Community Policing

The Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) embraces the concept of community policing as a philosophy and an organizational strategy. This approach allows the police and the community to work closely together in creative ways to solve the problems of crime or fear of crime, address physical and social disorder, and advance the overall quality of life in the community. This philosophy rests on the belief that the community deserves input into the process and that solutions to today's community problems require both the public and the police to address neighborhood concerns beyond a narrow focus on individual crime incidents. It includes community partnerships, organizational transformation, and problem solving, as defined by the Office of Community Oriented Policing of the Department of Justice.

Community Partnerships: Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.

Organizational Transformation: The alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving.

Problem Solving: The process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and evaluate effective responses.

MCPD is focused on relationship-building in the community—building community partnerships establishes trust with the police department, and establishes legitimacy, which makes for an effective and powerful collaboration. These partnerships directly contribute to enhanced police-citizen cooperation, including the flow of information about community concerns, crimes and suspects, and facilitates mutual respect among officers and the communities they protect and serve. All officers are expected to be visible, accessible and accountable to MCPD constituents. An effective community policing strategy must be proactive and comprehensive, in order to improve the police department's ability to communicate with and better serve the community, thereby enhancing the ability to accomplish the department's mission.

As part of the Police Foundation's Police Data Initiative, MCPD established a dataset on the County's open data portal, which presents the wide variety of community events that police officers and police command staff are involved in.

MCPD must submit a community policing report, annually, to the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC). These reports are located on the Police Department's website (https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/data/community-pol-report.html).