

# St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department



DIRECTIVE TYPE: GENERAL ORDER		INDEX NUMBER: GO0110
SUBJECT: Community Relations		
ISSUE DATE: February 9, 2001	REVISED: 4/29/02, 7/21/06, 1/24/2020	AMENDS/RESCINDS: No Previous
REVISIONS CONTINUED:		DISTRIBUTION: A (All)

## I. Policy:

It is the policy of this Department to maintain open lines of communication with the public, encouraging citizens to voice their opinions and suggest methods of improvement for law enforcement within the City of St. Joseph. The Department will develop and implement proactive community-oriented programs. It will be the responsibility of members to familiarize themselves with these programs and actively support them to ensure their successful operation(s).

## II. Procedure:

### A. Community Relations:

1. The Department shall maintain strong community relations and provide the following:
  - a. Establishing a liaison with formal community organizations and community groups;
  - b. Promoting the Department's community-relations objectives by familiarizing all employee with various crime prevention programs and providing members with updates of newly instituted activities;
  - c. Updating and developing new community involvement policies for the Department;
  - d. Publicizing Department objectives, community problems, and successes;
  - e. Maintaining an open line of communication between citizen organizations and the Department;
  - f. Continually evaluating methods of improving agency practices bearing on police-community relations;
  - g. The development of problem-oriented or community-policing strategies when necessary.
  - h. Aiding in the formation of community groups where they are needed.

**B. Role of the Chief of Police and Command Staff:**

1. The Chief of Police, or a member of the Command Staff, shall attend the monthly meetings of the Community Police Advisory Committee. Participation will be for the purpose of gaining the following:
  - a. A description of current concerns voiced by the community;
  - b. A description of potential problems having a bearing on law enforcement activities in the community; and
  - c. The opportunity to inform the public of intended actions to address identified concerns, and report progress on such activities.
2. If the Chief of Police is unable to attend a Community Police Advisory meeting, the participating Commander shall report to the Chief on any of the above topics or other significant items discussed.
3. Department members who receive relevant information from citizens/citizen groups should relay it to their Division Commander for discussion at Department staff meetings. This will help to ensure that information being gathered by field personnel is incorporated into the decision-making process.

**C. Citizen Survey:**

The Department will conduct a survey of citizen attitudes and opinions every three years with respect to:

1. Overall Department performance;
2. Overall competence of Department members;
3. Member's attitudes and behavior toward citizens;
4. Community concern over safety and security within the Department's service area as a whole; and
5. Recommendations and suggestions for improvements.

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Chris Connally, Chief of Police

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Date