



General Order 45.2 - Crime Prevention

PURPOSE: Describe the priority program and sheriff's department commitment to organizing crime prevention groups, promoting crime prevention programs, liaison with community groups, and crime prevention input.

DATE OF APPROVAL: 09/03/03

DATE OF ISSUE: 12/01/03

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/01/03

REVIEW DATE: Annual

AMENDS: 45.2.6

THIS ORDER CANCELS: 45.2 Approved 07/23/03

ISSUED BY : Sheriff Jeffrey T. Easter

REVIEWED BY: Standard Review Committee

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45.2.1 PRIORITY PROGRAMS

A. Crime prevention, safety programs, and activities will include, but not be limited to:

1. Neighborhood watch, operation identification, and other community programs;
2. Commercial programs (about robbery, shoplifting, etc.);
3. School programs (about drug and alcohol, bicycle safety, child safety, etc.);

4. Security surveys, both residential and commercial;
 5. Environmental design; and
 6. Safety of the public.
- B. The unit will provide materials, training, and expertise on relevant subjects and applicable programs as dictated by the need or demand and within the crime prevention/ community liaison unit's resources.
1. The unit will retain sufficient flexibility to create, modify, or eliminate programs and related materials in order to maximize effectiveness of delivery.
- C. Basic or special Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office crime prevention programs are reviewed continuously to determine if a program should remain functioning as is, should be modified, or should be discontinued. The review process ensures that the crime prevention programs have the desired effect of preventing, resisting, or suppressing crime.
- D. Based on problems identified by crime analysis and crime trend reports, programs are developed and utilized. Certain programs may be short term, depending on the type of problem at which it is targeted.

45.2.2 ORGANIZING CRIME PREVENTION GROUPS

- A. The Community liaison unit will assist in organizing "neighborhood watch" programs in residential areas. Targeted residential areas are located by reviewing the statistical data that depicts the types and locations of crimes throughout the county. The community liaison unit will consult with citizens in the targeted residential area and suggest that a "neighborhood watch" program might be a good way to reduce the crime rate in the neighborhood.
- B. Residential communities may also request the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office to implement a "neighborhood watch" program in their community.

45.2.3 PROMOTING CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

- A. The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office will aggressively and actively promote crime prevention programs for all citizens and business people in high crime areas. The high crime areas are targeted and identified from statistical data.
- B. The Community liaison unit will assist citizens with security surveys of homes and businesses, marking property for identification, and disseminating information on the prevailing types of local crime.
- C. Patrol deputies have the responsibility of noting potential business or home security problems while on routine patrol and forwarding the referrals to the community liaison unit for follow-up.
- D. The community liaison unit will respond to the requests of citizens or business people to conduct business or home security surveys to set up "neighborhood watch" programs in the county.

- E. The community liaison unit will provide in-service training to department members wishing to volunteer as participants in the crime prevention program. Only those participants who have successfully completed the in-service training program will be allowed to present crime prevention programs.

45.2.4 LIAISON WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS

- A. The community liaison unit will maintain an ongoing relationship with interested persons, community groups, commercial groups, and professional associations. The community liaison unit's interaction with these different groups will be to ensure that the delivery of programs, activities, and services will encompass the interests and needs of the entire community and department.
- B. The community liaison unit is encouraged to participate in local and state-sponsored crime prevention associations, such as the Kansas Crime Prevention Association.
- C. The community liaison unit, after establishing a "neighborhood watch" group, will ensure that the program will not become dysfunctional by periodic monitoring of the neighborhood watch groups. The community liaison unit is also responsible for maintaining the visibility of established "neighborhood watch" groups and will investigate fully and take appropriate action against anyone harassing citizens participating in such programs.

45.2.5 CRIME PREVENTION INPUT

- A. The community liaison unit will provide interaction into planning and policy development with the appropriate agencies or divisions to ensure the addressing of crime prevention issues and concerns. This may include, but is not limited to, the county planning department and local fire departments servicing unincorporated Sedgwick County.
- B. It is not the policy of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office to influence or direct decision making in regards to zoning proposals, building codes, or construction permits, but simply to serve as an informational source for effective crime prevention planning

45.2.6 SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTY

- A. **(R)** In order to foster a well-informed, active citizenry through the partnership of the Sedgwick County Sheriffs Office, school staff, and students, a school resource deputy (SRD) will be assigned to selected campuses. This positive and mutually advantageous partnership will allow for the development of appropriate and viable solutions to resolve identified school and neighborhood problems and concerns.
- B. **(R)** The school resource deputy will be assigned to the community liaison unit, with a primary duty station at a selected school within Sedgwick County.
 - 1. **(R)** The SRD will present law enforcement related educational programs in schools to increase the students awareness of their rights and responsibilities within our society. The programs will emphasize the philosophy of prevention, offer factual information about laws and provide positive interaction with law enforcement personnel.

2. **(R)** The deputy shall maintain detailed and accurate records of the operation of the program. He/she shall submit a training outline of any class they instruct to the school administration.
- C. **(R)** The SRD will become familiar with the school board policies of their assigned school and will follow them if they do not conflict with departmental policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
 - D. **(R)** The SRD will complete a department approved school resource officer training program at the earliest possible date following assignment.
 - E. **(R)** The on-duty SRD shall be the reporting deputy for any law enforcement actions required on campus. When immediate law enforcement action is required and the SRD is not available, a patrol deputy will be dispatched to the school.
 - F. **(R)** The SRD shall not act as a school disciplinarian, as disciplining students is a school responsibility. However, if school staff believes an incident is law enforcement related, they should contact the SRD to make any determinations.
 - G. **(R)** The SRD will follow all departmental and statutory requirements governing the release of law enforcement information. Because most members of the school community are juveniles, the SRD should be especially attentive to confidentiality with regard to the release of information concerning juveniles.
 - H. **(R)** The SRD is not intended to replace school counselors. The SRD will advise students as to their responsibilities and the procedures concerning law enforcement related matters. The SRD will help resolve issues among students that may involve a criminal matter or which may result in criminal activity, through advice and/or mediation.
 1. **(R)** The SRD will work closely with the district and school staff to solve problems. They are expected to make referrals when appropriate.
 2. **(R)** The SRD will provide a program of educational leadership to the students, parents, and faculty addressing tobacco, alcohol, other drug issues, gang activity, violence diffusion, violence prevention, crime prevention and safety issues in the school community.
 - I. **(R)** The SRD will maintain a professional and ethical demeanor when dealing with students. The SRD will not develop an intimate relationship with students.