# **Definitions**

## Community-Oriented Policing (COP) – decentralized policing programs that focus on crime prevention, quality of life, public order, and alternatives to arrest

## Problem-Oriented Policing – also associated with COP; a proactive type of community policing that focuses on solving the underlying problems of delinquency and crime

# **Characteristics**

## Focuses on proactive crime prevention rather than emergency response

## Encourages officers to see citizens as partners

## Shifts decision-making and discretion downward to those who know the neighborhood best: patrol officers

## Increases visible operations

# **Comparisons with traditional law enforcement**

## Traditional

### Rapid response

### Crime investigation

### Apprehension of criminal

### Law enforcement

### Responds to the symptoms

## COP

### Uses strategies that promote crime prevention

### Promotes the community quality of life and public order

### Uses alternatives to arrest and force in order to solve the problem

# **Origin**

## Police research of, and Presidential Commissions for the events in the 1960s resulted in data and recommendations

## Data

### Analysis of crime statistics showed that the current emphasis on crime fighting has had a limited effect on reducing crime.

### Police isolation

#### Prevented strong ties to the community

#### Hampered crime-fighting efforts

#### Resulted in ignorance of unreported crimes

### Randomized patrols had a limited impact on crime

### A large portion of serious crimes were not deterred by rapid response

### There was less friendly foot patrolling because of the reimplementation of automobiles

### Answering the high number of 911 calls overwhelmed the police and left them little time for crime prevention

### Detectives solved only a small percentage of the crimes; the majority of solved cases hinged on information obtained by patrol officers

## Recommendations

### There is a need for formal call screening procedures to differentiate between emergency and nonemergency calls.

### Rather than performing randomized patrols when not handling calls, the officers’ time could be more profitably spent addressing specific criminal activities.

### Police could identify the community “hot spots” and reduce the number of repeated calls to these locations.

### Patrol officers needed to become knowledgeable about their beats through “beat-profiling” activities such as studying demographics and call histories.

### Officers needed to develop “tailored patrol” strategies to address the types of crime and citizen concerns revealed by their profiling activities.

### Officers must be assigned to permanent shifts and beats if they are to participate in community activities.

# **Benefits**

## Interaction with the community can improve the attitudes of officers toward their jobs and toward the communities they serve, which encourages the officers to develop creative solutions to complex problems.

## Officers are able to obtain valuable information about criminal activity and perpetrators by getting to know members of the community.

## Officers can obtain realistic assessments of community members’ needs and their expectations of police services.

# **Challenges**

## Decentralization of decision-making is difficult because officers aremore comfortable with a structured leadership.

## The need for retraining is difficult for the traditional officers who see the public as their enemy.

## Crime displacement versus elimination

## Acceptance by biased communities who may have a preconceived, negative stereotype of police

## The tyranny of neighborhoods that suppress persons who are considered objectionable

# **Officer skills needed**

## Attentive

## Non-judgmental

## Communication skills

## Resourceful

## Open-minded

## Flexible

## Problem-solving

## Hard-working

## Outgoing

# **The SARA method of application**

## Scanning – gather data to define the problem

## Analysis – determine the nature of the problem, causes, and possible solutions

## Response – work with people, groups, and agencies to implement solutions

## Assessment – follow up on the initiatives taken