

Cobb County Police Department

Policy 5.24

COMMUNITY POLICING

Effective Date: October 1, 2019	Issued By: Chief C.T. Cox
Rescinds: Policy 5.24 (November 1, 2017)	Page 1 of 2
The words "he, his, him," which may appear in this policy, are used generically for clarity and ease of reading. These terms are not meant to imply gender and relate to all employees of the Department.	

Community relations are based upon the principle that, in our society the police are an integral and indivisible element of the public they serve. Community relations are manifest by positive interactions between the community and the police and represents unity and common purpose.

A system of law and its enforcement is not superimposed upon an unwilling public in a free society; the law is created by the people themselves to control the behavior of those who would seek to interfere with the community welfare and existence.

I. DEFINITION

Community Policing is an organizational strategy that promotes a new partnership between people and their police. It is based on the premise that both the police and the community must work together to identify, prioritize, and solve contemporary problems such as crime, drugs, fear of crime, social and physical disorder, and overall neighborhood decay, with the goal of improving the quality of life.

II. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department must strive for the establishment of a climate where an officer may perform his duties with the acceptance, understanding, and approval of the public. The Department must be responsive to the needs and problems of the community. While the Department's tasks are governed by law, the policies formulated to guide the enforcement of the law must include consideration of the public will. This responsiveness must be manifest at all levels of the Department by a willingness to listen and by a genuine concern for the problems of individuals or groups. The total needs of the community must become an integral part of the programs designed to carry out the mission of the Department.

III. RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYEES

Community policing is manifest in its most common form in the numerous daily encounters between individual officers and civilian employees and the citizens we serve. It is at this level that reality is given to the unity of the people and the police, and where the greatest burden for strengthening community relations is laid. Therefore, all agency personnel share responsibility for achieving the agency's community relations and crime prevention objectives.

In dealing with people, each officer and civilian employee must attempt to make his contact one which inspires respect for himself as a professional and one which generates the cooperation and approval of the public for the Department's efforts on community relations and crime prevention. Each employee must strive to view all situations objectively, not allowing personal beliefs to impair impartiality and effectiveness.