

PATROL BEAT TEAMS for Greater Partnerships and Crime Reduction



RESEARCH

- Motivation: Community Policing as a philosophy, not “intermittent programs”.
- Academic Research in Community Policing, Beat Teams, and Routine Activity Theory conducted.
- Routine Activity Theory states: Three elements must be present for crime to occur - motivated offenders, suitable targets, and the absence of capable guardians.



WHAT WE LEARNED

- Beat Teams will acculturate Community Policing as a grassroots effort department wide.
- Beat Teams are favorable to Problem Solving – delivering a Micro Approach to current efforts like DDACTS.
- Beat Teams will enhance and bring consistency to internal and external communications.
 - Officers working a common beat work together and with stakeholders in their geographical area to develop strategies for crime prevention.
- Beat Teams will eliminate obstacles which hinder Officers' ability to think outside the box.
- Beat Teams will establish greater line-level autonomy for problem solving, generating more flexible and responsive service delivery.
- Autonomy and Problem Solving are good for internal development, generating ownership, and building new leaders.

TARGET POPULATION

INTERNAL

- Police Administration
- Line-level Supervisors
- Officers
- Civilian Personnel
- Volunteers



EXTERNAL

- Citizens
- City Partners
 - Beat Teams may reach out to other City Departments for assistance with Beat issues or a Beat project.
- Business/Community Partners
- Social Services Stakeholders
- Clergy

WHAT THE PROGRAM ENTAILS

- ✓ Unifying Patrol Officers who work common beats.
- ✓ Patrol Sergeant Facilitators
- ✓ Corporal Chairperson
- ✓ Beat Profiles.
- ✓ Annual Goals.
- ✓ Permanent beat assignments – for at least one year (Fiscal Year).
- ✓ Bi-monthly Meetings.
 - ✓ Portions of the meetings open to citizens/stakeholders.
- ✓ Information sharing via Officer Contacts and Social Media Platform.
 - ✓ Interactive Beat Map on City Website.
- ✓ Beat Team activities incorporated into employee evaluations.
- ✓ Federal JAG Community Policing Grants help reduce overtime.



IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Introduction Meetings with Command, Supervisors, and Line-level personnel (happening now).
- ✓ Community Preview (Newsletter)
- ✓ Establish Beat Teams (happening now).
- ✓ Establish Beat Profiles
- ✓ Establish Beat Team Goals/Action Plans
- ✓ Patrol Division Squad Matrix
- ✓ Patrol Deployment Charts
- ✓ Use of Beat Profiles
- ✓ Beat Profile Evaluation (quarterly)



PROS & CONS

PROS

- Elevates Community Policing
- Enhances Communication
- Builds Lasting Partnerships
- Nurtures Autonomy and Decision Making (Builds Leaders)
- Reduces Crime

CONS

- Takes Time
- Funding Concerns (Grants)
- Department Buy-In



CONCLUSION

- Beat Teams will facilitate genuine community policing at a grassroots level, enhance crime-fighting efforts, provide a criminological foundation, garner internal/external buy-in, and develop leaders.

