DUBLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

### SECTION: P-016 COMMUNITY RELATIONS / CRIME PREVENTION

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**STANDARD COVERED *CHIEF KEITH MOON***

**6.8**

### I. POLICY

STD 6.8

The prevention of crime and the establishment of effective community relations is a mutual responsibility between all police personnel and the citizens in the community. It is the policy of this department to establish close community relations and proactive crime prevention programs for the residents of the City of Dublin in response to their needs.

### II. RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility for providing crime prevention information and achieving and maintaining effective and efficient community relations is shared by all department personnel. Department supervisors shall supervise all crime prevention activities and shall have the responsibility for planning, developing, coordinating, and maintaining crime prevention and community relations programs, policies, and procedures for the department.

Police officers possess a wealth of knowledge, experience, and training that should be utilized to assist with making presentations on crime prevention programs. Commanders shall coordinate with the officers and their supervisor when an officer needs to receive crime prevention training or when a program needs to be scheduled. Officers who request additional or specialized training in specific areas of crime prevention shall receive the specialized training as time allows or when training can be made available. Officers who have received specialized training in specific areas shall be identified and used to provide programs in the areas of their specific training.

Supervisors shall keep officers aware of revised or new crime prevention programs that are developed and implemented. Materials needed for effective crime prevention activities shall be maintained by the department and made available to officers for use while performing their day-to-day activities or when making presentations.

All crime prevention and community relations programs will be reviewed and evaluated annually by the Chief of Police.

## III. CRIME PREVENTION

Crime prevention programs will be developed with the concept of reducing crime through proactive crime prevention programs. Crime prevention programs will be provided to business, educational, community, social, organizational, and other interested groups on an as-needed and/or as-requested basis. Information disseminated will be specific to the requestor's needs. Crime prevention programs will be targeted toward the prevention of specific crimes and specific geographical areas when a specific crime problem is identified by crime analysis.

The functions of crime prevention programs are:

1. To disseminate information to the public about specific crimes and crime patterns and alternative approaches to prevent and/or reduce crime problems.

2. To offer education programs to the public on general crime prevention measures.

3. To target programs to address community conceptions or misconceptions about crime.

4. To disseminate information to home and business owners on crime prevention techniques.

5. To provide home and business inspection information, at the owner's request, of the premises concerning physical security.

6. To encourage citizen involvement in community crime prevention activities and programs.

7. To assist in the prevention and reduction of victimization of citizens and proprietors by providing crime prevention information based on the individual needs of the requestor. This may be accomplished by providing verbal and/or written information, identifying areas of risk, and providing and establishing programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Street Wise, and Safe and Senior Citizens Against Crime.

8. To provide the news media with articles and information relating to crime prevention activities, crime problems and concerns, and preventive measures on specific crimes, and to provide information regarding community problems, solutions, and community successes.

#### IV. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A. The establishment of an effective and efficient community relations program is of significant importance to our department. The objectives of effective community relations are to establish direct contact with the community through the school system, community, business groups, and civic and professional organizations in order to gain community support of law enforcement activities.

B. All divisions and personnel are responsible for establishing and maintaining good relations with our community. These relations shall include provisions for:

1. Developing community relations policies that reflect agency objectives with input from the community.

2. Establishing liaison with local organizations and community groups and conveying information gathered from these groups to the agency.

3. Improving police-community relation practices through training, development, and implementation of interaction programs and community involvement.

4. Establishing community groups if none exist.

C. Citizen concerns raised to officers through community relations efforts shall be reported to the Chief of Police. This includes potential problems that may have an effect on law enforcement activities and recommendations and/or solutions/actions offered by the public and officers.

## V. COMMENTARY

As provided by the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program:

*“Law Enforcement agencies should establish direct contacts with the community they serve. Without “grassroots” community support, successful enforcement of many laws may be difficult, if not impossible. A well-organized community relations function can be an effective means of eliciting public support, can serve to identify problems in the making, and may foster cooperative efforts in resolving community issues. Input from the community can also help ensure that agency policies accurately reflect the needs of the community. Because the conduct of each employee reflects on the agency as a whole, the burden of achieving the agency’s community relations objectives should be shared. A unified, coordinated effort should require the participation, enthusiasm, and skills of all agency personnel.”*

Our department is a part of the city we serve, including the citizens that make up the population. Bottom line, our community relations and crime prevention efforts are designed to:

1. Create a two-way dialogue between the department and the citizens we serve.

2. Encourage citizen involvement in community crime prevention activities and programs.

3. Assist in the prevention and reduction of victimization of citizens and businesses.

4. Establish liaisons with local organizations and community groups.

5. Develop and improve community relations between the public and the department.

Again, the responsibility for providing crime prevention information and achieving and maintaining effective and efficient community relations is shared by all department personnel.