



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Crime Prevention*

Number: 708

Effective Date: *March 1, 2024*

Revised Date:

Rescinds:

Dated:

Approved By:

Approved By:

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for the crime prevention function of the Myrtle Beach Police Department.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to promote a positive and mutually beneficial relationship with the public. The Department is committed to the development and implementation of comprehensive procedures and programs designed to anticipate, recognize, and appraise crime risks and to initiate action to reduce or remove such risks through the establishment of a Crime Prevention Program. The Department will address current concerns and potential problems that may impact both law enforcement and members of the community. All Department personnel share the responsibility for crime prevention.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Crime Prevention programs are prioritized and targeted based on the following:

1. Upon evaluation of pertinent data, a decision will be made as to which crime type presents the greatest problem, the locality where the problem is most severe, or how the program could be most productive.
2. The Crime Prevention Specialist will target programs to address community perceptions or misperceptions of crime.
3. The Crime Prevention Specialist's supervisor will conduct a documented evaluation of crime prevention programs at least every three years to

identify community needs and evaluate the effectiveness and usefulness of programs in combating the current problems.

B. The Crime Prevention Specialist will:

1. Attempt to develop and implement new Community Watch programs in the City.
2. Monitor established Community Watch programs and ensure an officer attends meetings to keep the members interested and abreast of new materials and resources available to them.
3. Provide information on how to obtain crime statistics using the Department's webpage.
4. Maintain a database of all active Watch Groups.
5. Support requests from individuals and civic groups to make presentations on topics related to crime prevention and security.

C. CPTED Evaluations

1. An officer, specially trained in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), will conduct residential and business evaluations when requested or as an outreach opportunity based upon a crime trend that has been identified.
2. A written report will be provided to the citizen/business with recommendations to better secure the premises and reduce opportunities for criminal activity.
3. The Department will retain a copy of all completed CPTED evaluations and will be destroyed in accordance with the SC Department of Archives Retention Schedule.

D. Reporting

1. The Crime Prevention Officer will prepare and submit a quarterly report through the chain of command to the Chief of Police. This report will include:
 - i. A description of current concerns voiced by the community.
 - ii. A description of potential problems that have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the community.
 - iii. A statement of recommended actions that address previously identified concerns and problems.
 - iv. A statement of progress made toward addressing previously

- identified concerns and problems.
 - v. The current number of active Community and Business Watch groups.
 - vi. The number of Community and Business Watch meetings attended.
 - vii. The number of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluations completed.
2. The Regulatory Supervisor will evaluate current crime prevention programs and suggest changes or identify new prevention programs as needed.

E. Satisfaction and Safety Surveys

1. The Crime Prevention Officer will conduct a Citizen Satisfaction and Safety Survey at least once every three years.
2. At a minimum, the survey will contain the following polling information for completion by the general public and review by this Department:
 - i. Citizens' perception and opinion of the Department's overall performance;
 - ii. Overall competence of Department staff;
 - iii. Officer attitude and behavior;
 - iv. Community opinion of safety and security within the Department's jurisdiction; and
 - v. Citizens' proposals and suggestions for improvements.
3. The results of the surveys will be reported to the Chief of Police for consideration and action, which may include:
 - i. The implementation of new or modification of Departmental programs;
 - ii. The adaptation or modification of Department Training;
 - iii. Changes or additions to Crime Prevention efforts;
 - iv. Increasing Public Awareness as to the public's perception of the Department's performance; and
 - v. Redistribution of agency resources.
4. The results are available to the general public through the internet, or other avenue if deemed more effective.