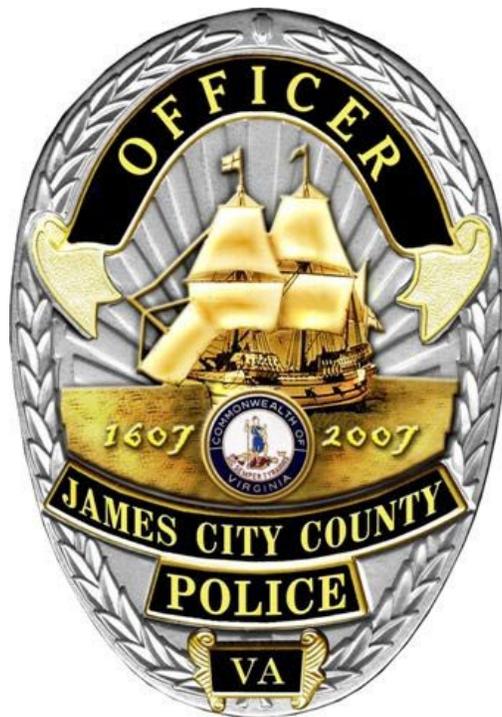


Community Services Unit



Crime Prevention Evaluation 2007

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The primary responsibility of the Community Services Unit is the effective implementation of the James City County Police Department's crime prevention, community policing, and school education efforts. The goal of all Community Services programs, as described in the James City County Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual, is to improve community relations in order to realize the positive reinforcement provided by a confident and content community. To that end, the Community Services Unit works with all department personnel to provide services to our citizens that will reduce their fear, and increase their confidence in the Police Department, in order to improve their quality of life. The Community Services Unit serves as a liaison to citizens, the business community, local civic organizations, and other county departments. To meet these diverse goals, the Community Services Unit is engaged in many activities.

In 2007, the Community Services Unit increased and renewed interest in the Neighborhood Watch programs in James City County. Members of the Community Services Unit attended 53 Neighborhood Watch meetings in more than 13 different neighborhoods and gave presentations about Neighborhood Watch to several more. The total number of Neighborhood Watch meetings increased considerably from 19 in 2006. Several new Neighborhood Watch programs were started and others were renewed in neighborhoods that had been inactive for years. Neighborhood Watch remains a cornerstone of the activities of the Community Services Unit and is one of our highest priorities. Interest in Neighborhood Watch has been increasing. This is partially in response to a dramatic increase in the time Community Services Officers have spent assisting and coordinating Neighborhood Watch programs. Many areas of the county continue to experience very little crime and citizens are not compelled to spend time to stop a problem they do not experience. The Community Services Unit will continue to work to generate interest in this proactive program to help our citizens protect themselves from crime.

Significant strides were made in the area of Business Watch in 2007. The Community Services Unit attended 17 Business Watch meetings, an increase from 4 in 2006. The problems of motivation that have been experienced in the area of Neighborhood Watch are magnified in the Business Community. Businesses in James City County experience a relatively low level of criminal activity and are not motivated to participate in any nonessential activities that do not generate or save revenue. The Community Services Unit faces the challenge of marketing the Business Watch program in a way that highlights the benefits of improved communication and networking with neighboring businesses as well as the educational components related to loss prevention. The Community Services Unit is working to increase the number of businesses participating in the Business Watch program in 2008.

Business crime prevention education was also conducted separately from the Business Watch program. Most James City County banks took advantage of robbery prevention training offered by the Community Services Unit this year, and robbery prevention materials were distributed to every bank in James City County. Training was provided to several businesses including Busch Gardens to help deal with shoplifting and other loss prevention problems. Business security surveys were conducted at seven

different businesses as a part of the education effort. Successfully marketing our business crime prevention and education programs is a challenge we are working to overcome.

Crime prevention education for citizens remains one of the top priorities of the Community Services Unit. Programs include the Citizens Police Academy, the RAD program, Child ID, and various specialty talks and presentations to specific groups. The 26th and 27th classes of the Citizens Police Academy were held in 2007, and 32 participants graduated. This continues to be our most popular program with participation from county citizens, business leaders, and county employees. The RAD program continues to be popular and successful with 8 classes offered in 2007. This is down from the 10 classes offered in 2006. The Community Services Unit is hoping to increase this number in 2008 by sending additional officers to RAD instructor training. The Child ID program is also very popular and is requested at most community events. Child ID was offered at 31 events in 2007, down slightly from 37 in 2006. This program provides the parents with a child ID and presents an opportunity for officers to educate parents about strategies to prevent lost and missing children. The Community Services Unit is working to improve these programs and the way they are offered in order to maintain their popularity, and increase their availability.

The Community Services Unit continues to provide services to assist the at risk populations in James City County. These programs target the elderly, the very young, and the non-English speaking population. Programs that were offered in 2007 for the elderly include participation in regional groups like TRIAD and SALT. Project Lifesaver and the Yellow Dot program were also offered. Project Lifesaver is one of our most vital programs offered for the elderly population and has been growing in recent months with 15 participants registered in 2007. Programs offered for the very young in our community include the Whale program, Child ID, and RAD Kids. The Community Services Unit continues to reach out to the non-English speaking population through the Network for Latino Peoples. This group has offered the opportunity to distribute crime prevention information to the Hispanic population of the county.

The School Resource Officers working in the middle and high schools in James City County have provided comprehensive law enforcement services to the populations of those schools in addition to counseling students, teaching classes, and serving on multiple committees working to improve the schools. 50 juveniles in the schools were arrested for a variety of offenses, including distribution of narcotics, possession of narcotics, assault and battery, and disorderly conduct. School Resource Officers made 259 presentations in their schools in 2007, up from 205 in 2006. They conducted 1290 student interventions in 2007, down slightly from 1,351 in 2006. The School Resource Officers also presented programs like Every 30 Minutes and Smashed to increase awareness about the consequences of dangerous behaviors like using illegal drugs and drinking and driving. Recent problems with gangs and youth violence have presented the School Resource Officers with new challenges including improving intelligence gathering and sharing, as well as new officer safety concerns. The Community Services Unit also provides programs directed at elementary school children. Officers participated in the 911 Helpers program in cooperation with the Fire Department. Officers also visited students in 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade and presented safety and crime prevention information.

The Bike Patrol/Homeland Security Officers continued to make the bike patrol program more effective and improve our Homeland Security situation. Bike patrol

officers conducted over 468 bike patrols in 2007 in neighborhoods and business areas. Some of these patrols were conducted on the Department's Segways. The total number of bike patrols is down from just over 600 in 2006. Bike Patrol/Homeland Security Officers also conducted security checks of sensitive critical infrastructure sites throughout the county. Bike Patrol/Homeland Security Officers completed monthly Homeland Security Reports to pass on security information to the patrol officers, and distributed updated homeland security map books.

Community Services Officers were also involved in many other activities in 2006. Some of these activities include the Technical Site review program, The Historic Triangle Substance Abuse Coalition, The Hampton Roads Crime Prevention Association, the Child Abuse Coalition, and being a Neighborhood Connections Liaison.

James City County Police Department Policy and Procedure #600 details the priorities of the Community Services Unit. Those priorities are to provide security surveys to residences and businesses, develop and maintain Neighborhood and Business Watch programs, provide crime prevention programs to businesses, and provide crime prevention education to citizens. The Community Services Unit provided 7 Business Security Surveys and 6 Home Security Surveys in 2007. The Community Services Unit is working to increase the number of security surveys and Neighborhood and Business Watch programs and meetings. CSU Officers attended 59 Neighborhood Watch meetings up significantly from 19 in 2006 and 17 Business Watch meetings, again up from 4 in 2006. The number of services provided in these areas is increasing, but there is still a lack of demand. The Community Services Unit continues to be successful in increasing the number of educational programs it offers. Crime prevention education and training for citizens and businesses was the focus of much of the activity in 2007.

The Community Services Unit has seen success in marketing and promoting crime prevention services, especially services like security surveys and watch groups. Traditionally these programs have been difficult to promote because the majority of our citizens experience very little crime and violence. Recent citizen satisfaction surveys indicate that our citizens have a very low fear of crime and are generally satisfied with their local law enforcement services. The citizen satisfaction and low fear of crime are both indicators of the success of our crime prevention efforts. However, they make it increasingly difficult to market the programs necessary to maintain the low crime rate that puts them at ease. The Community Services Unit continues to face the challenge of improving and increasing the services we provide and finding new ways to successfully market our services to the community.