



Community Policing, Outreach and Engagement

PLEASANTVILLE POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE

JANUARY 28, 2021

Community Policing

- ▶ We recognize that as a service organization, it is imperative to foster and maintain trust and confidence throughout the community.
- ▶ Our Policies and Procedures require every member of this Department to share in the responsibility for positive community relations.
- ▶ Community Policing is not just programs, and / or personal interactions with specific officers, but also covers the ways in which we outreach with members of the community.

Our #1 Priority

- ▶ At all times, our first priority must be for two officers to be ready to respond to calls for service, anywhere in the Village.
- ▶ Obviously, this is a fluid situation.

What We've Heard:

- ▶ The Public wants:
 - ▶ Officers to be more visible.
 - ▶ Officers out of the car / on Foot Patrol.
 - ▶ Opportunities to build personal relationships with officers.

Our Goals

- ▶ Maximize community interaction
- ▶ Minimize times when officers are unavailable.
- ▶ Encourage officers to be out of their vehicles more.

Community Policing

“The premise of community policing is that community participation and assistance are crucial for maintaining public safety and building a police force responsive to the public. It focuses on “strong relationships and collaboration between police and the communities they serve; the application of modern management practices and organizational structures to create a culture of community partnership; transparency and accountability to communities and democratic government; and decentralized, proactive, community-based solutions to community public safety priorities.”

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. (January 2017). The Civil Rights Division’s Pattern and Practice Police Reform Work: 1994-Present. <https://www.justice.gov/crt/file/922421/download>.



“The goal is to establish a culture of community service and problem solving throughout the organization.”

▶ NYS Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, 2020

Community Policing

- ▶ Community Policing is not just programs outside of our usual scope that require our presence.
- ▶ Community policing is who we are, and what we do.

Community Policing – What We Do

- ▶ Bicycle Patrol
- ▶ House Checks
- ▶ “Coffee with a Cop”
- ▶ Meetings with Local Associations:
 - ▶ Pleasantville STRONG
 - ▶ Chamber of Commerce
 - ▶ Pleasantville Rotary Club

Community Policing – What We Do

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- ▶ Special Needs Liaison Officer
- ▶ Operation Kind Find

Community Policing – What We Do

FOR THE KIDS

- ▶ Bicycle Safety presentations
- ▶ Girl Scout and Boy Scout Merit Badges
- ▶ Eagle Scout Projects / Award Ceremonies
- ▶ Halloween Safety presentations
- ▶ Dad's Club Events**

Community Policing – What We Do

PACE UNIVERSITY

- ▶ Community Meetings
- ▶ Nightlife Outreach meetings
- ▶ Speaking at Student Government Association meetings
- ▶ Guest Presenter in classes

Community Policing – What We Do

IN THE SCHOOLS

- ▶ Youth Officer
 - ▶ At Events
 - ▶ Teaching Classes
 - ▶ Drive-Smart and other presentations
- ▶ Officer Phil
- ▶ Daily School Walkthroughs **

Community Policing – What We Do

IN THE SCHOOLS

- ▶ District Safety Planning and Committee Work
- ▶ Attendance at Lockdown Drills
- ▶ Regular interaction with District and School building officials during and in advance of emergencies.

Historically Underserved Communities

- ▶ We are anxious to partner with Village officials to connect with and meet the needs of various communities who have been underserved in the past.
- ▶ Our outreach to those groups, (racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ individuals), is founded on respect for the rights of all people to live free from fear of discrimination and unnecessary government intrusion into their lives.

Residential Facilities

- ▶ Pleasantville is home to a number of residential facilities which house clients with varying degrees of need.
- ▶ We regularly respond to calls for service regarding incidents that arise, either at the facility or in the neighborhoods around them.
- ▶ We have established relationships with the staff and Administrations of these facilities, and regularly interact regarding issues of mutual concern.

Hope Not Handcuffs

- ▶ A Police Assisted Abuse Recovery Initiative (PAARI)-based model of assistance to people struggling with opioid addiction issues.
- ▶ Provides a safe space for people to get into an appropriate treatment program without fear of arrest.
- ▶ Will include an outreach portion for people at high-risk for an opioid overdose.
- ▶ Anticipating a Spring 2021 launch.

The Pleasantville PBA

- ▶ Serves as both the Collective Bargaining agent and a fraternal organization.
- ▶ All Officers are members.
- ▶ Provides many benefits to the residents of the Village.
 - ▶ Senior Citizen luncheon
 - ▶ Presence at events, (Ragamuffin, Pleasantville Day)
 - ▶ Scholarships to members of the HS Senior class

Communication

- ▶ We are constantly evaluating opportunities for greater communication with the people we serve.
- ▶ I am always available to anyone via phone, email or in person.

“Code Red”

- ▶ Our municipal notification system.
- ▶ Allows us to blast a message to our subscribers regarding real-time issues of concern.
- ▶ Currently, we have reserved the use of this platform for critical incidents in which people should take immediate action.

Communication

- ▶ General Communication to the public about issues that arise, operations we conduct, or matters of concern are weighed against multiple needs for confidentiality
 - ▶ Juvenile issues
 - ▶ Cases under investigation
 - ▶ Personal privacy concerns
- ▶ The Police Department is in constant contact with Village Hall staff and communications specialists to release anything that has a legitimate public value

Communication

- ▶ It is worth noting that public safety information is also shared via the Village's listserv, for which people can register on the website (<https://www.pleasantville-nj.gov/subscribe>), as well as through social media (Facebook).
- ▶ We have access to several thousand people through these channels.