



PERRY TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Relations Plan

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

Perry Township Police Department Mission Statement

The Perry Township Police Department is committed to serving with honor to protect all citizens of our culturally diverse community, through a partnership focused on public trust and providing a safe environment for all.

Department Values:

- **Loyalty** - Being devoted/committed to serving the citizens of Perry Township.
- **Respect** - Treat everyone not only in the community but other members of the department, trustee members the same way you would want to be treated.
- **Service** - Assisting not only the community but other law enforcement officers without personal gain.
- **Integrity** - Doing what's right when no one else is looking.
- **Courage** - Facing your fears, danger and/or adversity being both physical or moral and overcoming them.

Community Relations Mission:

The mission of the Perry Township Police Department is to enhance the relationship between the police department and the citizens of the community. To complete this task, we must facilitate positive engagement by increasing trust between law enforcement and the community they serve to support a safe and inclusive community.

For both the police department and the community to be successful and achieve the overall goal of eliminating or reducing the amount of crime taking place teamwork is an absolute must. Working together the police and residents will improve the relationship which will cause trust and an open dialog to occur with the result of information sharing which is an important process in solving or preventing crime.

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The Perry Township Police Department will strive with the highest regard to have quarterly community events throughout the year. These events will include but not limited to:

I. Neighborhood watch meeting

1. The goals for neighborhood watch include:
 - a. Improving communication between the community and the police department.
 - b. Identifying problem areas within the community.
 - c. Developing solutions together to make the community a better place to live.
2. Neighborhood watch will have a monthly meeting discussing issues that have occurred throughout the month. Also, during this meeting community members will be able to discuss their concerns pertaining to speed, vacant houses, suspicious activity, and further concerns they may have.
3. During this meeting community members and members of the police department will develop goals and solutions to assist in resolving issues within the community.
4. Members of the police department will conduct themselves in a professional manner always and maintain respect with all involved.
5. National night out.
 - a. Family oriented games will be introduced for both the community and law enforcement personal. This will allow for the community and law enforcement to work together and work on team building.

II. Coffee and donuts with cops

1. Goals for both the police department and the community:
 - a. Show the community that police officers are humans too.
 - b. Officers will have the opportunity to see members of the community as humans and not criminals.
 - c. To learn about each other and can network, this will allow the officer to be affective for future investigations. Also, during this time the officer(s) can learn about new information about a case or learn about a new case not reported.
2. The Perry Township Police Department will host at a minimum four coffee and donut gatherings throughout the year.
3. Coffee and donuts will be held in a neutral establishment to allow both citizens and officers the opportunity to relax and carry on a conversation.
4. During this time officers will get to know the individual(s) eating and drinking with them. Taking the time to get to know the individual(s) will assist the officer later if a crime occurs. This will also give the individual(s) an opportunity to get to the know the officer(s) and build a trusting relationship that will continue to grow and spread throughout the community.

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III. Interacting with citizen community while on patrol

1. While patrolling the township officers should be vigilant not only for suspicious activity but officers should be vigilant for members of the community playing outdoor activities located in public areas such as the park, and parking lots. If members of the community are engaged in outdoor activities on private property, the officer will obtain permission before participating (no trespassing.)
2. Getting out of the cruiser to talk with citizens.
3. Getting out of the cruiser and walk a beat and speak with citizens who are out walking.

IV. Education training for both department personal and citizens

1. For the community the police department will educate the citizens on how to reduce their opportunity of becoming a victim of a crime such as theft.
2. Throughout the year the police department will hold town hall meetings to educate the public on relevant topics pertaining to the season.
 - a. Citizens will be taught about leaving valuable item boxes on the road side for trash pickup. Especially around holidays and tax season. Leaving a box of your new big screen television tells the criminals what you have.
 - b. Covering expensive items in your vehicle while shopping, especially around Christmas time.
 - c. Citizens will be taught how to “beef” up their home security without having to pay for an alarm installation and a monthly service.
 - d. Keeping all valuables locked or secured inside your home.
 - e. Record keeping, including photographs of valuables in case there is a crime or a loss. By keeping good records citizens will be able to make a report faster and more accurately. This also pertains to insurance claims as well.
3. For law enforcement personal training will be conducted at least every six months if not sooner.
 - a. In house training on how to provide additional resources to the citizens in the event of a crime. Police officers will receive additional information about local and regional resources that can assist a member of the community in the time of a crisis.
 - b. In house training on policy and report writing. Being able to write a well written report will help prosecute the criminal and assist in building trust in the community. By having a well written report the officer shows the community that he/she is competent and projects a positive image for the police department overall.
 - c. Advance training for community policing. Having officers who have a better understanding on how good community policing works will benefit not only the police department but the community as well with building trust.

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- d. Additional training on cultural diversity and the scope of the problem. Understanding the cultural diversity will assist the officer in understanding why someone is acting the way they do. For example, some cultures will not make eye contact with you while having a conversation. This is not a sign of disrespect or a sign of suspicious activity but one who is doing what is acceptable within their culture. By understanding the cultural difference within the community, the officer will reduce the chances of creating an incident accidentally.

V. Community appreciation day

1. Community appreciation day will be a day where the police department and its members give back to the community. This will be done to show our gratitude for their support throughout the year.
2. For community appreciation day the police department will grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Set up family fun events, such as face painting, bingo, scavenger hunt of items a police officer may use.
3. The police department will put vehicles on display and allow families to take a tour of the cruiser to see how a police cruiser operates.
4. If the K9 handler(s) feel the K9 is sociable enough for public interaction, then the K9's will be out for families to interact with. It will be up to the K9 handler on how much and to what extent the interaction with his/her K9 will be.

VI. Community events

1. Throughout the year as weather allows the police department will hold several events involving the community.
2. Cops and teachers vs. students in dodge ball
 - a. Working with the high school law enforcement will team with teachers for a day playing dodge ball against students. This activity will build a camaraderie between law enforcement and students, promoting a good working relationship in a healthy environment.
3. Once a year the police department will host a community car/motorcycle show. Both events will be held on different days.
 - a. The car show will consist of several historical vehicles put on for display. Judging will take place to determine who has the best vehicle for show, the best Chevy, Ford, Corvette, Mustang, etc.
 1. During the car show the police department will invite other businesses in such as food trucks, ice cream trucks, arts and crafts to participate in the community function.
 - b. The bike show will mirror the car show when it comes to judging, food trucks, ice cream trucks, arts and crafts.

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Review and Improvements:

The Chief of Police recognizes as the community grows the Community Relation Plan will change. While it is the responsibility of the Chief of Police to ensure the Community Relation Plan is current, it's the responsibility of all members of the department and members of the community to voice their opinions about change to the Chief.

- I. The Police Chief or a designee will create a form that will be implemented and used for providing feedback to the Chief pertaining to potential changes regarding community events, education, Community Appreciation Day and additional comments.
- II. The Chief of Police will review the feedback monthly and a meeting will be held with individuals who provided feedback and the officers of the department to work on a new goal and what steps will be taken to achieve the new goal(s).

While it is extremely important to have officer participation throughout entire police department, from the Chief of Police to the newest officer on the department, it's also extremely important to have maximum participation from the community. With both the police department and community working together a stronger relationship will be built causing both the community and the police department to strengthen individually.