

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Date of Issue: January 19, 2018
General Order: 01-2018
Subject: Community Engagement Policy
Issued By: Annette Mecklenburg, Chief of Police

PURPOSE: (Ohio Collaborative 8.2016.3a)

The police department is committed to establishing close ties with community organizations by being receptive and responsive to the needs of the community. Members of this agency will work to maintain relationships with existing community organizations and will assist with establishing new organizations as agency operations permit.

POLICY: (Ohio Collaborative 8.2016.3a)

It shall be the policy of the police department to become involved with community organizations in a cooperative, proactive manner in order to create a safer community, to encourage community groups, and to invite community groups and organizations to become involved with this agency. Its members may make presentations and engage in problem resolution, and invite community groups and organizations to become involved with this agency.

The agency shall establish accountability for the community involvement function in writing. The function shall be developed and operated to effectively meet the needs of the agency, with consideration of the department size and budget, as well as the community it serves.

All members have responsibility for achieving the department's community involvement functions.

PROCEDURES:

A. PROGRAMS (Ohio Collaborative 8.2016.3b)

To affect this community involvement function, the agency considers the following as eligible community relations programs, as operational needs permit, and are not limited to only those listed below:

1. Basketball Tournaments
2. Bicycle Safety Programs/Bicycle Rodeos
3. Business Liaison Officer

4. Citizen Police Academy
5. Crime Prevention and Awareness
6. Dog Watcher Watch Program
7. Drug Take Back/Drug Drop-off Box
8. ID Kid Program
9. Juvenile Diversion Program
10. Meet your Police Weekly Meetings
11. National Safety Forces Night Out
12. Neighborhood Block Parties
13. Neighborhood Meetings
14. Police Navidad
15. Public Alerts/Updates
16. Recruitment events
17. Resident Surveys
18. Ride Along Program
19. Safety Town Program
20. Scholarship Programs
21. School A.L.I.C.E. Training
22. School Crossing Guards
23. Senior Safety Programs
24. Shop with a Cop

B. COMMUNITY SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES (Ohio Collaborative 8.2016.3c)

1. Establish community groups as and where they are needed.
2. Establish a liaison with formal and informal community groups by attending meetings and offering support.
 - a. Police Department maintains communication channels for the public to request attendance at community meetings and events.
 - b. Representatives will attend meetings as requested or directed.

3. Share the responsibility of achieving community involvement objectives with all agency members.
4. Administer a community outreach program comprised of volunteers to represent the agency at community venues.
 - a. Appearances provide direct face-to-face interaction providing citizens with opportunities to direct responses to questions and concerns, while providing members with citizen input.
 - b. The program will provide a consistent approach increasing flexibility and fulfilling public requests to reduce conflict, by events / venues at similar times / dates.
 - c. Publicize the department's objectives, problems and successes through the use of electronic and print media.
 - d. Agency members are encouraged to convey information received from citizen's organizations to the agency and its members.
 - e. Ensure that information forwarded from citizens is used to improve agency practices that affect police community involvement.
 - i. Modifications in policy, procedure and/or activities may be needed to be made in response to input received from the community, particularly in regards to correcting actions, practices, behavior and attitudes that may contribute to community tensions and grievances.
 - f. Identify training needs through interviews with citizen representatives, where applicable.
 - g. Develop problem-oriented or community policing strategies, as determined by need.

C. USE OF ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA (Ohio Collaborative 8.2016.3c)

In an effort to keep the community informed about highlights occurring during the course of the year as well as obtain feedback from the community, the agency may utilize various types of media to publicize objectives, problems and successes as follows:

1. The department's Web site.
2. Develop and maintain open and immediate two-way communication between the agency and the public.
3. Inform neighborhood watch groups of crime trends, prevention tips and similar information.
4. Inform the public of events and activities.
5. Address public concerns and forward information to other law enforcement agencies or city officials as needed.

D. POLICY REVIEW AND TESTING (Ohio Collaborative 8.2016.3d)

Agency personnel shall be issued copies of this agency directive, at least annually. In addition, employees shall complete annual proficiency testing concerning the content of the agency directive to ensure awareness of agency programs and expectations. Testing may be conducted orally during the agency's roll call process.

