

Martinsville Police Department



Community Policing



Community Policing has many definitions, to me, it is a philosophy that focuses on crime and social disorder through the delivery of police services that includes aspects of traditional law enforcement, community engagement and partnerships.

It is a balance between quicker response to calls for help and proactive problem-solving, centered on underlying causes of crime and disorder.

"The most important piece of modern day policing is having a mechanism for citizens to build relationships with officers for information sharing and problem solving."

Chief Sean L. Dunn



Community Policing Goals

- *Partner with the community to work through quality of life issues, including broken windows, and send a strong signal to criminal elements that the community does care.*
- *Restore sense of pride and order in neighborhoods.*
- *Ensure police are also working on Traditional Law Enforcement issues that are important to the community.*
- *Increased citizen satisfaction with the police and city government.*



Broken Windows Theory

- Simply states an abandoned building with a broken window signals a careless attitude towards property and therefore an absence of respect for the law.
- The “broken window” is the first step in a neighborhoods deterioration and as time goes on there will be other signs of abandonment and decay...more broken windows, more trash, more overgrown weeds and ultimately more disorder.
- Broken windows demonstrate to the community that no one cares and criminal elements will be more emboldened in areas they feel no one cares about.

Recent strategies that have positioned us to move forward!

- *Power Shift – Dedicated proactive officers, extra personnel between 5-10 p.m.*
- *Ghost Vehicles – Low cost initiative that raises presence while keeping officers in the field.*
- *Administrative Officers Deployed to the Field – i.e. Uptown, schools, etc... keeps officers in our neighborhoods.*
- *Expanded Special Investigation Division Personnel – by 2 investigators, 1 of which is long term training assignment*
- *Expanded Investigations Hours – Criminal Investigators and Special Investigators are working evening shift. This increases field coverage by 2 officers after 5pm.*

Recent strategies that have positioned us to move forward cont.

- *Rebalancing of shifts – Taking place in January 2015 to ensure each shift has an equal amount of skills & experience.*
- *Marketing Committee – This addition has helped us increase communications with the citizens of Martinsville.*
- *Increased Police Presence in and partnership with our Schools – In addition to the School Resource Officers, other officers are seen in the schools to remind students and employees of their safety.*
- *Officers attending Neighborhood Watch and Town Hall meetings to ensure concerns are being addressed.*
- *Working Closely with all other City Departments to include but not limited to Martinsville City: Sheriff's Office, Public Works, Inspections, Engineering, and the Fire Department.*

Training

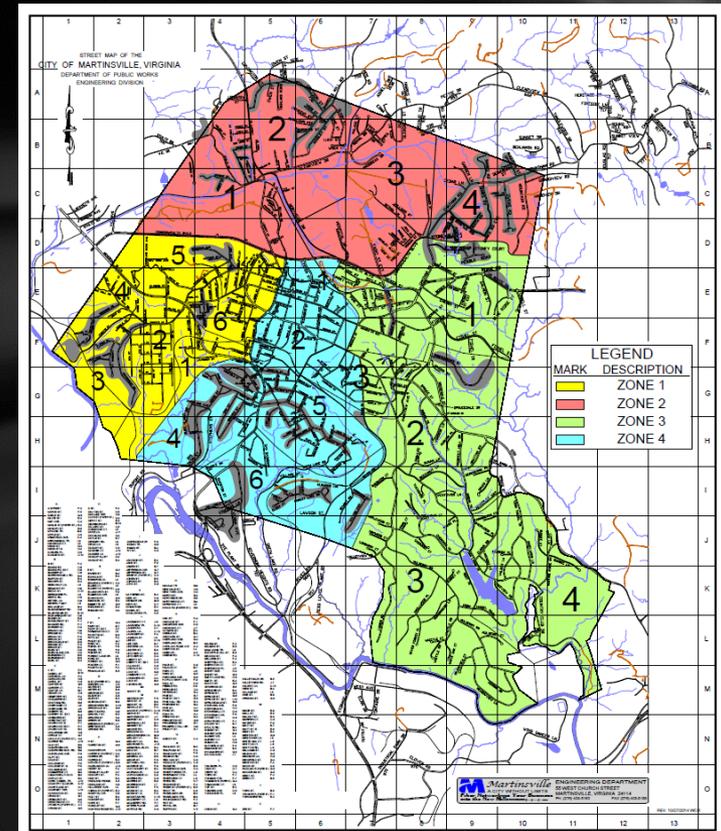


- Community Policing Training- Sworn and Civilian Staff.
- Crisis Intervention Training- This training helps officers work with citizens who are having emotional crisis or mental illness issues that would typically be handled in the Criminal Justice System.
- Enhanced Patrol Techniques- Criminal Investigations, Drug Interdiction, Officer Safety, Gang Awareness, etc.
- Inspections Cross Training – we are now able to assist inspections with property maintenance issues and plan on expanding this training to every member of the department in the near future.

Community Policing in Martinsville

We have established a committee which was chaired by Captain Marshall Thomas and is comprised of all ranks, including a civilian employee. They have created a community policing concept that we think is most suitable for our city.

We wanted city wide coverage so every community, neighborhood, business, religious organization and agency has a single point of contact for the police department. The city has been geographically divided into 20 distinct and manageable areas. Each patrol officer was given the opportunity to select his or her area.



Implementation

We are planning to kick off the Community Policing effort by introducing the first Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) on November 3 in the community, Zone 4 Area 6, consisting of Rivermont Heights, South Memorial Blvd., Starling Ave., Forest Lake Dr. and Rives Rd. This specific area will be assigned to NRO Chris Bell, as he requested this area.

November 10 NRO Ben Peters will begin introducing himself to the second area, Zone 4 Area 4, consisting of Askin St., Park St., South Memorial Blvd., DuPont Rd., Clift St., Forest St. and Smith Lake Rd. Once again, he requested this area.

We will be going door to door handing out business cards with the officers cell phone number during the week. NRO Chris Bell and Ben Peters will continue to work their patrol assignment but will focus on their NRO areas when they have time.

Power Shift, Criminal Investigations, Special Investigations, and other city departments will be a resource for each NRO.

What citizens will experience:



- More responsive and friendlier policing.
- A familiar officer out of their vehicle in your neighborhood knocking on your door asking you about community concerns.
- An officer speaking with kids and residents more frequently.

What comes next?

The Implementation that we have just discussed will be the blueprint on how we move into every area of the city. During this time we will also expand partnerships with the police and other agencies.

The true success of **Community Policing** happens when citizens and police partner together as a team. Without citizen involvement, we are back to traditional reactive policing instead of being proactive in our communities.

**The police department
belongs to the
community. We want to
ensure we are doing our
best to serve you!**



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