


<b>STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>  	Type of Directive: <b>Policy and Procedure</b>	Updated: <b>11-21-2018</b>
	Title: <b>Crime Prevention</b>	No. <b>10.6</b>
	Issuing Authority: <b>Chief Joseph McNeil</b>	Issued: <b>11-20-2018</b>
	Reference: Rescinds 10.6.1	

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish programs for crime prevention efforts by the Stratford Police Department.

### **POLICY**

It is the policy for the Stratford Police Department to be committed to the development, implementation, and perpetuation of comprehensive, proactive programs. These programs will attempt to anticipate, recognize, and appraise crime risks and will initiate actions to remove or reduce those crime risks.

### **PROCEDURE:**

The Crime Prevention Unit will be assigned to the Detective Bureau and will be supervised by the Detective Bureau Commander.

The Crime Prevention Unit will have a minimum of one detective assigned to the unit and he will be designated as the "Crime Prevention Officer."

The Crime Prevention Officer will be primarily responsible for the planning, coordinating, and implementing of crime prevention programs.

The assigned detective will possess a wide general knowledge of crime prevention theory and practice and will possess close personal ties to the community.

### **Organizational Interaction**

The Crime Prevention Unit is the organizational component through which the crime prevention activities of the department are coordinated and implemented.

All supervisors, detectives, and officers are responsible for assisting in the integrated and coordinated crime prevention goals and programs of the department.

## **Crime Prevention Officer**

The Crime Prevention Officer will make every effort to organize, maintain, and encourage the development of neighborhood watch groups within the town. Neighborhood watch groups will use the title of "Crime Watch" and will abide by all the guidelines, restrictions, and use of the logo as stated by the National Crime Watch Organization.

Crime Watch groups will be organized from individuals within the neighborhood. The group will consist of neighbors working under the leadership of a citizen selected by the group. The group will operate under the guidelines set up by the National Organization and the bylaws set up by the individual Crime Watch groups.

The Crime Prevention Officer will periodically attend these meetings giving guidance and support to the group.

The Crime Watch groups will have a mutual goal of neighborhood protection with the assistance of the Patrol Division, Detective Bureau.

In addition to Crime Watch groups the Crime Prevention Unit will provide the following programs.

- Residential Security Checks
- Commercial Security Checks
- Boat/Recreational Security Checks
- Operation Identification
- Citizen safety and security lectures
- Senior citizen assistance
- Publish news items dealing with Vacations, Home Security, Personal Safety, and Crime Awareness

The Crime Prevention Officer will remain knowledgeable in the areas of crime prevention and upon a citizen's request will speak with civilian groups on the following subjects:

- Crime Prevention
- Elderly and Disabled
- Bomb Threats
- Check Cashing and Credit Card Fraud
- Vandalism
- Self Protection

- Commercial Armed Robbery
- Safe Baby-sitting
- Burglary Safeguards
- Frauds, Cons, Scams, etc.

Many groups have diverse ideas and needs that may incorporate into the crime prevention programs and may be of great interest to the Crime prevention officer. The Crime Prevention Officer will maintain communication with homeowners by way of security surveys, Crime Watch meetings, informal and formal meetings, and public presentations upon a request basis.

Business owners, civic organizations, private security firms, local and state crime prevention organizations, school officials, and other police agencies will periodically meet to discuss mutual problems and concerns.

## **Crime Prevention Strategy**

The Stratford Police Department will establish a proactive crime prevention strategy utilizing targeted programs based on local crime data, geographic areas, and community perceptions or misperceptions of crime. Our objective is to reduce crime rates, improve public safety, and foster community trust through evidence-based initiatives.

### **1. Data-Driven Crime Prevention Programs**

To effectively address crime, law enforcement must rely on accurate and timely local crime data. The following measures will guide our crime prevention efforts:

- **Crime Type Targeting:** Implement specialized programs tailored to prevalent crime types, such as theft, violent offenses, drug-related activities, and cybercrime.
- **Geographic Crime Focus:** Deploy resources strategically to high-crime areas identified through crime mapping and predictive policing.
- **Continuous Data Analysis:** Regularly update and analyze local crime data to adapt strategies and measure program effectiveness.

### **2. Geographic-Based Crime Reduction Initiatives**

To address crime hotspots, the department will:

- Increase patrols and surveillance in high-crime areas.
- Engage businesses and neighborhood associations in crime watch partnerships.
- Implement environmental design modifications, such as improved lighting and security measures.

### **3. Community Engagement and Addressing Crime Perceptions**

Public perception of crime affects community morale and trust in law enforcement. To manage perceptions and misperceptions, the department will:

- **Community Outreach & Education:** Conduct workshops, town halls, and school programs to provide factual crime statistics and prevention tips.
- **Public Communication Strategy:** Use social media, local news, and direct engagement to clarify crime trends and debunk misperceptions.
- **Victim Assistance & Support:** Strengthen victim services and ensure community members feel supported after crime incidents.