

8.1 Community Relations and Crime Prevention

The purpose of this directive is to clearly define the role of the Sheriff's Office and its employees in the areas of community relations and crime prevention.

8.1.1 Policy

It is the policy of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office to facilitate community relations, to participate in crime prevention activities in a manner that will enhance the quality of life for our citizens, and to inform them of the responsibilities and role of the Sheriff's Office.

8.1.2 Responsibilities

Community relations is the responsibility of every employee, civilian and sworn, in the Sheriff's Office. From time to time, employees may be assigned to participate in functions designed to increase the community's understanding of the activities and role of the Office. These may include, but are not limited to, fingerprinting children and organizing youth programs, public speaking, recruitment efforts, distributing traffic and other public safety materials, staffing information booths, performing demonstrations, and participating in public events.

Crime prevention duties are primarily the responsibility of the various police agencies in and for Anne Arundel County. However, the Sheriff may designate individuals to be responsible for specific crime prevention activities on an as-needed basis. These services provided by the Sheriff's Office are supplementary to services provided by the primary law enforcement agencies, and are not intended to duplicate or circumvent services, or interfere with other crime prevention efforts. Sheriff's Office crime prevention activities may include speaking to various groups about crime prevention methods, distributing literature, conducting training, or assisting other police agencies as requested.

8.1.3 Special Projects and Initiatives

By establishing links with the community, the Sheriff's Office can learn of issues affecting our duties and responsibilities and respond to them in a timely and appropriate manner. Our participation in community relations and crime prevention activities will increase public confidence in our agency and enhance

the community's understanding of the function and role of the Sheriff's Office. Community relations and crime prevention programs and initiatives will be coordinated by the Sheriff's *Public Information Officer (PIO)*. Requests for services or other relevant information received by an Office member bearing on crime prevention and community relations may be transmitted to the PIO in any format.

The PIO is responsible for submitting a report quarterly to the Sheriff detailing Office crime prevention and community relations activities. The report should address current concerns voiced by constituents, a description of potential problems that have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the community, a statement of recommendations that address previously identified concerns and problems, and progress toward those ends.