

# **COMMUNITY- ORIENTED POLICING**

**Criminal Justice Essentials**

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# WHAT IS COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING?

- Community Oriented Policing (COP) is:
  - Decentralized policing programs that focus on
    - Crime prevention
    - Community quality of life
    - Public order
    - Alternatives to arrest



# WHAT IS COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING?

- Problem-Oriented Policing (associated with COP) is:
  - A proactive type of community policing that focuses on solving the underlying problems of delinquency and crime
  - If you were working for Henry County Police and were asked to manage the COP program, what would you focus on?
  - How would you address the problems?

# CHARACTERISTICS OF COP

- Focus is on proactive crime prevention rather than emergency response
- Encourages officers to see citizens as partners
- Shifts decision-making downward to patrol officers
- More visible operations





# ORIGIN OF COP



**Events of the  
1960's**

**Police Research**

**Presidential  
Commissions**

**Data findings**

**Recommendations**

# DATA FINDINGS

- Analysis of crime statistics showed that the current emphasis on crime fighting has had a limited effect on reducing crime.
- Police isolation
  - Prevented strong ties to the community
  - Hampered crime-fighting efforts
  - Resulted in ignorance of unreported crimes

# DATA FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

- Randomized patrol had a limited impact on crime
- A large portion of serious crimes were not deterred by rapid response
- There was less friendly foot patrolling because of the reimplementation of automobiles



# DATA FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

- Answering the high number of 911 calls overwhelmed the police and left them little time for crime prevention
- Detectives solved only a small percentage of the crimes; the majority of solved cases hinged on information obtained by patrol officers



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for formal call-screening procedures to differentiate between emergency and nonemergency calls
- When not handling calls, the officers could more profitably spend time addressing specific criminal activities, instead of performing randomized patrols.
- Police could identify the community “hot spots” and reduce the number of repeated calls to these locations.

# RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

- Patrol officers should become knowledgeable about their beats through “**beat-profiling**” activities (studying the demographics and call histories).
- Officers should develop “**tailored patrol**” strategies to address the types of crime and citizen concerns revealed by their profiling activities.
- Officers must be assigned to permanent shifts and beats if they are to participate in community activities.

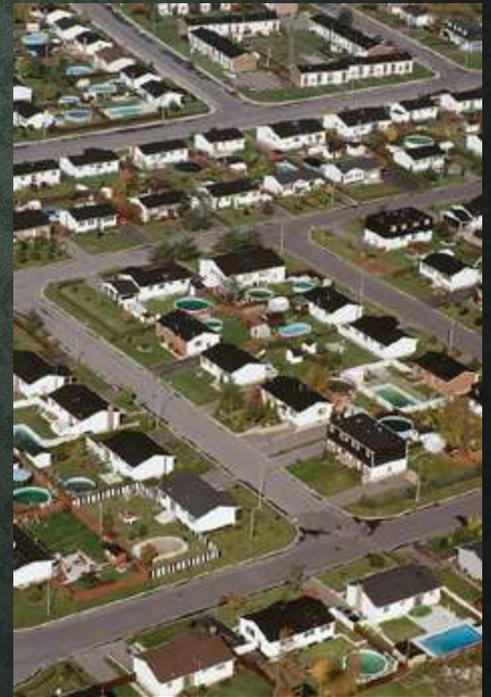
# BENEFITS OF COP

- Interaction can improve the attitudes of officers toward their jobs and the communities they serve, which encourages the officers to develop creative solutions to complex problems.



# BENEFITS OF COP (CONTINUED)

- Officers are able to obtain valuable information about criminal activity and perpetrators by getting to know members of the community.
- Officers can obtain realistic assessments of community members' needs and their expectations of police services.

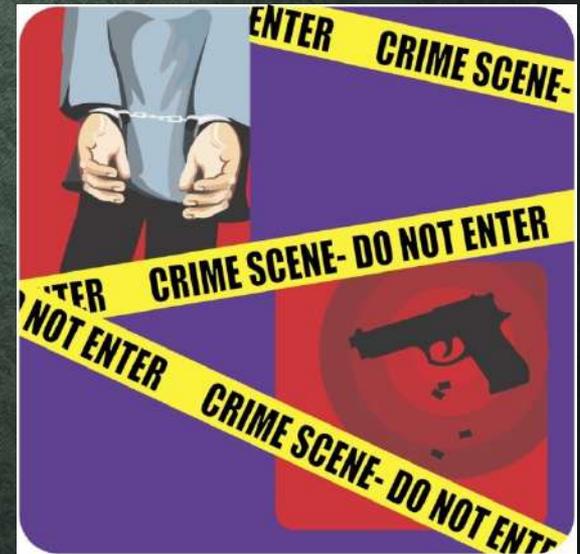


# CHALLENGES OF COP

- Decentralization of decision-making
  - Officers are more comfortable with a structured leadership.
- Need for retraining
  - This can be a huge shock to traditional officers who see the public as their enemy.
- Crime displacement versus elimination
  - Is crime eliminated or moved to another part of the community that is less vocal about it?

# CHALLENGES OF COP

- Acceptance by biased communities who may have a preconceived, negative stereotype of police
- Tyranny of neighborhoods
  - Suppresses persons who are considered objectionable



# SKILLS NEEDED

- Attentive
- Non-judgmental
- Effective communication
- Resourceful
- Open-minded
- Flexible to change
- Problem-solving
- Hard-working
- Outgoing



# S.A.R.A., A COP METHOD

- **S**canning – gather data to define the problem
- **A**nalysis – determine the nature of the problem, causes, and possible solutions
- **R**esponse – work with people, groups, and agencies to implement solutions
- **A**ssessment – follow up on the initiatives taken

# RESOURCES

- U.S. Department of Justice  
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/commp.pdf>
- National Center for Community Policing  
<http://www.cj.msu.edu/~people/cp/20year.html>
- Community Oriented Policing Services  
<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=36>
- 020547893X, *Criminal Justice* (Second Edition), James A. Fagin