residence Life. This survey, conducted every three years, may solicit feedback in the following areas:

- A. Overall agency performance;
- B. Overall competence of agency employees;
- C. Citizens' perception of officers' attitudes and behavior;
- D. Community concern over safety and security within the agency's service area; and
- E. Citizen's recommendations and suggestions for improvements.

Surveys may be conducted by mail, in person, electronically or by telephone and may be combined with questions relating to victimization and other issues. A written summary of the survey's results should be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

Edwin Lashley
Chief of Police