

February 18, 2008

Community Policing and Problem Solving

What is Community Policing?

It is the systematic blending of citizen concerns and of police resources dedicated to aggressive crime prevention and improvement of the community's quality of life.

Community Policing

- The principal mode of operation is one of problem solving
- In cooperation with the community a police officer is now able to identify problems and provide solutions for these problems
- Instead of treating recurring problems on your post or in your sector as unrelated, you will look for and will then try to identify and address their concerns
- It often is impossible to find the time necessary to engage in problem solving, but it should still be a priority to do so
- Research has shown that the number of radio runs is reduced by the implementation of problem solving skills

Problem Defined

A problem is anything that can have a negative effect in the community you are working in; it is something that causes harm to members of the community or a potential source of disorder

Problem Solving:

The SARA Model

- S**canning
- A**nalyzing
- R**esponding
- A**ssessing

Scanning

- Police Officers can learn about community problems...
- ...Through personal observation and interaction
 - ...By talking to other police officers
 - ...By reviewing department records
 - ...By reviewing community (citizen complaints)
 - ...By reading local newspapers

Identify Problems: is it an incident or symptom of a problem?

Verifying Problems: Stating the problem as you see it to the various community groups will help to confirm or to clarify your assessment

Taking Interim Action: When appropriate, take interim action such as enforcement, the issuance of warnings, referrals or other short term responses

Analyzing