

DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

	<i>Effective Date</i> May 1, 1998	<i>Number</i> GO88-2.7
<i>Subject</i> Crime Prevention / Community Involvement		
<i>Reference</i> CALEA Standards – 1.1.3, 44.2.5, 45.1.1, 45.2.1, 45.2.2		<i>Revised</i> August 24, 2024 September 26, 2023
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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~~ Special Operations Unit assists in organizing community groups with an interest in crime prevention, to include:
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~~

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- C. As representatives for these diversion programs, members may be involved in the following activities:
 - 1. Reviewing case files to determine if candidates meet 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~~ Special Operations Unit (CRU) is responsible for planning, organizing, and / or overseeing the Department's community involvement programs, activities, and events. ~~The CRU~~ Special Operations 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

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- b. Identifies potential problems that have bearing on law enforcement activities within the community
 - c. Develops recommended actions addressing concerns and problems
 - d. Provides for a statement of progress
2. The ~~CRU~~ Special Operations 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~~ Special Operations Unit 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~~ the Special Operations Supervisor.
4. The ~~Community Relations Unit~~ Special Operations 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

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- 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.
 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

This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.

BY ORDER OF

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CHIEF OF POLICE

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