



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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Contents

- I. Purpose
- II. Policy
- III. Community Relations

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Written Directive is to provide guidelines and establish procedures concerning Community Relations functions of the Agency.

II. Policy

It shall be the policy of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Force (UMBPF) for all members to adhere to the guidelines, policies and procedures as described in this Written Directive.

III. Community Relations

A. Crime Prevention

1. Crime prevention is a fundamental responsibility of every UMBPF employee. Effective crime prevention requires the combined support of the UMBPF and the University community. UMBPF programs are designed to inform, educate, and assist our community in becoming more aware of crime prevention activities on campus. Through our programs, the UMBPF seeks to increase the University community's understanding of police activities, increase confidence in the Agency, and ensures a broader participation in University-wide crime prevention and law enforcement efforts. The UMBPF is committed to establishing close ties with and responding to the needs of the University community.
2. Crime prevention focuses on the roles that students, faculty, and staff can individually and collectively play in the reduction and/or prevention of crime. It encourages individual, group, and school programs and activities to reduce/prevent crime. For example, the Safety Awareness Committee and the Student/Employee Orientation Programs are designed to raise the student or employee's awareness of the crime in the area and the role they have in crime prevention.

B. Community Relations

Community relations are concerned with identifying and addressing problems arising between the UMBPF and the University community. Establishing formal relationships with community groups, identifying problems, responding to them, and developing programs which increase community understanding and confidence in current and proposed Agency activities is the goal

of any community relations program. When problems are identified, the UMBPF will develop problem oriented or community oriented policing strategies as a response.

C. Support Services Commander Responsibilities

1. The UMBPF crime prevention activities and services are planned and coordinated by the Support Services Commander with the assistance of the Special Services Lieutenant.
2. Specific responsibilities of the Support Services Commander or designee as it relates to the community relations function include:
 - a. Studying crime trends that are generally preventable and developing procedures and programs to reduce the opportunity for crime;
 - b. Implementing, coordinating, conducting and managing crime prevention programs and activities;
 - c. Consulting with the Crime Prevention/Safety Awareness Officer, police officers, as well as the Safety Awareness Committee on trends and programs;
 - d. Establishing a working relationship with the University community in order to develop, promote and implement crime prevention programs;
 - e. Maintaining a working relationship with the University of Maryland, Baltimore Safety Awareness Committees and other interested University groups. The UMBPF will provide guidance and assistance with training and program development as needed or requested;
 - f. Establishing a working relationship with other local and state crime prevention programs in order to facilitate the exchange of information;
 - g. Developing and maintaining records on crime prevention activities, programs, and presentations and a resource file of crime prevention material; and
 - h. Developing community involvement policies for the UMBPF.

D. Crime Prevention/Safety Awareness

The Crime Prevention/Safety Awareness Officer is responsible for executing the Agency's crime prevention program. The Crime Prevention/Safety Awareness Officer is appointed by the Support Services Commander and works closely with all members of the UMBPF and the University community to accomplish the goals of an effective and comprehensive community relations program. This assignment of responsibility does not relieve officers of being aware of and involved in crime prevention activities and programs.

E. The Safety Awareness Committee

1. The UMBPF crime prevention programs and services are developed and implemented with the primary objective of increasing the community's awareness of the conditions and circumstances which led to a vulnerability to crime. The UMBPF will solicit members of the Safety Awareness Committee for their opinions relative to new policies and procedures that have an impact on the University community.
2. Members of the UMBPF will ensure that all information received from the Safety Awareness Committee and other University groups is conveyed back to the Agency. Members will memorialize the information on a written report and send it through the chain of command to the Support Services Commander.
3. The Support Services Commander or designee, Crime Prevention/Safety Awareness Officer, and all UMBPF members are responsible for ensuring the Safety Awareness Committee members and all groups within the University Community are provided assistance as necessary.

F. Crime Prevention Data

1. The Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief will ensure the publication of the Agency's objectives, problems, and successes that have an impact on the University community. Crime Prevention data will be evaluated and a determination made as to what type of crime prevention activity or program would be the most effective in a particular University community. As a result, programs will be targeted to address the University community's perceptions or misinterpretations of crime problems.
2. New programs may be added and existing programs evaluated each year with both a qualitative and quantitative analysis of crime prevention activities. The annual evaluation is the responsibility of the Support Services Commander or designee.
3. Several programs are continuously ongoing due to their proven success within the University community over the past years; however, they are evaluated at least annually to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the community and the objectives of the overall crime prevention program. See **WD 6.23, Crime Prevention** for further information.

G. Community Relations Objectives

Each member of the UMBPF is responsible for creating an environment in their daily contacts that promotes a positive exchange of ideas necessary for good police-community relations and that achieves the community involvement objective.

H. Community Relations Evaluation

1. The evaluation of information obtained through community relations activities is the responsibility of the Support Services Commander or designee. As a result of the evaluation, training needs can be identified and Agency practices bearing on police-

community relations can be improved through interviews with members of the University community.

2. The Support Services Commander or designee shall ensure that the evaluation of community relations activities is documented in a quarterly report. The evaluation shall include the following:
 - a. A description of the current concerns voiced by the community;
 - b. A description of potential problems that have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the University community;
 - c. Recommended actions that address the previously identified concerns and problems;
 - d. A statement of progress made towards addressing previously identified concerns and problems; and
 - e. A consideration of community surveys, complaints, requests and inquiries.
3. The Support Services Commander or designee will maintain up-to-date information and records on all crime prevention and community relation activities for reporting and evaluation purposes.

Written Directive System Impact

Upon approval and publication, WD 9.4 incorporates and replaces the Community Relations portion of WD 6.25, Public Information and Community Relations, which will be deactivated. It also supersedes all previous published information.

Martinez Quteaz Davenport, Sr., MS
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CALEA Standard (s): 45.2.1