


<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 4.15</p>	<p>Date of Issue</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: COMMUNITY RELATIONS & CRIME PREVENTION</p>	<p>Amends:</p>	<p>Rescinds:</p>	
<p>Index as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Relations Crime Prevention General Policies and Procedures 	<p>State Certification Standards: 6.8</p>		
<p>Special Instructions:</p>			

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to prescribe the policies and procedures of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office in regards to Community Relations and Crime Prevention.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office that all departmental personnel take an active part in the department's community relations and crime prevention programs.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the department's crime prevention program is to develop the cooperation and active participation of law-abiding citizens, public officials, and local organizations in order to reduce crime.

The purpose of effective community relations is to establish and maintain effective channels of communications between the agency and all segments of the general public in order to provide timely information about departmental operations and to obtain accurate feed-back about overall departmental performance.

The department shall aggressively reach out to the general public in order to establish partnerships with, and obtain information from law-abiding citizens to identify and solve problems of mutual concern.

Crime prevention programs shall be developed to target specific neighborhood problems and concerns in order to deter individuals from violating the law and to educate law-abiding citizens in how to protect themselves from being victimized. The total removal of a targeted problem will be a long-term and continuous effort. What various crime prevention programs can realistically do in the short term is to work in partnership with other community-based initiatives to ensure that a given situation does not further deteriorate and to help stabilize the environment so that other public and private prevention, enforcement, rehabilitation, and treatment measures can take affect. Such an approach involves the commitment of law-abiding individuals, families, and community groups.

DEFINITIONS

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS — Topics the department has worked with the community to develop and may include the following: Neighborhood Watch; Property Identification; Residential and Commercial Security; Community Education and Awareness; Personal Protection Procedures; Vehicle Theft; Substance Abuse; Vandalism; etc.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. All members of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office are tasked with showing the positive aspects of the department regarding community relations and assisting the public with various problems in crime prevention.
- B. The conduct of each employee reflects on the department as a whole. Therefore, each employee should share the community relations objectives of the department.
- C. Each employee should establish an ongoing relationship with interested individuals, community groups, civic organizations, and professional associations for the appropriate and timely delivery of programs, activities, and services.
- D. Each employee should provide information and/or educational programs to the public about specific crime prevention strategies and receive feedback about how the department's programs are being perceived by the public.
- E. The department shall actively reach out to the community by organizing crime prevention groups in residential and business areas and by maintaining liaison with these and other interested community groups. Departmental activities that are specifically designed to prevent or discourage criminal activity are:
 1. Neighborhood Watch programs;
 2. Personal safety meetings and presentations to civic groups, churches, and other organizations;
 3. Public information campaigns;
 4. School education programs;
 5. Citizen Academy's

6. Law Enforcement Scout Program; and
 7. Other measures as become necessary.
- F. One of the most critical aspects of the community relations function is to establish and maintain up-to-date contact with the wide variety of organizations, business groups, homeowner associations, schools, civic groups, and public service agencies throughout the county.
- G. Any departmental employee who gains knowledge about community concerns regarding crime, departmental performance, or other community relations concerns will complete a memo and forward it directly to the Patrol Commander for follow-up.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**
Sheriff, Rabun County