



Police Dept

Community

Relations

17177

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The Police relationship with the community served is the most important and difficult law enforcement problem of the 1970's.

Effective law enforcement depends not only on the respect and confidence of the public but on close, direct and continuous communication between the police and every segment of the population. One is not possible without the other. Strong community ties provide the base for police prevention, deterrence, detection, and control.

Police Community Relations cannot be analyzed in a vacuum. The Policeman is not a scientist working in a quiet and isolated laboratory. His laboratory is the whole city with all of its people and all of their needs.

Relations between police and the community mirror the social structure and the quality of the lives of the people within that city. If there is poor communication between the police and the public, then that is not the only inadequate communication within that city. It merely reflects other isolations, other alienations, other estrangements.

But when segments of the city cannot communicate with the police, the problem becomes critical, for the police, who must serve every part of the city, cannot perform effectively unless they have full and reliable information concerning crime.

The Police bear most of the pressures, tensions and strains that result from a general lack of communication. ¹

The need for close ties, mutual confidence, and respect, and open communication is greatest between police and poor and powerless people, young people and minority groups - because this is where the preponderance of our police action has been, is and will be.

We feel that the success of law enforcement in our society today depends a great deal on the support of the general public. This support is obtainable only through a good police community relationship.

The purpose of the Police-Relations program is to win the citizen's respect and concern for their own community, to provide public understanding of effective law enforcement and the functions of the police.

We hope that through the efforts of our police officers we can maintain a better relationship with the people and that through greater understanding on the part of the community, we will be able, to a degree, to decrease the number of crimes in the city.

This report is a summary of existing police-community relations programs.

OUT REACH TO THE COMMUNITY

STORE FRONT CENTERS

These are police community relations centers located in neighborhoods to provide the police with the opportunity to help citizens on a personal man-to-man basis. The centers are manned by Community Relations Police Officers who are capable of responding to problems brought to them by residents of the community. The centers are devoted entirely to service orientation, but do become involved in law enforcement activities. The officers in the centers primarily deal with community services encouraging youth to attend film presentations, showing films at neighborhood schools, assisted in Ringling Brothers Circus, taught first aid, served as swim program instructor In-Service Training, Little League Teams, Maryland Penitentiary projects, speaking in schools, sponsorship of neighborhood citizen-police meetings, helping citizen's find jobs, explaining laws to citizen's who do not understand the laws, teaching citizens how to fill out accident and insurance claim reports, and teaching patrol officers and Detectives how to communicate with residents of the neighborhood. These Store Front Centers have enabled the officer's to become genuinely involved in the community and to serve the community through many programs. Though there are only three store front centers now, they have been well received by the community and requests have been made for the establishment of additional centers in various areas of the city.

POLICE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

The Police Community Relations Section sponsors meetings in order to foster better two-way communication between the public and the police. Generally there are five types of arrangements for this interaction: (1) meetings with citywide advisory committees; (2) meetings with neighborhood advisory committees; (3) meetings with committees of minority group leaders; (4) neighborhood surveys; and (5) Police Community Workshops.

CITY WIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

This brings together the higher officials of the Police Department and may include city government officials - - and the city's leading citizens for exchanges about problems and policies and for solutions to police community frictions. City wide Advisory Committees serve to coordinate the functions of smaller scale councils, such as neighborhood councils. These committees operate solely as liaisons between the police and the community.

MEETINGS WITH NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The immediate goal is to generate concerted police community action to increase community security and personal freedom and decrease freedom and the incidence of crime and disorder.

The long term goal is to involve every citizen in the dialogue and action so that police community partnership is a working reality.

DISTRICT COUNCILS

They are similar to citywide councils, but they operate in limited geographical areas. A general meeting is held once a month at the District Police Station. The Commanding Officer's and the District Police Community Relations Sergeant attends each meeting. Meetings are conducted by the Council's District Chairman. Complaints to the police district representatives are submitted and are reported on at the next meeting.

MEETINGS WITH COMMITTEES OF MINORITY GROUP LEADERS

This occurs where community relations problems exist, primarily in high-crime, minority neighborhoods. The thrust of this approach is to have open lines of communication with minority and militant organizations covering the spectrum of political persuasion.

POLICE NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEYS

The Police Community Relations Section gains information about the attitude of citizen's toward the police department by conducting neighborhood surveys. These surveys are designed to provide knowledge about attitudes, grievances, and what is expected of the police. This could be classified as a one way communication, flow if the police department does not act upon the inputs derived from the surveys.

POLICE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Workshops can vary from informal exchanges to highly structured meetings. Workshops generally take the form of "controlled verbal confrontations". The purpose of these meetings is to bring groups of policemen together for a period of time so that each group can be made aware of the damaging stereotypes that they have and see how stereotypes can influence attitudes and behavior.

INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS

One of the most informal but most important areas of work for the section consists of maintaining individual contacts with people throughout the community. The contact is established and developed by simple friendly gestures, whether it is by chatting with men running a "carry out" shop or meeting with a community leader after work for a cup of coffee. It must be stressed that these contacts are not made to gain intelligence information but rather attempts to learn about the concerns of the community and the problems it may have. The success of the individual officer depends on the degree of his interest in the people he is serving. The friends developed, the contacts made, can be very helpful in discerning trouble before it gets beyond rational control.

TENSION PATROL

As a regular part of its activities, the Community Relations Section also maintains a "tension patrol". These patrols are aimed at areas within the city which in the past have demonstrated a tendency toward complicated law enforcement problems, officers make an effort during these patrols to develop close lines of communication with as many residents of the area as possible, in order to be able to quickly identify any potentially disruptive situations. The aim of these tension patrolmen is strictly preventive, to hold down the amount of criminal activity as well as to cut down the level of tension.

Officers assigned to "Tension Patrol" are quite often involved in investigations of disturbances that might have racial overtones to determine if a peaceful solution can be brought about. Quite often these investigations are of a confidential nature and very few of the police officers of the department are aware of such investigations.

Because of the nature of their work, many complaints of police misconduct are brought to the attention of the Community Relations Section and although they do not handle personal investigations, (this duty belonging to the Internal Investigation Division) quite often complaints can be handled by the Community Relations Section as in some instances it is just a matter of misunderstanding.

Many persons may wish to complain against officers because of an ignorance of the officers duties, responsibilities or intents and often a simple explanation can clear up the misunderstanding between citizens and police.

When founded complaints are of course, referred to the proper agency. In crucial situations patrol functions have been taken overly entirely by Community Relations Section for the period of time it takes to calm the community, find the problem and implement a solution.

OFFICER FRIENDLY PROGRAM

The Officer Friendly Program is a relatively new and successful approach in which an officer speaks to classes of primary grade children about Policemen and the Department. Presently there are four officers assigned to the program. In the school year of 1972, the officers reached over 74,365 young people.

The Officer Friendly Program was designed to establish an understanding and appreciation of the positive role that the law enforcement officer plays in protecting and aiding the child, his family and the entire community. The objectives of the program are to provide the primary grade child with the opportunity to develop and understanding of his rights, responsibilities, and obligations as a junior citizen of the City of Baltimore.

The Officer attempts to:

1. Establish a rapport between the child and the police officer

2. Develop a wholesome image of the Baltimore Police Department in the mind of the child.
3. Reinforce basic rules and regulations and activities in the environment of the child.

The program is set up in three phases, the Orientation period, a classroom demonstration of equipment that the Officer uses in his work, and a follow up period of reviewing what has been taught and the issuing of certificates.

This year an "Officer Friendly Bus" (the first of its kind in the United States was placed on the streets. The Bus has eighteen display cases depicting the police officer in basic police functions and all of the tools of his trade.

The Mayor proclaimed the week of October 1st to the 8th, 1972, as Officer Friendly Week In Baltimore.

COLLEGE VISITS

During the past year, representatives of this Section were invited to take part in numerous classroom discussions and seminars at Colleges and Universities in the city. Such visits are not only valuable to the Community Relations effort of the Department, they also assist in its recruiting program. As the day to day problems of policing become more complex, there is an ever increasing need to attract college educated men and women. By introducing students to the problems and challenges of the urban law enforcement, this program makes a major contribution to this goal

COLLEGE INTERNS

The Department recently began an "Intern Program" whereby college students participating in cooperative education plans, might work with this Department. The first such student began working with the Community Relations Section in January, 1971.

The program is designed to attract college students to police work, to acquaint them with this department and to procure for the department what skills they have to offer. Since 1971, twelve students have been with us.

DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM

This program is designed to provide an awareness of dangerous drugs. Presentations have been made to many elementary, junior and senior high schools and many adult groups. Officers involved in the program have attended the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Seminar and the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Training School in Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS TOURS

The Cadet of the Community Relations Section is assigned to conduct guided tours through the Headquarters Building to show interested citizens how the Police Department functions. The Cadet has conducted many tours thus giving young and old alike, a better insight into the workings of the Baltimore Police Department. All of these groups are additionally provided with handout material.

COPE WITH COPS

C	onsider	C	ontribute
O	ur	O	ur
P	osition	P	rofessional
E	rnestly	S	ervices

Throughout the school year, members of this Section have been invited to junior and senior high school sociology, history and government classes. The purpose of these meetings was to engage the students and faculty members in discussions on current problems facing the whole community.

The Officers give general information about the Department, its activities, methods and goals, while trying to avoid the appearance of lecturing to the students.

PROJECT GO (GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES)

This program is co-sponsored by the National Alliance of Businessmen and the Department of Education. It is designed to:

1. Involve the pupil in curriculum development
2. Help the pupil make a wise decision in planning for his future.
3. Make the school important as a vehicle for growing opportunities in careers.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS

The Community Relations Section has been privileged to participate in this government sponsored program. Thirty-two young people were hired under this program and worked along with officers of this Section to prepare themselves for the future.

RECREATION CENTERS VISITED

Officers, by visiting local playgrounds and recreation centers, established contact with the youth who visit them and their staff. In paying leisurely visits and having informal chats, the officers become acquainted with the young people and help develop a friendly image of the policeman.

SPORTING EVENTS

Police officers participate in and give their support to various sporting events that occur in the city. Such activities as taking groups to baseball games, football games and basketball games highlight the program. Officers also showed up just to give their support to teams of young people throughout the city.

SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN

Presentations are given to groups of all ages pertaining to methods of protecting ones self on the street and in the home. Included in these discussions is a demonstration of the various devices that a woman may carry to defend herself, and an explanation of their operation. Special emphasis is placed on precautionary measures which can greatly reduce one's chances of harm.

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

Members of the Community Relations Section felt that the incidences of burglaries could be reduced if the public was made aware of the need for proper security precautions and if the means for achieving this security were readily available.

As a result the staff is involved in addressing P. T. A. groups, Civic groups and many organizations about what the police department is doing in the area of prevention and what they, as citizens can do to help alleviate or reduce the rate of crime and delinquency in their community.

SECURITY DETAILS

From time to time the Community Relations Section is called upon to provide personal security for visiting dignitaries, visiting Mayors, Presidential candidates, etc. The detail would also include the protection of certain school and labor leaders that might from time to time be threatened because of community problems and tensions. Student disturbances at local colleges have caused members of the Section to be on campus when no other police officers would be welcome.

TEACHER'S WORKSHOP

A 15 session course for 2 credits from the State Department of Education was arranged for teachers in the public schools to learn about the police department and the inner workings of the department. The course attempted to provide through discussion sessions, field trips and the use of visual aids an avenue of learning and developing an awareness and understanding of the role and function of the department and its relationship to various social agencies serving the urban community of Baltimore.

BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM

Because the safety of our children is our most important concern, we have organized the Block Parent Program on a city wide basis. Volunteers place the sign of the Red Ball in the windows or doors of their homes so that a child in need of adult help may be able to obtain it quickly. Approximately 8,000 people are participating in the program.

RECRUIT TRAINING

In the recruit training sessions, the trainees receive an 8 hour presentation from a member of the Community Relations Section on the structure of the unit, its duties, obligations, responsibilities, and goals. Emphasis is placed on community and urban problems. Many outside personalities are brought in to participate in these sessions.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Throughout the year, members of the Community Relations Section have appeared on television shows, depicting ways and means of self defense, ways to secure your homes and a myriad of other appearances. Talk shows and interviews have become an almost routine matter. The highlight of our year was when the 4 Officers Friendly recited the pledge to the flag, that is used in evening telecasts and sign offs.

There is a half hour radio program once a week entitled "The Police and The Community" where questions are asked and answers given.

NEWSPAPER COLUMN

Once a week in one of the local newspapers, a column appears, "THE MAJOR SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE". It is written by the Director of the Community Relations Section and articles of wide interest are viewed. Many citizens write or call in their questions and the Major answers in his next column.

CLOSING THE GAP

The staff coordinates with individuals, school groups and various organizations to give them a first hand look at police handling actual crime calls by giving them a tour in a radio car.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

During the summer months, the Officers Friendly and the Store Front Center Officers were able to transport over 3,000 young people to various places by using 8 mini-buses borrowed from the Department of Education, and each was served a free lunch, provided by the city.

These youngsters were taken on tours of the Enchanted Forest, Fort McHenry, Friendship Airport, Fort Meade, The State House and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. Some trips went as far as Washington, D. C.

Many days were spent just in the water at Fort Smallwood where they were taught to swim and water safety.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Members of this Section procured, packed and delivered 200 baskets which contained canned goods, potatoes, fresh greens, milk bread and 2 chickens, to families in need throughout the city.

Over 100 baskets were made up by other organizations and were delivered in addition to our own.

ROLLER SKATING SAFETY PROGRAM

Because so many children receive roller skates for Christmas and have only the streets where vehicular traffic is heavy, 12 streets were blocked off in various areas of the city and children skated in safety, supervised by members of the Community Relations Section.

HALLOWEEN CANDY

Willy Wonker safety kits, containing candy, safety tips and a trick or treat bag were given to 1,000 children in the kindergarten and first grades in our public schools.

SYNOPSIS:

Although the outlines appear simple, the effort and countless hours of planning can not be underestimated. Each and every project mentioned requires many, many man hours and preparation. Written consent slips are required for all activities.

Although the personnel structure may change from time to time, the objectives of the Community Relations Section remain the same.

POLICE + PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT = COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING

NUMERICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY

RELATIONS SECTION DURING 1972

PROGRAMS	# OF MEETINGS	# OF CONTACTS
Self Defense For Women	233	15,233
Block Parent Program	104	14,595
Officer Friendly Program	3,179	68,788
Cope With Cops	100	7,258
Drug Abuse Program	97	5,962
Police Community Relations	52	4,872
Child Molestation Program	12	865
Project Go	32	5,724
Nursery School Program	33	577
Tours	103	575
In Service Training	48	3,360
Recruit Seminars	24	768
Block Parent Implementation	12	865
Police Community Relations Workshops	15	1,500
Teacher's Workshop	30	165
Meetings with Organizations	140	9,610
N. C. C. J. Conferences	8	622

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- Radio and Television Appearances
- Investigations
- Newspaper Interviews and Articles
- Mental Health Association
- Preakness Day
- Community College of Baltimore Festival
- Peabody Conservatory Festival
- Up With People Show
- Election Day Details
- Security Details
- Malcolm X Festival
- Good Citizenship Day
- Model Cities Fair
- Lead Poisoning Committee
- Big Brothers Association
- Walbrook Community Council
- Lower Park Heights Community Council
- T. B. Association
- Gilman School Seminar
- Martin DePores Center
- Maryland Youth Council
- Narcotics School
- Baltimore City Fair
- Teachers' Workshop
- Boy Scout Law Enforcement Day

AWARDS

Small Craft Volunteer of the Year, American Red Cross

Governor's Distinguished Citizen Award

Afro American Newspaper, Honor Roll Award

The Claude Profili Lodge, Sons of Italy Award

Operation Champ's, Community Services Award

END