


TRUMBULL POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY

	POLICY TITLE Community Relations		POLICY NUMBER 2.2.1
	EFFECTIVE DATE April 2, 2015	REVISION DATE(S)	
	APPROVAL AUTHORITY SIGNATURE:		

I. PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines to promote Community Relations and Crime Prevention.

II. POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Trumbull Police Department to develop and maintain open lines of communication with the public, encouraging citizens to voice their opinions and concerns, and to work with us to improve law enforcement in the town. All members of the Trumbull Police Department must recognize that they are bound to protect and serve the citizens of our community. This is to be done, in large measure, through fair, consistent application of the law, and a realization that all citizens are equal under the law. In this regard, it is imperative that all members of the Department strive to develop, encourage, and maintain close ties with the communities that they serve in the Town of Trumbull. This willingness on the part of the police to establish close ties with the community is an essential component of the police role in the Town of Trumbull. All Department personnel share in the responsibility for advancing community relations goals. Good community relations cannot be achieved without the active participation of all officers. Furthermore, the Trumbull Police Department is committed to identifying and correcting any actions, practices or attitudes that may contribute to community tensions or grievances.

III. PROCEDURES:

A. Programs

1. The Crime Prevention officer shall assume primary responsibility for the development and implementation of crime prevention, safety, and awareness programs. Such programs will be established through analysis of local crime information, input from other police divisions, and members of the community. Such programs may include:

- Bicycle safety and helmet programs for children;
- Crime prevention talks and seminars for specialized groups or businesses;
- Neighborhood block watch and tenant group meetings;
- Health seminars in cooperation with the Trumbull Department of Health;
- Crime prevention programs for senior citizens;
- Mobile Police Precinct (Emergency Response Vehicle) activities.

2. The Crime Prevention officer must submit a written monthly report of programs and services delivered to the community to the Deputy Chief of Patrol and the Chief's office. The Crime Prevention officer shall evaluate such programs at least annually and assess their effectiveness in addressing community concerns, and report such evaluations to the Chief's office.

B. Community Policing

1. The Town of Trumbull and its police department have begun the transition away from the traditional policing approach and towards community-based policing. Community-based policing is a philosophy of policing based upon the concept that police officers and private citizens working together in creative ways can help solve contemporary community problems relating to crime, fear of crime, social and physical disorder, and neighborhood decay. At the direction of the Chief of Police, the Crime Prevention officer is responsible for the implementation of community-based policing within selected areas of the Town of Trumbull.
2. The primary responsibility for developing, coordinating and implementing the Department's community relations programs rests with the Crime Prevention officer. The Crime Prevention officer shall develop and administer programs that advance community relations efforts. Such efforts shall include:
 - Establishing liaison with formal community organizations and other community groups;
 - Assisting in developing community relations policies for the Department which are consistent with, and supportive of, stated departmental objectives;
 - Publicizing agency objectives, problems, and successes;
 - Establishing a system of communication which will ensure a departmental response to information obtained from any community organization;
 - Making recommendations for improving department practices which have an impact on police-community relations;
 - Establishing needed community groups where such groups do not exist;
 - Coordinating the implementation of community-based policing;
 - Promoting the Department's community outreach programs;
 - Making recommendations on how the Department as a whole can improve police-community relations;
 - Conducting public presentations on crime prevention, safety, and awareness to schools, businesses, community groups, and civic organizations;
 - Establishing and maintaining a positive working relationship with the local media;
 - Seeking training opportunities that will help to expand or improve the Department's services to the community;
 - Assisting in the Police Department's recruiting efforts.

3. All regularly assigned patrol officers shall promote good community relations within their patrol areas. Officers should:
 - Be proactive in identifying potential problems that could lead to an increase in criminal activity in their districts;
 - Maintain a current list of all businesses in their areas, including the name(s), address(es), and telephone number(s) of business contact persons;
 - Maintain a relationship with community groups;
 - Make an effort on each shift to have personal contact with members of the community within their districts.