



Anne Arundel County Police Department  
8495 Veterans Highway Millersville, Maryland 21108  
(410) 222-8050  
[www.aacounty.org/police](http://www.aacounty.org/police)



**William Lowry**  
Interim Chief of Police

## Anne Arundel County Police Department Community Policing Program Annual Report for 2019

### **SECTION 1** (Agency Information, Point of Contact and Population Demographics)

#### Agency Information:

Anne Arundel County Police Department  
8495 Veterans Hwy, Millersville, MD 21108  
William Lowry, Interim Chief of Police

#### Person to Contact Regarding Report:

Lieutenant Charles Ravenell, Commander, Community Relations Section  
Phone: 410-222-4645  
Email: [cravenell@aacounty.org](mailto:cravenell@aacounty.org)

#### Population Demographics:

Population Estimate: 573,235 (Information From the U.S. Census Bureau, July 2017)



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## **SECTION 2** (Detailed Description of Community Policing Program)

The Community Relations Division (CRD) is a component of the Patrol Services Bureau. A police captain provides managerial oversight and serves as the Community Relations Division commander. The Community Relations Division is tasked with direct liaison between community groups, direct liaison with the judicial system, and supplemental community based patrol services. The division's organization is fashioned to enable effective working relationships between the police department and all facets of the community it serves.

The Department is committed to correcting actions, practices and attitudes likely to contribute to community tensions and grievances. Although it is the joint responsibility of all Department personnel and community members to identify and rectify actions, procedures and/or attitudes likely to result in disorder and community unrest, the Community Relations Section organizes and supports efforts to recognize problems in early stages and establish preventative actions to avoid larger conflicts.

The Community Relations Division's mission is accomplished through component units and assigned personnel.

The Community Relations Division is comprised of the following sections:

### 1. The Crime Prevention Section.

The Crime Prevention Section provides support and subject-matter expertise in crime prevention and crime avoidance. It is responsible for managing the department's crime prevention function, including the effort to reduce false alarms. The Crime Prevention Section maintains liaison with community groups, business groups, and government entities, which might have an interest in crime prevention and law enforcement. In order to meet its goals, the crime prevention function must maintain close ties with the other department functions that support and make possible the law enforcement effort.

The Crime Prevention Section also contains 2 units: 1) The Bicycle Patrol Unit, and 2) the Explorer Program. The Crime Prevention Section also provides administrative oversight to the Police Chaplain Corps, the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), the Reserve Officer Program and the false alarm reduction administrator.



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The Crime Prevention section is also responsible for:

- Oversight of the Police Explorer program

The Anne Arundel County Police Explorer Program is sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Police Department and chartered annually through the Exploring Division of Learning for Life, subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America. Training is essential and is necessary to maintain the high standards required by the Police Department and the Boy Scouts of America. Training is provided not only to Staff members but also to the explorers themselves in a team building concept.

- Oversight of the Police Chaplain Corps

The Police Chaplain Corps provides a ministry of presence to the police department; Chaplains provide pastoral care to Department members, to persons in crisis, and/or to persons encountering personal or community distress.

- Oversight of the VIPS Program

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program provides citizens with non-uniformed, non-enforcement police department volunteer opportunities

- Oversight of the Reserve Officer Program

The Reserve Officer Program provides citizens with non-sworn volunteer opportunities with the police department. Unlike VIPS, Reserve Officers wear a distinctive uniform and are typically utilized for tasks such as traffic control, funeral details, fairs, carnivals, disaster sites and other activities of a non-violent nature. Reserve Officers do not wear/carry firearms; they do not carry any weapons other than those specifically authorized by the Chief of Police, do not perform law enforcement duties and do not have arrest powers

- Administration of the False Alarm Program

Legislation concerning false alarms was signed into law in June 2009. It will dramatically increase the false-alarm program workload. The new law mandates that an "Alarm Administrator" be appointed by the Chief of Police. A sworn full time officer from the Crime Prevention Section will be selected. The Alarm Administrator will oversee the administration of the entire false alarm reduction effort. The County has under contract the Crywolf Company (Public Safety Corp.) who are solely responsible the issuance of warnings, identifying violators,



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issuing fine notices, collecting fines, auditing financial reports. The Alarm Administrator will also serve as liaison to alarm users and providers as well as participate in regional and professional associations related to the alarm industry.

## 2. Bicycle Patrol Unit

The Bicycle Patrol Unit provides full time community oriented patrol on mountain bicycles (removing the often perceived barrier created by the patrol car) and provides a community-based link between the Police Department and the community. Bicycle Patrol Unit officers strive to resolve quality of life issues in the community, to reduce the opportunity for criminal activity, and to reduce citizen fears of crime in the community by fostering community partnerships, increasing public contact and improving accessibility. The purpose of the Bicycle Patrol Unit is to provide a readily deployable and flexible supplemental patrol force in businesses districts, neighborhoods and shopping areas and to provide an alternative patrol method to the traditional motorized patrol. Its current mission is to address crime patterns identified as quality of life issues in the community, such as thefts from autos.

The Community Relations Section also participates in the below listed Community Policing Programs which provides partnerships with community groups, business groups and civic organizations that continually strengthen through outreach and involvement, crime prevention and reduction education. We also continue educational programs for county citizens, specifically at-risk populations such as the elderly, for identity theft and other criminal concerns and continue to seek training relating to preventing, reacting and responding to crime trends, and reacting to community needs.

### Personnel Protection:

Personal Protection is a subject, which is discussed at practically all our crime prevention presentations, whether the topic is sexual assault, crime and the elderly or home security. During the past 12 months, The Community Relations Section presented approximately 40 programs specifically addressing personal protection. This is a reduction of the previous year of approximately 50% due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Presentations include our visits to the Anne Arundel County Fair and our Holiday Patrols conducted at area shopping malls throughout the holiday season. The total number of people attending these presentations was approximately 8,000. The department also participates in the Watch Your Car Program. The Crime Prevention Unit along with the Auto Theft Unit have set up displays at local malls and at District Stations for signing up and information. The crime prevention pamphlets "How to be Safe and Streetwise" is utilized along with a Power Point Presentation on Personal Safety. This pamphlet



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has been found to be most effective in spreading the message of personal protection and the Power Point is a good visual to drive the message home. The tri-fold and the Power Points cover many personal safety tips for persons while walking, shopping, traveling and while involved in other outdoors activities.

Rape, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking:

Our Crime Prevention Unit and Crimes Against Persons Section share the responsibility of providing informative programs addressing the subject of Rape, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking. When giving presentations on this subject our officers provide statistical information and preventative tips, as well as, explaining investigative procedures associated with these type offenses. Our audiences range from teens to senior citizens. The films “Rape Escape without Violence” and “Rape Prevention: Trust Your Instincts” are used occasionally along with the Maryland Crime Watch publications. Along with the videos, officers giving these presentations also use the handouts “It Shouldn’t Hurt to be a Kid”, “Date Rape”, “Reducing the Risk of Sexual Assault”, “Sexual Assault is about power and control”, “Being Forced into Having Sex-Even if it’s by Someone You Know” and “How to be Street Wise and Safe” which we use with our Personal Safety Programs. It should also be noted that during the majority of Personal Safety lectures the topic of rape and sexual assault are discussed and with the emergence of Human Trafficking this topic was added to the discussions the pervious year.

Elderly Crime Prevention Programs:

Our Crime Prevention Programs for the elderly include all aspects: personal security, home security, neighborhood security, elderly abuse, etc... This has been an ongoing project for our department for the past 30 years. Our crime prevention efforts take us to county senior centers, senior citizens’ clubs, AARP meetings and communities for the elderly. We work closely with the Department of Aging in promotion of crime prevention. The Department of Aging has also sent us quite a few recruits for our “Volunteers in Police Service” (VIPS) and “Reserve Officers” programs. We supply the following brochures: “Senior Citizens Against Crime”, “Home and Personal Safety”, “Outsmarting Identity Thieves”, “Preventing Telemarketing Fraud” and “Robbery-Keeping Senior Safe while Shopping” These are used in conjunction with our Elderly Crime Prevention Programs. The brochures are also made available to the County’s numerous senior clubs, senior centers, as well as other interested groups involved in elderly crime prevention programs. As well as being displayed at numerous events on the crime prevention display table.



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#### Youth Crime Prevention Programs:

Aside from the elementary schools, crime prevention officers upon request continue to present child safety and crime prevention programs to our youths. These activities include such programs as latchkey, personal safety, block parents, home security, etc.

In addition to our formal presentations, crime prevention staff has had contact with thousands of young people each year through McGruff visits. We visit schools, communities, shopping centers, and special functions throughout the county promoting crime prevention and safety. The use of Reserve Officers in the McGruff function has proven beneficial in this program. Also this past year officers participated in a "Lunch Buddy" program. Officer went to an area elementary school during lunch and talked with the children about whatever topic concerned them.

#### Drug Abuse Prevention Programs:

The Crime Prevention Unit orders thousands of pamphlets on various topics dealing with drug and alcohol abuse. CPU personnel also incorporated into the many presentations that are done, a section on drugs and alcohol abuse. The officers of the Crime Prevention unit along with the district PACT officers and School Resource Officers upon request do presentations on drug and alcohol abuse. During the year an actual number of presentations cannot be quantified due to the decentralized nature of the program. The above number is an estimate based on the number of presentations given throughout the year. To include the "Not My Child" presentations done on a large scale throughout the county due to the uptick in Opioid overdoses in the county and throughout the state. The Anne Arundel County Police Department is dedicated to preserving the future of our children and the future of our County.

#### Residential Security Program:

Our department continues to promote residential security projects through our "Community Crime Watch Program." Our Crime Watch Program incorporates various programs and services available to the residential communities. These services and programs include Operation Identification, Neighborhood Watch, Security Patrols, Personal Security, Home Security and Community Crime Data. In the last two years we've also been making communities aware of "Next Door" Facebook style watch program. The department's Operation Identification Program has been active since 1970. The department provides participants in the program with a brochure explaining the Program. Program I.D. stickers to identify their home as a participant. Engravers are available upon request to mark ones property. In conjunction with the Operation I.D.



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program, we continue to recruit participants for the Neighborhood Watch Program. Community groups may organize as a formal or informal watch group. Some communities may have a need to mobilize their watch group, thereby establishing a volunteer security patrol (eyes and ears for the neighborhood and the police department).

All of our residential security programs are presented with the aid of PowerPoint presentations and videos; covering topics such as “Neighborhood Watch”, “What is suspicious?”, Home Security, Alarms, Lighting Operation I.D., Basic Crime Prevention through Environmental Design. The department’s Operation Identification Program has been active since 1970. The department provides participants in the program with a brochure explaining the Program. Program I.D. stickers to identify their home as a participant. Engravers are available upon request to mark ones property. In conjunction with the Operation I.D. program, we continue to recruit participants for the Neighborhood Watch Program. Community groups may organize as a formal or informal watch group. Some communities may have a need to mobilize their watch group, thereby establishing a volunteer security patrol (eyes and ears for the neighborhood and the police department). All of our residential security programs are presented with the aid of PowerPoint presentations and videos; covering topics such as “Neighborhood Watch”, “What is suspicious?”, Home Security, Alarms, Lighting Operation I.D., Basic Crime Prevention and Environmental Design.

Another part of our residential security program is home security. Crime Prevention staff conduct home security presentations and provide home security surveys upon request. Patrol Officers and Reserve Officers also play a role in conducting these surveys. We are finding many county residents becoming more aware of home security techniques, and they are taking preventative measures to protect their home without the aid of formal security survey. Our Community Crime Watch Program is an important part of our overall crime prevention mission. However, to maintain the effectiveness of this program, communities are encourage to periodically re-evaluate their crime prevention efforts to ensure program effectiveness. The Crime Prevention Unit works closely with community leaders to encourage their participation in this evaluation and revitalization process. Crime Prevention Officers provide guidelines, handouts and other technical assistance to generate new interest in crime prevention programs; while still urging those communities not involved in the Crime Watch Program to participate in this worthwhile effort.

As an incentive to those communities that participate in the Community Crime Watch Program, the police department has designed a crime watch sign and will post it in any crime watch community that meets a specified level of participation. Our department has a Neighborhood Canvassing Project, an aggressive approach to targeting neighborhoods having a



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crime problem or potential crime problem. The process involves: 1) target selections, 2) packet preparation, 3) organizing canvassing team, 4) door to door canvassing, and 5) follow up (including meetings, organizing and initiating needed crime prevention activities and reviewing reported calls for service and reported crime). Also, the Police Department has a reverse 911 system to call residents in a targeted area to inform them of scams, crimes, and other information to assist them with home and personal security. This crime prevention project has met with success in reducing crime and generating crime prevention awareness and participation in these targeted communities. Our Community Crime Watch Program is alive and well!

Commercial Security Programs:

The Crime Prevention Unit continues to provide commercial security presentations to the business community upon request. This past year the Crime Prevention Unit conducted 16 presentations for the Church and Synagogue communities with approximately 16 congregations present. Prevention programs including robbery, shoplifting, burglary, internal theft and business watch are included in our commercial security program. A variety of power point shows covering these various topics are utilized to enhance our presentations. This past year C.R.A.S.E (citizen response to active shooter events) presentations have been the topic of choice for most businesses the unit provided 38 presentations with approximately 760 people in attendance. A big part of our Commercial Security Program is informal business contacts. In the past twelve months over 1000 business contacts were made. Using this approach, a crime prevention officer or the departments business liaison meets with the business manager or owner of a commercial establishment and explains various crime prevention strategies. The employer then passes on the information provided to employees. The Crime Prevention Officer during this visit can answer any specific concerns the manager or employer may have. Many times these business contacts are made in specific areas experiencing particular problems. Another part of our Commercial Security Program is our Commercial Security Network. The network is comprised of crime prevention staff and private security directors of various retail stores and malls in Anne Arundel County. The network meets once a month to discuss crime prevention strategies and enforcement issues. In addition, information is exchanged through the network pertaining to criminal activity effecting network members.

Crime Prevention Community Policing Training:

Our department provides crime prevention and community policing training to all recruit classes, reserve officers, as well as assists the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute with teaching of their Basic Crime Prevention Training Course as requested. Our police recruit officers receive ten hours of instruction in crime prevention including Theory and Practice,



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Commercial Security, Home Security and conducting security surveys 4 hours in class and 6 hours on FTO.

To properly allocate our Community Relations resources and services, we rely on our Crime Analysis Unit to provide data on crime trends and patterns. This is accomplished through reports, maps and other products intended to assist in preventing and suppressing criminal activity while enhancing the likelihood criminal offenders will be quickly apprehended. Crime analysis information will be used in the development of department tactics, strategies, and long-range plans.

Factors to be considered in developing these plans include:

1. Analysis of crime trend data by type of crime;
2. Analysis of offender characteristics;
3. Analysis of crime trend data by targeted location;
4. Analysis of crime trend data by targeted item(s);
5. Analysis of crime trend data by targeted victim(s);
6. Analysis of geographic crime distribution; and
7. Analysis of temporal distribution of crime.

Lastly, to ensure the success of our Community Relations Section and Community Policing efforts our mission is fully supported by the Executive level within the police department and County Government. To further demonstrate this point, this excerpt is taken directly for the 2018 Police Department Goals and Objectives:

*Goal #3: The Department will continue to build community relationships by improving the ability to communicate, providing transparency, and increasing public confidence in the Police Department.*

*Objectives:*

- 3.1 Continue to build and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with the community.*
- 3.2 Continue to provide innovative training opportunities dealing with biased policing, procedural justice, de-escalation in the use of force, and interactions with persons suffering from mental illness.*
- 3.3 Continue to strengthen relationships with the faith based community.*
- 3.4 Continue hiring the best and the brightest officers, while striving to reflect the community we serve.*