

# DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## I. Policy

The responsibility for crime prevention and **good effective** community relations is shared by all members of the Dalton Police Department. The Agency is committed to the concept of reducing crime through proactive crime prevention programs. Although most law enforcement activities consist of reactive policing, no less legitimate is the pursuit of prevention of crime. By analyzing crime data and requests from the community, programs can be targeted where they will most benefit the citizens in the community. Preventing crime demands a coordinated Agency response, as well as input and participation from the community.

## II. Organization

The Crime Prevention and Community Relations components are made up of every employee in the Agency.

## III. Objectives and Priorities

- A. To encourage community involvement in crime prevention.
- B. To target programs by crime type and geographic area on the basis of an analysis of local crime data.
- C. To target programs to address community perception or misperception of crime.
- D. To maintain liaison with citizen crime prevention groups.

## IV. Crime Prevention

### A. Intelligence Led Policing

Research and data suggest that Intelligence Led Policing (ILP) is the most effective method of crime prevention. This process involves a Department-wide philosophy that aims to achieve crime reduction and prevention and to disrupt offender activity. ILP combines crime analysis and criminal intelligence to objectively direct Department resources decisions, ~~and~~ focuses enforcement on prolific and serious offenders, and **targets** problematic geographic locations.

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1. Crime Intelligence, in the context of ILP, is defined as: analyzed information that blends data from analysis of crime patterns and intelligence drawn from the behavior of offenders, the developed knowledge of Officers and investigators, and knowledge gained from other sources.
2. Crime Analysis, in the context of ILP, is defined as: the process of evaluating reported activity and the resulting formulation of observable patterns as it relates to persons, locations, time, crime type, and offender behavior.

B. Neighborhood Associations or Groups

The police are more effective when citizens and businesses become actively involved in monitoring their environment. When citizens become engaged in making their neighborhoods more secure, the result is that the Police Department gains many more eyes and ears aimed at preventing crime. Officers should endeavor to engage the groups and associations, whenever possible, in order to inform them of the Department's mission, extend the full range of services the Department offers, and inform them of how they can participate in creating a safer Dalton.

C. The Department participates in Crime Prevention Programs to include, but not limited to:

1. Drug Awareness Presentations
2. How not to be a Victim **Presentations**
3. Gang Awareness **Presentations**
4. Extra Patrol Initiative
5. Rape, Aggression, Defense (RAD) Self-defense Program
- ~~6. Neighborhood Police Officer Initiative~~
- ~~7.~~ 6. Citizens' Police Academy
7. **Fatal Vision Program**

V. **Community Involvement**

The objectives of effective community relations ~~are~~ **is** to establish direct contact with the community, through such means as ~~the~~ **local** school systems, community and business groups, and civic and professional organizations, in order to gain community support of law enforcement activities.

- A. Although all members of the Agency are responsible for maintaining **good effective** community relations, the ~~Support Services Operations Supervisor~~ **Recruiting /**

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**Community Involvement Officer** shall be responsible for coordinating the Department's community involvement activities. He / she shall be responsible for:

1. Establishing liaison with existing community organizations.
  2. Assisting in the development of community involvement policies.
  3. Ensuring that Agency objectives, community problems, and successes are publicized.
  4. Conveying information transmitted from citizens' organizations to the Agency.
  5. Improving Agency practices ~~bearing on~~ affecting law enforcement-community relations.
- B. The Patrol Special Operations Supervisor or the Patrol Division Commander's designee shall submit a quarterly report to the Chief of Police that includes, at a minimum, 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.
  4. A statement of progress made toward addressing previously identified concerns and problems.

When a member of the Department becomes aware of a current concern voiced by a member of the community or potential problems that may have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the community, he / she shall forward the information to the Patrol Special Operations Supervisor.

## VI. **Responsibilities**

- A. Sworn Personnel
1. Courteously accept and record any reasonable recommendation or suggestion received from citizens regarding departmental policies or ~~recommendations~~ procedures.
  2. Be communicative with the public whenever an opportunity exists. Take time to explain actions in situations that are not emergencies.
  3. Officers should make a point of getting out of the patrol car while on patrol to permit persons on the beat to see the Officers and get to know the Officers as ~~an~~ other members of the community.

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4. Be responsive to the sensitivities of the various groups in the community.
- B. Non-Sworn Personnel
1. Be courteous when ~~dealing~~ interacting with the public.
  2. Accept any complaints, suggestions, or information from citizens and forward to appropriate personnel.

VII. **Crime Prevention Review**

Once every three years, a documented evaluation of the crime prevention programs utilized by the Department shall be conducted by the Support Services Operations Supervisor.

VIII. **Citizen Survey**

A documented survey of citizen attitudes and opinions shall be conducted at least once every three years relating to, but not limited to:

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

The results of the survey shall be compiled and a written summary provided to the Chief of Police.

*This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.*

**BY ORDER OF**

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**CHIEF OF POLICE**

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