



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SHERIFF**  
**Montgomery County, Maryland**  
*Darren M. Popkin, Sheriff*



**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVES**

<b>Subject:</b> <b>Crime Prevention, Community Policing and Community Involvement</b>	<b>Number:</b> <b>1.08</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> <b>10/02/18</b>
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**Policy:** It is the policy of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to facilitate community relations and to participate in crime prevention activities in a manner that will enhance the quality of life for the residents of Montgomery County, Maryland. Through these activities, Sheriff's Office employees will also inform County residents regarding the role and responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office. As the social profile of our community changes, this policy may be updated to meet the dynamic needs of our population.

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**I. Crime Prevention**

The crime prevention function for Montgomery County, Maryland is the primary responsibility of the Montgomery County Department of Police (MCP). Crime prevention does not fall under the specific mission of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. As a component of the Judicial Branch of government, the Sheriff's Office has a unique role in which we are the law enforcement arm of the Courts and therefore, required to carry out Court mandates as well as all duties enumerated by State and Common Law specifically enacted for sheriff's.

- A. The Sheriff's Office is committed to working collaboratively with the public and our regional partner agencies in an effort to provide effective law enforcement services as well as a safe and secure environment for residents and visitors of Montgomery County.
- B. The Sheriff may designate individuals to participate in specific crime prevention activities upon request from another law enforcement agency. Such services provided by the Sheriff's Office will be of a supplemental nature and in a supporting role to the requesting agency.

- C. Activities which the Sheriff may assign an employee to assist with, include, but are not limited to the following:
- (1) Speaking to various community groups related to crime prevention topics.
  - (2) Distributing crime prevention literature.
  - (3) Staffing information booths at community events.
  - (4) Participating in truancy and juvenile delinquency intervention programs as a component of the School Resource Officer (SRO) function.
  - (5) Participating in teen dating violence prevention programs and;
  - (6) Domestic violence prevention programs through our partnerships within the Montgomery County Family Justice Center.
- D. A key component to preventing crime is continual, positive interactions between Sheriff's Office employees and members of our service area. The Sheriff's Office is committed to promoting these positive interactions and continuing to build strong bonds and trust with our community members.

## **II. Community Policing**

The Sheriff's Office will strive to increase community satisfaction and the quality of life for the residents in our community through active engagement and positive interactions.

- A. Active patrol is not a function of the Sheriff's Office, however, there are situations where an opportunity to perform a quasi-patrol task may arise.
- B. Deputies, through proactive interactions with the public, must strive to achieve the Sheriff's Office goals related to community policing. During these instances, Deputies should:
- (1) Actively engage with the public in our service area.
  - (2) Be polite and project a positive image of the Sheriff's Office.
  - (3) Be responsive to questions and concerns brought forth by members of the community.
  - (4) Provide contact information or direct the community member to the most applicable public resource which may be responsive to their individual concerns.

### **III. Community Involvement**

The Sheriff's Office will continually strive to engage and interact with members of the community in our service area. These instances of community involvement and engagement further our goal of developing trust between the Sheriff's Office and our community. There are several methods in which the Sheriff's Office will achieve this goal including, but not limited to:

#### **A. Sheriff's Office Social Media Program.**

- (1) Implemented in 2012, the Sheriff's Office Social Media Program is an integral component in furthering the goal of community involvement. Nationally, social media has proven to be an invaluable tool with which a law enforcement agency can engage and interact with the local community and the public at large. The Sheriff's Office accomplishes this by posting uplifting, impressive, informational or heartwarming news and events related to the Sheriff's Office as well as Montgomery County in general.
- (2) The deputy assigned to maintain the Sheriff's Office Facebook Page will routinely post information to the page at the direction of the Sheriff or their designee.
- (3) The "Good News of the Day" posts are intended to highlight events that have been generated by the Sheriff's Office. These posts will further our goal of connecting with the public and strengthening our community relations.

#### **B. Community Outreach Events**

The Sheriff's Office routinely participates in numerous community events, to include but not limited to:

- (1) Crime prevention presentations given by the SRO to school groups.
- (2) Tours of the Circuit Courthouse and Sheriff's Office.
- (3) Participation in truancy prevention programs.
- (4) Partnerships with local community groups.
- (5) Participation in community events such as "National Night Out".
- (6) Participation in local community interest groups such as the Latino Public Safety Work Group.

C. Mental Health Court

Mental Health Court strives to increase public safety and quality of life for community members by proactively addressing behavioral health challenges. The Sheriff's Office does not have a primary planning or operational role with this program. The Sheriff's Office does provide security during proceedings and logistical support at the request of the Courts.

D. Sheriff's Office Facility/Comfort Canine

The Sheriff's Office Facility Canine is trained to work closely with and provide positive support to the community, including children, adults and employees in various settings and locations to include, the Family Justice Center, Montgomery County Courthouses, schools, hospitals, community events, ceremonies, Canine demonstrations and other special events.

**IV. Ten Guiding Principles of Community Policing**

In accordance with Maryland Code, Public Safety Article §3-517 and an effort to proactively address conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder and the fear of crime, the Sheriff's Office will, when applicable, utilize the following guiding principles in all organizational strategies.

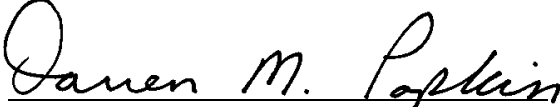
- A. Crime prevention is the responsibility of the total community.
- B. Law enforcement and the community share ownership, responsibility and accountability for the prevention of crime.
- C. Law enforcement effectiveness is a function of crime control, crime prevention, problem solving, community satisfaction, quality of life and community engagement.
- D. Mutual trust between law enforcement and the community is essential for effective delivery of law enforcement service.
- E. Crime prevention must be a flexible, long-term strategy in which the community and law enforcement collectively commit to resolve the chronic causes of crime.
- F. Community policing requires the knowledge, access and mobilization of community resources.
- G. Agency management, law enforcement and government officials must enthusiastically support these principles and tenets.
- H. Community policing depends on decentralized, community-based participation in decision making.
- I. Community policing allocates resources and services based on analysis, identification and projection of patterns and trends, rather than incidents.

- J. Community policing requires an investment in training with special attention to:
- (1) Problem analysis and problem solving.
  - (2) Facilitation.
  - (3) Community organization, communication, mediation and conflict resolution.
  - (4) Resource identification and use.
  - (5) Networking and linkages; and
  - (6) Cross-cultural competency.

V. **Cancellation**

*This directive cancels and replaces Administrative Directive 1.08, effective 03/21/05.  
Shred replaced directive.*

AUTHORITY:



Darren M. Popkin, Sheriff

10/02/18