



# **LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **PROCEDURES MANUAL**

### **POLICING STRATEGY**

The Department's Vision and Mission Statements, coupled with its Goals provide our Department with attainable expectations and the necessary steps to achieve them. However, we believe that it is equally important to provide a Departmental Policing Strategy to accomplish these endeavors.

The Lansing Police Department's Policing Strategy is based on four specific areas to police effort. These efforts do not necessarily stand alone and may vary according to function, assignment, or situation. All are essential to accomplishing our Mission.

#### **REACTIVE EFFORTS**

A major portion of our policing efforts have been and will continue to be reactive. Regardless of proactive and preventive efforts, there will continue to be considerable need for us to respond after the fact to crime, disorder, traffic accidents, and various circumstances related to the protection of life and property. However, these circumstances should not diminish our efforts in problem solving and community-based activities.

#### **SPECIALIZED EFFORTS**

Specialized efforts within the Department are a necessary component, particularly to deal with violent and serious crime. Examples of these efforts include follow-up investigations, directed patrol services, special weapons and tactics teams, drug enforcement, and various prevention initiatives.

#### **PROBLEM SOLVING EFFORTS**

In addition to reactive and specialized policing efforts, some crime and order maintenance incidents may also be controlled, or even prevented by means other than repeated police response or arrest. This does not mean that arrest and prosecution are unimportant. It does mean that certain crime and incident analysis and problem solving can provide a contemporary approach to the maintenance of order and crime control, instead of totally relying on repeated police response or arrest.

#### **COMMUNITY BASED EFFORTS**

Local policing is a community based enterprise. The community must be involved in accomplishing the police mission. As police officers, our interaction and partnerships with the community is important. We need to know citizen expectations, opinions and perceptions regarding what we do. Such awareness influences our initiative, insight, and innovation in interacting with and responding to citizens. We need to recognize the significant link between our responsiveness to citizens and our success.



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### COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING PHILOSOPHY

In order to affect a community policing philosophy, fundamental changes must be made in the policing strategy. The institutionalization of the community oriented approach to policing requires an ongoing, methodical analysis of the Department and our community. In order to implement this approach, a number of organizational changes that support employee problem solving must be adopted.

The move to community policing philosophy with the Lansing Police Department must be viewed not as a quick panacea, but as a long-range effort with specific evolutionary steps.

The Lansing Police Department must come to not only recognize the merits of community involvement, but also to seek to organize and manage Departmental affairs in ways that are consistent with such belief.

Community oriented policing is comprised of a number of interrelated elements reflecting a Departmental commitment to policing that:

- Is based upon a series of organizational values that reflect beliefs clearly articulated throughout the Department as well as to the community.
- Emphasizes a commitment to resolving underlying quality-of-life issues that lead to criminal behavior, rather than simply responding to each incident as it is reported.
- Recognizes that responses to calls are not the only measure of police work, and that the organization is not "numbers" driven.
- Focuses on the City's neighborhoods as the basic level for delivering law enforcement services.
- Gives neighborhood residents partial responsibility for developing and implementing problem solving strategies.
- Increases accountability of the police to neighborhood residents, all personnel to each other, and the Department to the community.
- Empowers personnel at all levels of the organization to solve problems, not just report them, by authorizing sufficient discretion to make binding decisions and take action.
- Changes the duties and responsibilities of supervisors and managers within the Department to make them facilitators and expeditors of resources.