

**The Bill Blackwood
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Community Oriented Policing

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ABSTRACT

Community- oriented policing is a concept that is now being tested by many police departments in the United States. Community- Oriented policing is a philosophy that allows the police department to work with the community in a way that will benefit all parties involved. Besides answering calls for service, the police officer is able to touch the community by going to meetings, as well as being free to take time to talk to the members *of* the community in his or her area of patrol. The citizens are an intricate part of community- oriented policing in that they are the eyes and ears of the officer and help by giving the officer information that is important to the community.

The study of this subject was done by reading about community-oriented policing and by talking to as well as retrieving information from police department web sites. This information was studied and discussed with others who have implemented the community-oriented policing philosophy and the result was the final writing of this paper. In order for the philosophy of community-oriented policing to work, the whole police department must be involved and the officer on the street must be allowed to work with the community.

In conclusion, community-oriented policing is a philosophy and a way of policing that allows the whole community to get involved in the workings of the community, and brings the police officer and community closer together for the better of all involved.

INTRODUCTION

Community- oriented policing is a fairly new way for police departments to do their jobs.

Community oriented policing is a partnership between law enforcement officials and the community. It should be a working philosophy that aims to put police officers and the community in a working environment to help serve each other and to decrease crime at the same time.

Community oriented policing in order to work needs the full support of the community as well as the citizens that are served. Citizens work with the police officers in identifying problems in the community and work to help find solutions. By allowing the police officers to attend community meetings, as well as conversations with the people that they serve, will help the police officers to learn what concerns the community has. This will enable the police officers to better respond to the needs of the community.

The purpose of the paper is to show the Richland College community the need for implementing a community oriented philosophy. By allowing the police officers to work with the community and to become an intricate part of the every day operations will give the whole community a feeling of togetherness. It will allow the other people on the campus to begin to feel comfortable with the police department. The college must learn what community oriented policing is, and the difference between it and the traditional way of policing. It is intended that the results of this research be presented to the Chancellors cabinet as well as the presidents of the colleges in the Dallas County Community College District. I will be using information from books on community oriented policing, as well as articles from professional papers, magazine articles and

internet articles. In essence, I hope to show the Dallas County Community College District the need for and the implementation of a community oriented policing philosophy at all seven of the colleges.

HISTORICAL, LEGAL or THEORETICAL CONTEXT

The idea of community policing is not a new idea. The original idea came about in 1829 with the formation of the London Metropolitan Police Department. It was because of the rising crime rate around London, that the police department was established. Sir Robert Peel, was the first chief of this newly developed London Metropolitan Police Department. His new "bobbies" were the original model for All-American and British police departments ever since. Some of the principles that Sir Robert Peel developed were, the use of crime statistics to determine the effectiveness of the police, a centrally located, publicly accessible police headquarters; and the value of good police recruitment, selection and training.

The one most important innovation that was developed during this time period was the establishment of patrol areas, known as "beats". Before 1829 the police only responded to crimes that had already been committed. It was luck if the criminal was apprehended. Peel assigned his bobbies to a specific area and held them responsible for preventing crime in that area. He believed that by stationing bobbies in specific areas, they would get to know the public and the citizens who would know about criminal activity in the area. He believed that information would be given to a person who was known in the area and was familiar with the people and places in the beat. This would allow the bobbies to

recognize suspicious persons and activities and be highly visible at their posts.

The second innovation that Peel instituted was the command structure. Peel believed that civilian control was essential, but he also believed that military discipline would ensure that the bobbies would walk the streets and enforce the laws of London.

policing developed along the lines of the London police. Most major U.S.

Cities established municipal police departments by the Civil War. Like the London police Force, the American departments were run under a military structure. The American officers wore blue uniforms and carried a weapon, and were controlled under a local precinct captain.

While the British quickly embraced the bobbie as a symbol of the country, American police officers were held in less esteem. "Of all the institutions of city government in late-nineteenth century America, none was as unanimously denounced as the urban police," wrote sociologist Egon Bittner. "According to every available account, they were, in every aspect of their existence, an unmixed, unmitigated, and unpardonable scandal."(Patterson, 1991, Page1).

By the turn of the century, professionalism began to be promoted in law enforcement. In some instances the state took-over corrupted local departments, forming the first state police departments. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), was founded in 1893, and immediately called for the adoption of a civil service system and centralization of authority in strong executive positions.

During the 19th century the police enforced many different types of laws and had many different functions. With the new century came a new idea that police officers would give up social work and dedicate their time to law enforcement.

While good government ideas emerged into a professional model of law enforcement, the major driving force was technology-the forensic sciences of ballistics, chemistry, and fingerprinting to an extent, but the real technological advances were the automobile, the telephone and the radio. The radio-equipped patrol car allowed the officers to respond to calls for service received from the police switchboard. The problem with this was that it took the officer out of the community, off of the sidewalks, and put them on the street, going from incident to incident observing the people from the patrol car.

In the second half of the century, proponents thought that professionalism in law enforcement was a solution to the crime problem. Police chiefs worked at promoting professionalism in their departments, while J Edgar Hoover promoted professionalism through the FBI National Academy. Several major universities established programs in professional police administration.

In 1962 the San Francisco Police Department attempted to start a basic community-policing program. The idea was for the police officers to reduce crime by reducing despair and by acting like a social service agency. Due to the close knit bonding with the people that they were serving, the group became alienated by the other divisions in the police department. In addition, the department began receiving a large amount of complaints coming in on the other police officers in the city. Moreover, the idea was finally terminated and not talked about again, because of the turmoil it caused.

In the 1970s team policing became popular. The idea was to set up teams of officers to work in the same area each day, so that they would become more familiar to the people and the needs of the community. Unfortunately, this also failed due to the lack of training and the lack of professionalism within the departments.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE OR PRACTICE

I have studied and read a great deal of information from other agencies in regards to starting up a community oriented policing program. The main ideas that have received from the study work are that in order for the concept to work, the whole department must be involved. Everyone from the patrol officer to the chief of police must be willing to change his or her ideas of policing. The police officers must be given the time to work with the community in solving problems that are important to both the police department and the community. It has been stated in Community Criminal Justice that research has shown that only one in three crimes are reported to the police, and that only two in five violent crimes, and crimes in progress typically constitute less than 5% of all calls for police service. (Bucqueroux, 1994)

The COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Office has worked closely with the federal government as well as local law enforcement. Crime has dropped for 6½ years and is at its lowest level in a quarter of a century. (Gilbert Police Department, 1999).

Even with this decline in crime, the president wants to continue the COPS program until 2004 with the hope of adding 30,000 to 50,000 more community police officers to the beat. (Gilbert Police Department, 1999, Page 2).

A study that was done in 1986 by the University of Maryland on the future of law enforcement showed that by the year 1995, the active participation of the average citizen would become the norm in American policing. (Tafoya, July 1997).

Robert Trojanowicz (1992) one of the fore fathers of modern community oriented policing and a professor at Michigan State University, while writing *Community Policing: a Contemporary Perspective* stated that there were ten principles to Community policing.

1. Philosophy and Organizational Strategy
2. Commitment to Community Empowerment
3. Decentralized and Personalized Policing
4. Immediate and Long-Term Proactive Problem Solving
5. Ethics, Legality, Responsibility and Trust
6. Expanding the Police Mandate,
7. Helping Those with Special Needs
8. Grass-Roots Creativity and Support
9. Internal Change
10. Building for the future

According to Trojanowicz, in order for a police department to be successful in the implementation of community oriented policing, all ten of the principles are needed.

These ten principles will be discussed in the next section of the paper.

The study revealed that the departments experiencing success with this philosophy of policing attributed that success to having established a good rapport with the communities that they served. All of the departments had gotten the communities as well as the business people involved with the policing of the neighborhoods. The people of the

communities had become the eyes and ears of the police officers and were willing to share the information that they had received for the betterment of all involved.

I was very much interested in the effects of community policing on a college and university level. It was found that every institution that had implemented this philosophy was having great success. Some of the ideas that were put into place were, bike patrols, horse patrols, foot beats, escorts of students to and from classes and dorms, dorm monitors who worked with the students in setting up patrols, and watch groups for their areas. This became the norm on campuses rather than the exception. The police departments were able to do this because of the student acceptance of the police officers. A college setting is one of the best locations to start a community oriented policing philosophy, because of the close knit family structure on campus.

While comparing the findings from other departments, it became apparent that most of the police departments, as well as the university's departments, all hold to the same principles. That is one of service to the community with the assistance of the community. Many of the departments had to change the philosophy of only answering calls for service, patrolling in cars and to going from location to location. All of this led up to the officer losing touch with the people they served. With the implementation of a community oriented policing philosophy, the officers had the freedom of working with the people, one on one. They had the ability to stop, make contact with and become part of the community rather than just being on duty. Smaller agencies seemed to have better success at changing, due to the size factor as well as the mentality of the residents. Small town like the idea of the officers knowing the people that they serve and becoming part of the community. Larger departments seem to have a harder time starting a community oriented

policing philosophy. This may be caused by the size of the area patrolled, the size of the department, cost to the department and just the idea of the number of people that are served each day. In researching this topic, it was found that once a department started using the community oriented policing philosophy, all of the departments studied were able to adjust and continue to perform the duties required.

DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT ISSUES

As Robert Trojanowicz stated, the philosophy of community oriented policing will not work without the ten principles.

1. Philosophy and Organizational Strategy: COP is a way of thinking and a way to carry out that thinking. It allows the police and the community to work closely together to solve problems that are relevant to the area and to the overall quality of life for the community. It allows both the police and people to explore new ways of addressing concerns beyond the focus of criminal activities.
2. Commitment to Community Empowerment: This principle relates to the idea that everyone within the police department must help to focus on solving community problems, and ways that will help the people in policing themselves. COP gives the line officer more freedom to make decisions, and enhances respect for their judgment as police professionals. The citizens must share in the responsibilities of solving problems as partners with the police.
3. Decentralized and Personalized Policing: The line officer acts as a direct link between the police and the community. Officers must be freed from routine patrolling and answering calls so that they can maintain contact with the people that they serve.

4. Immediate and Long-Term Proactive Problem Solving: In COP the officer's role demands contact with the community, so that they can find ways to create new solutions to local problems. As police officers, COP officers answer calls and make arrests but also work with the community in long-term initiatives to involve all of the community. The COP officer should also act as a link to other public and private agencies within the community.
5. Ethics, Legality, Responsibility and Trust: COP is based on mutual trust and respect between the officers and the community. COP challenges the community to accept their share of responsibilities for the better of the community. COP asks the people to handle more of the minor concerns, which will free the officer to develop immediate as well as long-term solutions to the communities concerns.
6. Expanding the Police Mandate: COP results in full service policing. The police must be able to respond to crisis and criminal activity, but also must be able to broaden their responsibilities to help make changes in the community.
7. Helping Those with Special Needs: COP explores new ways to protect the lives of those who are most vulnerable, juveniles, the elderly, minorities, the poor and the disabled.
8. Grass-Roots Creativity and Support: COP is a belief that nothing is better then dedicated people-working and talking together. It relays on the judgment, experience and creativity of everyone to come up with new community concerns.
9. Internal Changes: COP must involve everyone in the department. The COP officers are a bridge between the police and the people. The COP officers provide information

about the community and its problems. When it is accepted, COP may take as long as ten to fifteen years to develop.

10. Building for the Future: COP provides decentralized and personalized police service to the community. It should be thought of as a resource in helping to solve community concerns. COP is a new philosophy that provides the needs and services to help make the changes over time.

COP affords the department the ability to work with all of the people in the community and to hopefully give them a better quality of service. The officers on the beat are given the time to work with the problems that are important to the community, without the worry of having to answer call after call. This ability to give the needed time and attention to the community and people is what COP is all about.

Of course there are constraints put on a department. Size is one of the main problems. Small departments, who may not be as busy as a large department, still have problems. There may only be one officer on duty and the officers attention may be to answering calls and doing other types of law enforcement work. This will not give the officer the flexibility to focus on the needs of the community. Large departments have a problem also. That problem may very well be the officers themselves. Big city departments have less time to work on community problems due to the workload. The administration must see the need for the department to give service to the community, other then just answering calls. Another problem that could be seen is the attitude of the officer. Some officers still have the idea that they are not social workers, and that the needs of the community are someone else's job. They believe that their job is to take reports and make arrests. This belief must be changed, and officers need to be shown that COP is the way

that law enforcement needs to go in the future. With proper training, supervision and guidance, this can be achieved at all levels and in all sizes of police departments.

The Department of Justice has helped departments with the implementing of COP programs. They have been awarding grants to police departments that help to pay for officers who will be trained in the COP philosophy. The grant is for three years, and after the grant expires, the department is required to keep the officers on staff. The grant pays for seventy-five percent of the cost of each officer over the three years. This includes all of the salary and benefits that the officer is allowed.

This is a very good way for a department to get started in COP without a large out put of up front funds. By taking advantage of this benefit, it gives a department the ability to start a COP program, work on the program and show the community that the police are interested in the needs of the community and the people who live there.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

COP is a philosophy that all in law enforcement must attempt to pursue. It was learned that departments who have attempted to start a COP program have succeeded if they are willing to give the officers the time to train, the freedom to make contacts with the community and are willing to work with the officers to make the program a success. In learning about the COP program, It was learned that a college would be an ideal location to implement this type of law enforcement philosophy. In particular, Richland College is an ideal location to implement a COP program.

Being a full service law enforcement agency, Richland College would benefit with a COP program, in that it would bring the officers closer to the students, staff, faculty and

community. The officers would be able to give extra attention to the daily needs of the college as well as offer their expertise to the community. Officers could become an intricate part of the community, which would give the officers a feeling of fulfillment as well as becoming more involved with the daily workings of the college.

In order to succeed in this endeavor, certain freedom would need to be given to the police department. Officers would have to have a change in mindset in that they would have to help solve problems as an individual and understand that arrests and citations are not the only answer to solving law enforcement problems. This will take time, but with the right group of officers and the willingness to try a new program, There is no reason why the Richland College Police Department could not become a model department for a COP program.

To set up a COP program on campus would take a great deal of work. All of the officers as well as staff would have to go through specialized training in order to learn what type of philosophy would be expected of them. The administration would also have to know that the officers would be expected to handle themselves and certain incidents that arrive on a one to one basis. The officers would be able to work with the college community in sharing information, teaching classes on safety and security as well as other pertinent topics. The officers would be able to get closer to the community by patrolling more on foot and on bicycles. This would bring the officers closer to the people that they are working with and hopefully make them feel more of a part of the college.

By the college's acceptance of a COP program, it is believed that the police department would give the community a feeling of safety and security as well as common bond. By becoming more involved with the people on the campus, the problems that they are

having and the needs that they have would help both the officers as well as the campus in general. By starting a COP program on the Richland College campus, all interested parties would benefit. It is recommend that the police department be given the time to start a COPs program and to see if it is in fact the way that we should go to meet the needs of everyone involved.

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