

# **COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The Support Services/Community Outreach Division of the Covington Police Department was established to promote, emphasize and encourage positive community involvement with law enforcement. The Covington Police Department believes that a law enforcement agency that allows and fosters the community to involve itself cannot help but be more responsive to the community's needs. Effective law enforcement depends upon a high degree of courtesy and cooperation between the department and the public it serves. Outlined below are the steps toward attaining a successful community relations strategy.

## **OPERATIONAL PLAN**

In order to successfully incorporate the concept of shared responsibility in law enforcement, it is necessary to establish good contact with formal community organizations and other community groups. Within the Support Services/Community Outreach Division, a member will be designated to maintain liaison with established citizen groups. Contact will be maintained with representatives of these groups in order to address their concerns and solicit their feedback as it relates to our operations. In addition, cooperation with these groups will be maintained in order to increase community awareness and coordinate crime prevention programs.

It will be the policy of the Support Services/Community Outreach Division to provide assistance and information to citizens and businessmen interested in taking steps to reduce crime. Officers will be encouraged to provide crime prevention recommendations to citizens in their daily contact. The Division will maintain contact with businesses through the City of Covington in order to keep them abreast of recent crime trends and activities. Crime prevention programs and methods will be available to those interested in the business community. Their suggestions and input regarding crime prevention and community relations activities will be solicited.

The Support Services/Community Outreach Division will make every effort to ensure citizens are offered information dealing with police services and procedures and will endeavor to publicize its activities, objectives, problems and successes through informational programs, officer contacts and crime prevention publications.

The Support Services/Community Outreach Captain or his designee will have the responsibility to convey information to the Chief of Police relating to citizens' concerns involving the community and/or the operations of the department. Within the division, it will be the policy to review and evaluate current and innovative crime prevention and educational programs in use throughout the United States. This information will be utilized when appropriate to enhance and update the development of in-house programs.

At least once every three years, a citizen survey will be conducted by the Support Services/Community Outreach Division. Information from this survey will be utilized to address such issues as training needs identified through interviews with citizen representatives, consultations with those involved in internal investigations and conferences with supervisors. The survey will also be available on the website. Other information will be used to address such issues as amendments to departmental policy, overall police behavior and attitudes toward citizens, feelings of safety and security with the City of Covington and specific neighborhoods and suggestions for improvement in overall service. Results of this survey will be forwarded to the Chief of Police for his use and dissemination.