

# DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

	<i>Effective Date</i> <b>May 1, 1998</b>	<i>Number</i> <b>GO88-2.7</b>
<i>Subject</i> <b>Crime Prevention / Community Involvement</b>		
<i>Reference</i> <b>CALEA Standards – 1.1.3, 44.2.5, 45.1.1, 45.2.1, 45.2.2</b>		<i>Revised</i> <del>June 25, 2019</del> <b>August 24, 2021</b>
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## I. Policy

It is the policy of the Dalton Police Department to be actively involved in programs that build positive relationships with the community and foster public trust and the prevention of criminal activity.

## II. Crime Prevention

- A. The objective of the crime prevention function is to utilize reactive and proactive strategies to locate, deter, and prevent criminal activity. Through positive interactions with the community, the Department is able to determine which crime types present the greatest problem, where the problems are most severe or where crime prevention activities could be most effective, and what types of response would be most effective.
- B. All members of the Department are responsible for participating in the crime prevention function.
- C. The Department's crime prevention function provides for the development of problem-oriented and community policing strategies to include:
  - 1. Focusing on programs by crime type and geographic area on the basis of crime data.
  - 2. Focusing on programs to address community concerns regarding criminal activity.
  - 3. Conducting a documented evaluation of crime prevention programs, at least once every two (2) years, which is completed by the Support Services Division.
- D. Crime analysis is a crucial element of the Department's crime prevention function. See policy GO09-2.28, Crime Analysis / Traffic Analysis, for more information on district planning and the role of the Intelligence Analyst.
- E. The Community Relations Unit assists in organizing community groups with an interest in crime prevention, to include:

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1. Establishing liaison with existing community organizations, such as homeowners' associations, or establishing community groups where they are needed.
2. Assisting in the development of community involvement policies for the Department.
3. Publicizing Department objectives, community problems, and successes, especially through social media.
4. Communicating crime trends and problems between citizens, businesses, and the Department.
5. Supporting Department practices bearing on police / community interaction.

F. The Department's crime prevention function includes the following programs:

1. Crime tip line
2. Online criminal activity submission form
3. Extra patrol program
4. Drug awareness, gang awareness, and how not to be a victim presentations
5. Fatal Vision program
6. Citizens' academies

### III. Criminal Justice Diversion Programs

- A. Members shall be selected by the Chief of Police or his / her designee to serve as Department representatives for the various diversion programs provided by the Conasauga Judicial District.
- B. The Conasauga Judicial District provides diversion programs through the following accountability courts:
  1. Domestic Violence Court
  2. Drug Court
  3. Mental Health Court
  4. Veterans Court
- C. As representatives for these diversion programs, members may be involved in the following activities:

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1. Reviewing case files to determine if a candidate meets predetermined eligibility requirements.
2. Reviewing participants' progress in the program to ensure compliance with program rules.
3. Conducting home visits to ensure compliance with program rules.

#### IV. Community Involvement

- A. The objective of effective community relations is to establish direct contact with the community, through such means as local school systems, youth programs, community and business groups, and civic and professional organizations in order to gain support for law enforcement activities.
- B. All members of the Department are responsible for maintaining effective community relations.
- C. The Community Relations Unit (CRU) is responsible for planning, organizing, and / or overseeing the Department's community involvement programs, activities, and events. The CRU is also responsible for the following:
  1. Establishing liaison with community organizations, business owners, and groups that provide services to the community.
  2. Assisting in the development of community involvement policies and practices.
  3. Ensuring the publicization of Department objectives, strategies, and successes in addressing community problems.
  4. Conveying information from community groups and organizations to other members of the Department.
  5. Improving Department practices affecting the relationships between law enforcement and the community.
- D. Community Input Process
  1. The Department shall maintain a collaborative community involvement process that accomplishes the following:
    - a. Identifies current community concerns
    - b. Identifies potential problems that have bearing on law enforcement activities within the community
    - c. Develops recommended actions addressing concerns and problems

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- d. Provides for a statement of progress
2. The CRU Supervisor shall oversee the community input process and coordinate with other members of the Department to develop strategies to identify and address concerns and problems within the community.
    - a. The CRU may utilize community meetings covering particular geographical areas or other engagement strategies to better address issues unique to each location.
    - b. The strategies may represent the demographics of the jurisdiction, as well as the business community, faith-based organizations, mental health, social services, and education.
  3. When any 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 a member of the Community Relations Unit.
  4. The Community Relations Unit Supervisor shall provide a written summary of the community input process each quarter to the Chief of Police.
- E. Citizens Survey
1. Surveys of members of the community are utilized as a platform for organizational learning, for asking specific questions about the quality of policing in the community, and to measure how policing in the community affects public trust.
  2. A documented survey of citizen attitudes and opinions is conducted at least once every two (2) years with respect to:
    - a. Overall Department performance
    - b. Overall competency of Department employees
    - c. Citizens' perception of Officers' attitudes and behavior
    - d. Community concern over safety and security within the Department's service area
    - e. Citizens' recommendations and suggestions for improvement
  3. The survey may be conducted by mail, in person, electronically, or by telephone and may be combined with questions relating to victimization and other issues. The survey may be carried out directly by Department personnel or by other groups or organizations under the guidance of the Department.

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4. Results of the survey shall be compiled, and a written summary shall be provided to the Chief of Police.

#### F. Community Involvement Programs

1. The Department hosts, participates in, and / or volunteers for a number of programs, events, and organizations as part of its community involvement function. Some of those programs and organizations include:
  - a. Citizens' academies
  - b. Special Olympics of Georgia
  - c. Shop with a Hero
  - d. Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Georgia
  - e. National Night Out
  - f. Latin American Association
  - g. Child safety seat program
2. The Department develops, organizes, and / or participates in community youth programs that are in addition to youth education programs related to law, safety, drugs, gangs, etc. Some of those programs include:
  - a. Public Safety Cadet Program
  - b. Job shadows
  - c. Level Up Program
  - d. Law Cadet Academy

#### ~~I. Policy~~

~~The responsibility for crime prevention and 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~~

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~~— 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, focuses enforcement on prolific and serious offenders, and targets problematic geographic locations.~~

~~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:~~

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- ~~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. Citizens' Police Academy~~
- ~~7. Fatal Vision Program~~

~~V. **Community Involvement**~~

~~The objective of effective community relations is to establish direct contact with the community, through such means as 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 effective community relations, the Recruiting / 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 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.~~

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~~\_\_\_\_\_ 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  
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 other members of the community.~~

~~4. \_\_\_\_\_ Be responsive to the sensitivities of the various groups in the community.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Sworn Personnel~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Be courteous when 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~~

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- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ 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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