

CHESTERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAM

The Chestertown Police Department's Community Policing Program performs numerous types of Community Policing more on a daily and weekly basis than on a scheduled basis. The Chestertown Police Community Policing Program is adapted to funding and man power restraints. Officers do attend several annual events within the community. The police department also communicates with the community via social media. All of the police officers community policing contacts or events are opportunities to educate and to build a rapport (trust) with all citizens within the jurisdiction.

Chestertown Police officers work constantly with other agencies/ businesses within the jurisdiction to obtain and offer resources to victims and citizens. These agencies/ organizations are social services, juvenile services, parole and probation, health department, behavioral health, non- profit organizations, church groups, local EMS and fire departments. Occasionally these agencies/ businesses work together with the police department to assist citizens with educational and several other types of services.

The Chestertown Police Department has a weekly initiative directing officers to make contact with students at the middle school in attempt to gain a rapport with them. The main purpose of the initiative is to try to change the thinking "why are the police at school, something must of happened" to making students feel it's normal or okay to see the police in school. Officer contact is not made during instructional time.

Chestertown Police officers are required to perform foot patrols on a daily basis. Foot patrols are a proactive approach in decreasing crime. During the patrols, officers are constantly communicating with citizens in attempt to make a positive, non- confrontational contact with them. These patrols often lead to officers learning information about incidents that have occurred or sometimes learn about some criminal activities that are about to occur. Officers also assist in giving citizens general information about the police department or the area.

The Chestertown Police Department administration is involved in assisting with the planning of numerous community events throughout the year. The police officials are sometimes a large part of the initial planning of the event and assisting during the actual event. This relationship is very helpful with increasing the rapport and communication with several non profit organizations that sponsor the events throughout the year.

The Chestertown Police Department operates a street camera system that assists with case investigations. There is community input in reference to where the cameras are installed and areas that are viewed.

Officers of the Chestertown Police Department attend town and nonprofit organization meetings on a regular basis. Officers also participate in more scheduled types of events like National Drug Take Back Day, festivals, parades, celebrations, memorials, block parties, church events, and annual open houses. Officers are committee members for some of the events. Bike Patrols are used for one large festival each year. All events require a Town permit which are reviewed by the members of the police department.

The Chestertown Police Department has recently started a child safety seat inspection/ installation program. An officer received training and was certified to inspect and install child safety seats for citizens in the community.

Due to the police departments community policing program/ polices officers develop very good rapport and relationships with citizens in the community. These relationships assist the police department with preventing and solving crime throughout the community.

