



FROSTBURG CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

37 BROADWAY, FROSTBURG, MD 21532 • 301-689-3000 (P) 301-687-0642 (F)

Kevin G. Grove
Commissioner of Public Safety

Nicholas J. Costello
Chief of Police

Mission Statement and Policing Philosophy

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to specify the Mission Statement and to describe the general policing philosophy and approach to policing of the Frostburg City Police Department.

II. Mission Statement:

A. The Mission Statement of the Frostburg City Police Department is:

To work within the community to protect the safety of the citizens of Frostburg and their property by always being diligent in the performance of duty, and standing ready when called to serve those in need in a professional manner thus reducing risk and ensuring safety in order to maintain a high quality of life.

III. Policing Philosophy:

A. Community Policing. The Frostburg City Police Department embraces a community policing model of policing. This means that the department's police officers should work daily to be familiar with and to the community. Officers should spend time speaking with community stakeholders, such as residents, business owners and employees, those who work and go to school in the City of Frostburg, members of community and civic organizations, other government and public service agencies, visitors, and other people with an interest in the City of Frostburg and the safety and well-being of its community.

- 1. The Police Department is a Community Resource.** Members of the department are expected to be viewed as a community resource from *within* the community. That is, members of the department are expected to be familiar with the community and available to hear about community concerns and to help facilitate an effective response to those concerns, provide those concerns involve a legitimate police matter.
- 2. On-Duty.** Police Officers are encouraged to spend time in City neighborhoods, parks, business, schools, and other locations where officers can become familiar to and with the community. Officers should be approachable and pleasant in demeanor. Dispatchers should be approachable and pleasant and serve as a resource to connect community members with police officers or other appropriate government services.



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3. Off-Duty. Police Officers and Dispatchers are encouraged to be fully part of the community. Much of this happens naturally, by attending youth activities and sporting events for their own children or family members. Members are further encouraged to take part in the community, such as by participating in a civic organization, a sports group, a faith group, an educational community, a business organization, a parent organization, or some other community outlet or activity that they would like to be a part of. These are examples of ways officers and dispatchers can participate in off-duty activities they enjoy or are already a part of while simultaneously making themselves better known and more accessible to the community.

B. Problem-Solving Policing. The Frostburg City Police Department practices Problem-Solving Policing, which is intimately connected with Community Policing. Once community concerns are identified, Problem-Solving Policing involves working collaboratively with other organizations or entities to solve community problems. In solving problems, officers must look to the underlying factors and consider community stakeholders that might be able to assist police with prevention and resolution of community problems. The Problem-Solving method can be used by individual officers and by the department as an organization.

1. Problem-Solving Method. There are several models for problem solving that can be useful to policing. An example is the “SARA” model, which is a method that can be used by individual officers and by the department as a whole. **SARA** is an acronym for the following:

- a. **Scanning**
 - i. This involves observing and identifying problems that are on-going or foreseeable.
- b. **Analysis**
 - i. This involves looking for underlying causes of the identified problem(s).
- c. **Response**
 - i. This involves developing and implementing a solution to the problem, such as eliminating underlying causes.
- d. **Assessment**
 - i. Evaluating and assessing the solution and whether it was effective.

2. Problem-Solving Example. For example, if an officer responds to a trespassing complaint at an abandoned building and addresses the issue with a traditional response (e.g., disperse, arrest), the officer might also foresee or subsequently be called back for repeated trespassing issues. In that case, the officer might contact the



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property owner and/or the City's Department of Community Development to help get the property fully secured, thus preventing further trespassing issues instead of reacting to them again and again.

IV. Police Discretion:

- A. Discretion.** Except where restricted by law or department directive, police officers have wide discretion in determining how an incident is handled.
- B. Guiding Principles.** The Guiding Principles of the police department in handling matters are to look for effective ways to prevent future criminal activities and to enhance public safety, order, and security.
 - 1. Discretion in General.** Officers should use principles of justice, equity, fairness, and reasonableness under the circumstances in deciding how to handle incidents, including enforcement actions. For instance, many misdemeanor crimes do not require a custodial arrest for the matter to be handled well; minor misdemeanors and minor traffic violations, for example, can often be handled by the issuance of a citation, provided the person is properly identified and the law permits. In other cases, such as more serious incidents, a custodial arrest is more appropriate.
 - 2. Alternatives to Arrest.** Many minor or technical violations of the law can be handled appropriately with a warning or referral to the appropriate partner entity.

V. Summary:

The members of the Frostburg Police Department are expected to be familiar members of the Frostburg Community, approachable, and regularly working as a community resource and identifying community concerns. For those community concerns that involve legitimate police matters (e.g., crime, order maintenance, roadway and traffic safety, security, etc.), officers have wide discretion to implement solutions, always considering fairness, reasonableness, and effectiveness, with the ultimate goals of preventing future criminal activities and to enhance public safety, order, and security.