SYKESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Community Policing Program

General Order 7-5   Effective: 02/05/18

Authorized by: *Michael A. Spaulding* Chief of Police

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish and implement a Community Policing program within the Town of Sykesville, in accordance with Maryland House Bill 1016, §3-517.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sykesville Police Department to adopt and implement the philosophy of Community Policing in all four dimensions of Community-Oriented Policing, namely: The Philosophical Dimension; The Strategic Dimension; The Tactical Dimension; and the Organizational Dimension.

III. DEFINITIONS

Community Policing Defined: It is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and the fear of crime. *(U.S. Dept. of Justice-COPS Office, rev. 2014).*

The Community Policing Consortium identifies Community Policing as "a collaborative effort between the police and the community that identifies problems of crime and disorder and involves all elements of the community in the search for solutions to those problems."

Three key components of Community Policing are:

A.   Community Partnerships: Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police (two interrelated goals). These partnerships may include: other government agencies, community members and/or groups, nonprofits and service providers, private businesses, and the media including social media outreach. The public should play a role in prioritizing and addressing public safety problems.

B.   Organizational Transformation: The alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems (technology) to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving. The community policing philosophy focuses on the way that departments are organized and managed and how the infrastructure can be changed to support the philosophical shift behind community policing. It encourages the application of modern management practices to increase efficiency and effectiveness. It also emphasizes changes in organizational

structures to institutionalize its adoption and infuse it throughout the entire department, including the way it is managed and organized, its personnel, and its technology.

C.   Problem Solving: The process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and evaluate effective responses. The emphasis is on proactive problem solving in a systematic and routine fashion. Community policing encourages agencies to develop proactive solutions to immediate underlying conditions contributing to public safety problems rather than responding to crime only after it occurs. Problem solving must be infused into all police operations and guide decision making efforts. Agencies are encouraged to think innovatively about their responses and view making arrests as only one of a wide array of potential responses. A major conceptual vehicle for helping officers to think about problem solving in a structured way is the SARA problem solving model, and a focus on the immediate conditions by using the crime triangle (victim/offender/location).

IV.   PROCEDURES

A.   The following "Ten Guiding Principles of Community Policing," identified by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing, will be incorporated into all Community Policing practices employed by the Sykesville Police Department:

1.   Crime Prevention is the responsibility of the total community.

2.   The police and community share ownership, responsibility, and accountability for the prevention for crime.

3.   Police effectiveness is a function of crime control, crime prevention, problem solving, community satisfaction, quality of life, and community engagement.

4.   Mutual trust between the police and the community is essential for effective policing.

5.   Crime prevention must be a flexible, long-term strategy in which the police and community collectively commit to resolving the complex and chronic causes of crime.

6.   Community policing requires the knowledge, access, and mobilization of community resources.

7.   Community Policing can only succeed when top management, police and government officials enthusiastically support its principles and tenets.

8.   Community policing depends on decentralized, community-based participation in decision making.

9.   Community policing allocates resources and services based on analysis, identification, and projection of patterns and trends, rather than incidents.

10.   Community policing requires an investment in training with special attention to problem analysis and problem solving, facilitation, community organization, communication, mediation and conflict resolution, resource identification and use, networking and linkages, and cross-cultural competency.

B.   During 2017, the following Sykesville Police Department Community Policing initiatives included:

1.   Social media outreach to the community

   a.   Sykesville Police Department Face Book page

   b.   Sykesville Police Department website

   c.   Nixle alerts

2.   Participation in community events, to include:

   a.   Art and Wine Festival

   b.   Ice Fest and Gala

   c.   Concerts in the Park

   d.   Movies in Cooper Park

e.   First Friday Block party events

f.   Sykelocross Event at Warfield

g.   Craft Beer Festival

h.   Harvest Festival

i.   Halloween on Main Street

j.   Shiver Shuffle 5K Race

k.   Santa Visit & Lighting of Tree

l.   Farmer's Market events

3.   Educational programs for community members, to include:

a.   Sykesville Police Department's Jr. CSI program

b.   Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (2)

c.   10th Annual National Night Out

d.   South County Business Association presentation

e.   Carroll County Career and Technology Center Intern program

f.   Carroll County Career and Technology Center Homeland Security/Criminal Justice Advisory Board

g.   Carroll County Community College Law Enforcement Advisory Committee

h.   Freedom District Lions Club presentation

i.   Sykesville Middle School drug presentations (2)

j.   Carroll County Senior Center presentation

k.   St. Paul's Church Vacation Bible School program

l.   High School job fairs and presentations (Century, Liberty and Westminster High Schools)

m.   Carroll County Explorer's meetings

n.   Historic colored school house homework club

4.   Relationships with advocacy groups, to include:

a.   Catherine's Cause

b.   Maryland Special Olympics (Torch Run, Boardwalk Plunge, Polar Plunge, Cover the Cruiser events)

5.   Other events, to include:

a.   Take home car program

b.   Drug Turn-In program

c.   Police Auxiliary program

d.   Bicycle patrol program

e.   Foot patrol program

f.   School crossing details

g.   Carroll County Chiefs of Police meetings

h.   Maryland Chiefs of Police meetings

i.   Maryland Municipal League, Police Executive Association meetings

        j.   Carroll County Emergency Operations Center training, meetings and exercises/drills

        k.   Springfield Hospital Center exercises and drills

        l.   Fairhaven and Copper Ridge Retirement Center meetings and presentations

C.   Incorporation of Community Policing philosophy into sworn evaluations

During 2017, "Community Policing Skills" were added to the SPD sworn officer evaluations which are conducted annually. Specifically, officers and supervisors are rated in the following three skill sets:

1.   Self-Initiated Activity

2.   Problem-Solving/Decision-Making

3.   Community Policing Objectives

Additionally, each year a "Community Policing Officer of the Year" is selected by the Chief of Police based upon the prior year's performance in this category. Selections are made based upon the total number of Community Policing calls-for-service as well as any noteworthy events which demonstrated the officer's understanding and implementation of community policing practices.

D.   Training

All employees will receive basic and periodic in-service training and, where deemed necessary, remedial training on subjects related to community policing as appropriate and available.