

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

Subject: **Community Relations , Community Policing, and Community Programs**
306.1

Policy #:

Effective Since: 8-21-03

Originally Issued As: P-7

Revision Effective: 1-1-19

FTO Training Task: # 8

Reference Material: NA

ILEAP Standards Covered: ADM.14.02, 20.1, 20.2, 21.01, 21.02

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PURPOSE: The police department advocates a community relations concept that encourages the police and the community to study the city's problems and stimulate action aimed at solving these problems. The department intends to respond to the voices of the street, neighborhoods, campus, industries, business community, educators, employees, and others in order to assess the effectiveness of law enforcement in the various sectors of the community. For these reasons, the police department is actively engaged in numerous community relations objectives, community policing strategies, and community programs.

POLICY: Police community relations and community policing initiatives include all forms of interaction between police and the community and is not the exclusive duty of any specialized unit or designated liaison. Every member of the department will perform tasks in a manner to contribute to the development of community-oriented objectives and programs designed to create mutual trust and understanding with all segments of the community. By understanding and responding to the problems of our citizenry, we can provide the fair and impartial treatment of all citizens, regardless of their status within the community.

DEFINITIONS: none

PROCEDURE:

I. Community Relations

- A. Citizen input is encouraged regarding community and policing concerns in order to work together to reach effective solutions.
- B. Citizen input is received and addressed daily through personal interaction, telephone calls and messages, electronic messages, community meetings, and social media. Supervisory staff are instructed to address concerns as they arise, passing information as necessary through the chain of command if a situation merits further review or action. [ILEAP ADM.20.01(a)]
- C. The department regularly interacts with a number of community organizations and groups, including attendance and participation at meetings, summits, boards, training exercises, and special events. Specific employees may be designated to represent the department. [ILEAP ADM.20.01(b)]
- D. The DeKalb County Health Department maintains a comprehensive list of community services and resources available to citizens. The link is: <https://health.dekalbcounty.org/directory-of-resources/> [ILEAP ADM.14.02]
- E. All employees are responsible for carrying out their responsibilities in a professional manner, to the highest standards, and with the best interests of the community in mind. Performing positive community relations is the job of everyone, not a specialized unit or liaison. [ILEAP ADM.20.01(c)]
- F. Any employee may be appointed or requested to attend, participate, or speak at a community event or meeting.
- G. Departmental policies as a whole are intended to provide guidance in providing the best service and community relations possible. [ILEAP ADM.20.01(d)]
- H. The department specifically seeks training that includes community policing concepts. Ongoing training of personnel in community policing concepts will be provided. [ILEAP ADM.20.01(e)]
- I. The following is a non-inclusive list of community relations initiatives and events:
 - 1. National Night Out
 - 2. Heroes & Helpers

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3. Resident Officer Program
4. Career Fairs
5. Health Fairs
6. Family Fun Fest
7. Cub Scout Tours and Events
8. Awareness Walks
9. Special Olympics Fundraisers and Events
10. Bowl For Kids' Sake
11. Intern Program
12. Volunteer Program
13. Citizen Ride-Alongs
14. Citizen Police Academy

II. Community Policing

- A. All employees are to perform functions in accordance with the International Association of Chiefs of Police community policing philosophy: "Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which 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 fear of crime." The department's mission statement was designed to emphasize this philosophy.
- B. Specific programs will be researched, developed, and implemented to address the public safety needs of the community. [ILEAP ADM.21.01(a)]

III. Community Policing Programs

- A. The department utilizes a variety of community programs on a regular basis to promote safety, education, and citizen involvement in the community. Community policing programs include the following, subject to scheduling availability:
 1. Adopt A School
 2. Camp Power
 3. Power Academy
 4. DUI Prevention Education
 5. Prescription Drug Take Back Program
 6. Not On My Campus Initiative
 7. Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Training
 8. TRIAD Safety Events
 9. Project HOPE: Heroin Outreach, Prevention and Education
 10. Operation Lifesaver Presentations
 11. Hunter Safety Course
 12. Honor Guard and Veteran Assistance Programs
 13. Neighborhood Watch Program
 14. School Resource Officers
 15. Child Passenger Safety Seat Inspections
 16. Bicycle Safety Presentations

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- B. Periodically, the department will assess and evaluate the effectiveness of community policing programs and implement any programmatic changes deemed necessary. [ILEAP ADM.21.01(b)]
- C. The department regularly assists in establishing or participating in community groups in the residential, business, and educational communities that are the recipient of specialized services and programs. [ILEAP ADM 21.01(c)]
- D. The department regularly maintains liaison with community groups and seeks out additional opportunities to provide service in response to a specific public safety need or problem. [ILEAP ADM.21.01(d)]
- E. By virtue of the Crime Free Housing Program and the operating philosophy of the City's Community Development component, police department command staff regularly provides public safety input into the development, interpretation, enforcement, and revision of zoning policies, building codes, fire codes, building permits, special use requests, and zoning variance considerations. [ILEAP ADM.21.02]

Policy originally issued 8-21-03; this revision becomes effective on 1-1-19 by authority of the Chief of Police .

NOTE: This policy and procedure summarizes the department's position on this specific matter. This policy is for general direction and guidance primarily designed for use by the department's members. This policy is for internal use only and does not create or enlarge an officer's liability in any way. This policy shall not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of an internal departmental complaint and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.