

Community Policing

Name

Institution



Community Policing Policy

According to Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS), Community policing describes the collaboration between the community and the police to identify and solve problems affecting people in a particular community (1999, p.9). Communities are prone to various threats to security and quality of life including burglary, drug trafficking, rape, kidnapping, and domestic violence among other criminal activities (COPPS, 1999, p.3). Furthermore, there are other problems affecting the community that demand the intervention of community policing including accidents emanating from earthquakes, fire, floods and vehicular accidents. In short, there are myriad problems in the community that have the potential to compromise the safety and quality of life of the residents. According to Frazier, community policing is an indispensable initiative that enables both the police and community to accomplish four tasks including arresting the offenders, preventing the increase of crime cases, solving the existing problems, and improving the overall safety and quality of life of the community residents (Shain et al., 2002, p.4).

For those reasons, this paper presents a community policing policy that addresses various ways in which the citizens and police can collaborate in a bid to arrest offenders, prevent the rise of crime cases in the neighborhoods, and improve the overall quality of life of the community residents in Anytown, USA. Additionally, the community policing policy document would address the most appropriate kind of training for police officers to acquire proficiency in community policing. Moreover, the paper would also discuss the reasons as to why the community residents also need training to become fully proficient in community policing. Since the community is composed of different kinds of people, the paper would discuss how the community policing policy would address and observe the protection needs among the juveniles,

minority groups, the elderly, the homeless, the disabled, and the poor among other specific groups in the community. Finally, the paper would discuss the methods of evaluating the community policing plan to determine its success or failure.

Arrests of Offenders

According to Frazier, former director of the U.S. Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, arrests of offenders is one of the major accomplishments achieved by community policing (Shain et al., 2002, p.4). For that reason, the community policing policy acknowledges arrests of offenders as a momentous responsibility of the collaboration between police and community in restoring security and enhancing the overall quality of life of Anytown residents. The community policing policy endorses two ways in which the citizens and police would accomplish the arrests of offenders. These ways include the recognition and adoption of citizen's arrests and willful presentation of residents as witnesses against the offenders arrested by the police.

Firstly, the community policing policy endorses the recognition of citizen's arrests by both the police officers and residents of Anytown. Citizen's arrest involves an arrest or seizure of an offender accomplished by an individual who is not sworn as a law-enforcement official (COPPS, 1999, p.6). In other words, any resident of Anytown would be able to arrest another resident if there is a probable cause for arrest. Therefore, general residents would be able to arrest offenders and hand them over to the police officers for further investigations on the committed crimes. Essentially, citizen's arrests do not only prevent crimes but also broaden the mandate of police (COPPS, 1999, p.6). Indeed, offenders would refrain from committing crimes in the public for fear of being arrests by the public because all residents of Anytown would be protected by the law to conduct citizen's arrests.

Secondly, the community policing policy encourages the residents of Anytown to present themselves willfully as witnesses against the offenders arrested by the police. By so doing, community policing would be able to facilitate the arrests of offenders. More often than not, people refuse to present themselves as witnesses against certain offenders for fear of intimidations. For that reason, the police and law-enforcement agencies are unable to convict the offender according due to the lack of sufficient evidence against the offender. However, the residents of Anytown may become more willing to present themselves as witnesses if the police department guarantees them optimal security and protection. The police making the arrests of offenders would also be required to conceal the identity of witnesses to avoid compromising the safety and security of the witnesses. As a result, community policing would assist in arresting offenders and improve the trust between the police and citizens.

Crime Prevention in the Neighborhoods

Certainly, community policing plays a momentous role in preventing crimes in the neighborhoods. But how can community policing prevent crimes in the neighborhoods? One way in which community policing can prevent crimes in the neighborhoods is through the implementation of zero tolerance policy to any kind of crime (COPPS, 1999, p.73). Other ways to prevent crimes include enforcing neighborhood police officer program, drug free zones policies, and community juvenile diversion program (COPPS, 1999, p.73). Community policing is a philosophy that demands the change of perception and attitudes of the community toward crimes. The community policing policy advocates for the adoption of a policy known as zero tolerance to crimes among the residents of Anytown. The motive of this policy is to inform the residents of Anytown that all crimes should be reported regardless their kind or the damage that they may probably cause. Most people fail to report some crimes because they perceive them as

petty crimes. For that reason, the offenders of crimes that are perceived by the public as petty crimes continue to advance in committing crimes until they commit enormous crimes, which most probably lead loss of life or damage and loss of valuable resources. In short, residents should adopt and implement the policy of zero tolerance to crimes to prevent all kinds of crimes including burglary, rape, shoplifting, murder and drug trafficking amongst other.

Additionally, zero tolerance to crimes policy would encourage prompt reporting of any kind of crime by the residents to the police. By so doing, the offenders would have a very small room for committing crimes because the residents would be very watchful over all types of crimes. Another way residents can prevent crimes in the neighborhood is by adopting foot and bicycle patrol around the neighborhoods of Anytown, especially at night (COPPS, 1999, p.73). Since most crimes are committed at night, the prospective offenders would refrain from committing the crimes for fear of being caught by the residents patrolling during the night. However, foot patrol needs the participation of both the police and the residents. The police have adequate skills in dealing with criminals while the residents have a better knowledge in the geography of their residence including the areas where criminals can hide to plan for criminal activities. Fundamentally, residents are good at directing the police to places where criminals such as drug traffickers hide while conducting their unlawful businesses.

Improvement of the Overall Quality of Life

The overall quality of life among residents is an essential requirement in the community. However, increase in the cases of crime has the potential to cause economic, social, psychological problems, which have adverse effects on the overall quality of life (Mulugeta & Mekuriaw, 2017, p.1). Therefore, people in Anytown can obtain optimal quality of life if the police and the residents pull efforts in a bid to eliminate crimes in the neighborhoods. One of the

ways in which community policing can improve the quality of life of the residents of Anytown is through elimination of drug abuse practices (Mulugeta & Mekuriaw, 2017, p.4). The abuse of illicit drugs among the residents can be a probable cause for deteriorating the quality of life. In fact, drug abuse affects not only the economic productivity of people but also the overall health. Additionally, drug abuse increases the cases of crimes among drug users because of the drug influence and the desire to acquire wealth to sustain their cravings. The community policing plan endorses the creation of anti-drug agency that would be composed of police officers and some residents of Anytown. The agency would not only identify and report drug abusers but also hold regular campaigns to fight the abuse of illicit drugs in the community. As a result, the residents of Anytown would become economically productive and feel more secure after community policing eliminates the abuse of drugs among residents. Hence, community policing would improve the quality of life of the residents.

Another way that community policing can improve the quality of life in Anytown is by mobilizing the residents to report crimes regarding the degradation and pollution of the environment. Currently, the pollution of the environment is a major threat to the people's quality of life because it leads to diseases and health disorders. Regretfully, pollution of the environment is caused by people in pursuit of economic gains. Community policing would address the crimes related to the pollution of the environment by warning, arresting, and fining the offenders. The residents of Anytown would achieve the optimal quality of life if all threats to the quality of life are addressed including the crimes that impart fear and discomfort to the residents.

Elements of the Community Policing Plan

Here, the community policing plan addresses the essential elements that community policing require to become effective. Firstly, the police officers would require to undergo a

special training to acquire adequate proficiency in community policing (COPPS, 1999, p.10). Secondly, the community residents need a training as well as the police officers. Thirdly, community policing would require to give a special attention to special groups in Anytown including the poor, juveniles, minorities, the elderly, the homeless and the disabled. Lastly, community policing would require a method to evaluate its effectiveness in the attempt to determine its success or failure.

A. Training of the Police Officers

Certainly, knowledge is power. For that reason, the police officers in my department would need training to become well versed in community policing. Unlike conventional police trainings that covered laws, officer safety, traffic enforcement and arrest procedures, the police officers need a kind of training that comprehensively covers areas such as communication skills, police-community relations, problem-solving techniques, diversity, and law-enforcement strategies (COPPS, 1999, p.10). In particular, the focus of the training would be to improve the communication skills of the police officers to enable them communicate effectively with the residents of Anytown (COPPS, 1999, p.10). Secondly, the focus of the training would be directed towards problem-solving techniques to enable the police officers acquire problem-solving skills. Thirdly, the training would focus on police-community relations to enable the police officers acquire the skills in relating well with the community residents and eliminate the distrust that exists between the police and the community (COPPS, 1999, p.10). Lastly, the training would aim at enabling the police officers to understand diversity between themselves and the residents to be able to enforce the existing laws effectively.

B. Training of the Community Residents

The community residents need training just like the police officers to enable them acquire proficiency in community policing. Specifically, the community residents need training that covers communication skills, problem-solving techniques, law, and community-police relations (COPPS, 1999, p.57). Firstly, the community residents need to understand basic law to identify crimes before reporting the offenders to the police. Secondly, the community residents need to acquire communication skills that would enable them communicate effectively with police. Poor communication skills might lead to misinterpretation of the message between the police and the community residents (COPPS, 1999, p.52). The community residents require problem-solving skills to enable them provide effective and sensible solutions to problems that need community participation. Finally, the community residents need to acquire skills in community-police relations in order to maintain a good relationship between the police and community residents (COPPS, 1999, p.57).

C. Protection Needs of Special Groups in the Community

The specialized groups that include the poor, juveniles, minorities, the elderly, the homeless and the disabled deserve protection against crimes. The community policing policy would use two strategies to ensure that the specific groups are protected against crime. Firstly, there would a special group of community policing that would specifically attend to the concerns and fear of crimes conveyed by the specialized groups. The special community agency would be committed to reporting crimes committed against these groups and mobilizing the entire community to assist the special groups in acquiring justice by having the offenders arrested for their criminal activities. Secondly, the community policing policy endorses the provision of security alert systems to specific groups such as the disabled and elderly to enable them solicit

for help in cases of crimes or emergencies that might compromise their safety and quality of life. The security alert systems would be used by the disabled and the elderly to alert the community policing personnel that they are in danger (COPPS, 1999, p.73).

D. Evaluation of the Community Policing Plan

The evaluation of the effectiveness of the community policing plan helps to determine whether the plan is successful or not (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 1994, p.44). Therefore, a special evaluation team would be created to evaluate the effectiveness of the community policing plan. The evaluation team would determine whether the plan is successful or not by developing key performance indicators that include satisfaction of the community residents and accomplishment of goals. Firstly, the evaluation team would conduct a survey to investigate and gather feedback of the community residents regarding the community policing plan. The evaluation team would consider the community policing plan to be successful if the majority of the community residents provide positive feedback. Indeed, the community residents would provide more positive feedbacks than negative feedbacks if they are satisfied with the community policing plan (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 1994, p.45). Alternatively, the evaluation team would evaluate the effectiveness of the community policing plan by accessing whether it has accomplished the key goals that include preventing crimes, improving the overall quality of life of the residents, and arresting all offenders. Again, the evaluation team would consider the community policing plan to be successful if it has accomplished all these goals (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 1994, p.45).

References

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