

New Initiatives for the Annapolis Police Department

There are three areas of concern where the Annapolis Police Department can improve performance and create new programs or initiatives. Those three areas are 1) Community Policing, 2) Violent Crime and 3) Heroin Epidemic.

I. Community Policing Initiatives

- A. Park, Walk and Talk - The community wants to see officers out of their vehicles and engage with citizens of Annapolis. This will be done through mandated foot patrols on each shift, the use of alternative transportation such as bicycles and Segways. In addition, a Patrol Plan was recently drafted that includes visiting schools, commercial areas and adopting a block. **In progress**
- B. Advisory Board - Create an Advisory Board made comprised of civic leaders who would meet with the Chief. The board can identify concerns and problems of residents and make recommendations to address those issues. This is a link between the police department and the community. **Waiting for appointment of Chief**
- C. Next Door - A new edition of Neighborhood Watch. The new edition would allow the department to interact with the residents to discuss that particular neighborhood because not all neighborhoods have the same issues. In the new addition there will be a map that an officer could outline a community problem such as larceny from autos and notify those residents in that limited area. Future additions to Next Door would include direct contact with post officers and a version in Spanish. **In progress**
- D. NET Unit – The NET Unit would be expanded, pending personnel, to walk foot in the most vulnerable neighborhoods. The officers assigned are to identify problems and work with the community, HACA or any another entity to correct the problems. **Requires new police officers**
- E. Coffee with A Cop – This successful outreach program relies on customers to go to a particular coffee shop or restaurant where officers can interact with them. This could be expanded to churches during their social hours before or after services. APD would have an audience that would not necessarily be in a hurry to leave resulting in a longer positive interaction. **In progress**
- F. Community Services Division – APD currently has three divisions; Administrative, Special Operations and Patrol. A fourth division would be created to house the Community Affairs Section and the NET Unit. The associated cost would be that of a Captain's salary and benefits. **Requested enhancement.**
- G. Police Foundation – The department and city officials should work with civic leaders to create and privately fund the Annapolis Police Department Police Foundation. The foundation would be a source of funding for many of the community initiatives. **Waiting for new Chief.**
- H. Mobile Crisis Response – APD will fund one full time counselor and a part time coordinator from Mobile Crisis. Teams provide immediate care for people with mental health problems who are in crisis. The team provides treatment and other services until long-term therapy can be arranged. **Contract signed.**

II. Violent Crime

- A. Padlock Legislation – This legislation is aimed at landlords who fail to take corrective action for crime committed on their property. Prior to a premise being padlocked the owner is forced to sit with the police department and agree to corrective action. If the landlord fails to make improvements under the corrective action plan the premises could be closed for a period of time. **Long term goal.**
- B. All Hands on Deck – Over the next few months officers and supervisors will be moved out of their offices at least one day a week and placed on patrol in the vulnerable neighborhoods or to address a specific crime trend. **In progress.**
- C. Gun Arrest Follow-up – When a suspect has been arrested with a handgun and released pending the trial the department will make contact with that individual to let them know every officer knows who they are and has a picture of them. **In progress.**
- D. Gun Buy Back – Studies have shown this generally doesn't take the guns out of the bad guy's hands. It can however, prevent some guns from getting to the street by getting them out of the house. In 2016 Annapolis had 20 guns stolen in 17 burglaries. A church could take the lead with the assistance of the department. **Long term goal.**
- E. Text line for anonymous gun and drug tips. **Looking into options.**
- F. Smaller model of Safe Streets – Generally call ins have been for those individuals on parole on probation across a wide geographic area. If the area was as small as a vulnerable neighborhood it may have a bigger impact. Instead of threats about prosecution for future offenses parents who lost kids to violence could speak about the impact on their lives and pastors could talk about the effect of the violence in the community. **Scheduled for 5/10**
- G. Target gun enforcement – Through analysis of homicide, shooting and discharging calls officers will be deployed in areas and during times where the incidents are likely to occur. In addition, camera monitors would continually scan the areas during their shift. **In progress**
- H. Outside agencies – APD will continue to ask the Maryland State Police and the Anne Arundel County Police Department for their assistance. **In progress.**
- I. Annapolis Top Ten – The department would identify the top ten individuals involved in serious crime and target those individuals for enhanced prosecution. **In progress**

III. Heroin Epidemic

- A. Drug Treatment – APD, in conjunction with the AACO Health Department and other groups, would launch a program in which someone can contact the police department and ask to go to drug treatment. The addict would turn their narcotics and paraphernalia over to the officer without being criminally charged. The officer would contact the Health Department to find an

available treatment center and transport the addict to the center. **Operational 4/20.**

- B. **Narcotic Enforcement Partnerships** – There is a meeting scheduled for this week between APD and AACO Southern District TPU. It is expected the narcotic units will work together in Annapolis targeting heroin dealers. **In progress.**
- C. **Heroin Taskforce** – APD would request the Anne Arundel County Heroin Taskforce do work in Annapolis. **In progress**
- D. **Search and Seizure Warrants** – As a result of partnerships warrant service would be increased. It also sends a significant message to the community and those dealing narcotics. **In progress**