

Chapter 26

CRIME PREVENTION

Standards in this chapter relate to the prevention, and suppression of crime.

Beyond stating their commitment to crime prevention, police departments should establish specific policies, goals, and objectives by which their commitment can be realized. In larger departments, the creation of a crime prevention component may be called for; in others, designating an individual as responsible for crime prevention activities on a part-time basis may suffice. In all departments, it should be understood that all officers and components are responsible for achieving department crime prevention goals and should assist others in this regard.

26.1 Organization and Administration

26.1.1 A written directive states that the department is committed to the development and perpetuation of community crime prevention programs.

Comments: A firm commitment should be made by the department's high-ranking administrative staff to the concept of reducing crime through proactive crime prevention programs. Because a myriad of programs and approaches exist in the field of crime prevention, each department will, of necessity, limit the scope of its activity to those programs and approaches that best suit its needs. For this reason, all officers, especially patrol officers engaged in field assignments, should be acquainted with the specific approach and techniques their department has chosen to use. (M M M)

26.1.2 A written directive establishes the department's crime prevention component and defines the relationships between all organizational elements of the department in pursuing crime prevention activities.

Comments: Most law enforcement activities consist of reactive policing. No less legitimate, however, is the pursuit of the prevention of crime. The key to effective law enforcement lies in seeking a reasonable balance between the two broad mandates. The creation of a crime prevention component is a major step in achieving this balance. (M M M)

26.2 Operations

26.2.1 A written directive establishes the department's crime prevention priority programs and provides for the following:

- o targeting programs by crime type and geographic area on the basis of an analysis of local crime data;

- o **targeting programs to address community perceptions or misperceptions of crime; and**
- o **evaluating the effectiveness of crime prevention programs at least every two years.**

Comments: The department should establish priorities for action. On the basis of pertinent data, the department should decide which crime types present the greatest problem; where the problems are most severe or where crime prevention activities could be most productive; and what types of programs would be most effective in combating crime. (M M M)

26.2.2 A written directive requires the department's crime prevention practitioner to maintain liaison with interested community groups.

Comments: Communities comprise persons with diverse interests. Crime prevention officers should attempt to incorporate in their plans and programs the interests of those in the community, including the business community, local citizens' organizations, local civic associations, private security agencies and other groups. (M M M)