

# *Fresno Police Department*

## *Pillar 4- Community Policing and Crime Reduction*

The Fresno Police Department has a public safety philosophy that relies heavily on community policing. FPD officers are encouraged to carry out the FPD Mission Statement by “Enhancing Safety, Service and Trust with the Community.” The phrase “with the community” recognizes the importance of a partnership between the community and the department.

FPD Officers are more successful when the community is behind them on their efforts. FPD Officers are not only in the community on an everyday basis while they conduct traffic enforcement, and respond to calls for service; they are also part of the community they serve. Earning the trust of the community is crucial, instrumental, and necessary.

FPD implements crime prevention strategies that reinforce the department’s Mission Statement, as well as the importance of community engagement in managing public safety.

Examples of community policing and crime reduction:

### ***Crime Reduction Is a Team Effort***

Active Neighborhood Watch Programs in the five policing districts educate citizens by providing them with current crime trends in their neighborhoods, as well as providing crime prevention tips that will decrease the likelihood of them becoming crime victims. Neighborhood Watch programs also empower citizens to be on the lookout for suspicious activity, and explains to citizens what information they must be convey to the communications dispatcher, if they have to call the department to report suspicious activity, or a crime.

## **Community Policing and Crime Reduction**

FPD has a very active Volunteer Unit called Volunteers in Police Service (VIPs), consisting of citizens that deeply care about their community and want to make a difference. VIPs assist the department in enhancing public safety by attending community events, providing crime prevention tips at community events, patrolling and saturating areas identified by detectives as being high property crime areas, and more. FPD recognizes that the Volunteer Unit is

a very valuable resource in the department, and is always looking to increase participation in the program. A volunteer application is available on the department website at:

<https://www.fresno.gov/police/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2016/09/VIPS-Application.pdf>

***FPD Chaplain’s “RISE”! FPD Chaplain reading a book to a group of eager First Graders***

### ***Mentoring Our Youth***



The Fresno Police Department Chaplaincy is very proactive in engaging the youth in the community. The chaplaincy has several programs that were created to engage children of all ages in our community.

### ***RISE***

RISE stands for Resilience In Student Education. Program RISE is a program that allows for volunteer Chaplains to read to students in first-grade classrooms on a weekly basis. The students not only have the opportunity to have a great story read to them; they learn great lessons from the books they are read, including lessons on “compassion,



caring and responsibility.”

## ***Project Stealth***

Project Stealth is geared toward at-risk youth and focuses on mentoring prior runaway juveniles. As part of the mentorship, FPD Chaplains meet with the juveniles and their families to complete a plan of action for the teen's future, and then continues mentoring to ensure the plan is carried out. Project Stealth provides hope and guidance to the teen and the teens' family.



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***FPD Chaplain and teens from Project Stealth  
Project Stealth participants and FPD Chaplains  
prove that a caring adult can change the life of a  
teenager***

officer might encounter during their shift. During a ride-along, the citizen rides with a police officer on patrol during a portion of their shift. The citizen ride-along gets to experience the calls the officer goes to, see the contacts the officer makes, gets an opportunity to see the inside of the police vehicle, and the inside of the police station.

A ride-along is a great opportunity to get a glimpse into the daily life of an officer. It is the hope of the Fresno Police Department that ride-alongs will improve the communication between our officers and the community, will provide citizens with insights on why officers do what they do, and maybe even peak their interest, and consider a career in law enforcement. The ride-along application can be found on the department website at:

<https://www.fresno.gov/police/community-and-neighborhood-resources/ride-along-program/>

### ***Violent Crime Reduction Efforts***

Combatting violent crime is the first priority of the Fresno Police Department. FPD is committed to the safety of its citizens and is proactive in identifying violent crime trends and deploying resources into the identified areas.

FPD utilizes a system called Crime View, which allows the agency to track crime trends within the City. The Crime View program allows detectives to analyze violent crime trends and identify potential times and dates of the week for future violent crimes. Detectives then complete action plans on how to combat the identified crime trends.

The southern districts in the City, (Southwest, Central, and Southeast). have proactive units called Street Response Teams (SRT). SRT officers are tasked with communicating with detectives to obtain up to date violent crime trends and locations, identify outstanding suspects or people of interest in violent crimes, identify locations those subjects might frequent, conduct proactive patrol in the identified areas, and address criminal activity using the information obtained from Crime View, and the information provided by detectives. The collaboration of detectives and SRT units is instrumental in the reduction of violent crime reduction.

## ***School Officers and Restorative Justice***

The Fresno Police Department has a strong partnership with Fresno Unified School District. School Resource Officers (SRO's) are assigned to a High School in the City. School Neighborhood School Officers (SNRO's) are assigned to multiple middle schools within the City as well. SNRO's are not only responsible for patrolling the school campus they are assigned to, they are also responsible for addressing quality of life issues that might affect the students in the neighborhoods around their schools.

SRO's and SNRO's are encouraged to interact with students of their assigned schools when they encounter them on campus. Department SRO's and SNRO's can often be seen high fiving students every morning when children arrive at school. Constant non-enforcement contact between a student and a police officer will build trust with the students and the positive police influence will follow them for the rest of their lives. SRO's and SNRO's are committed to increasing trust and building relationships with the young students they interact with every day.

FPD and Fresno Unified School District have trained both SRO's and SNRO's in Restorative justice. The use of Restorative Justice is encouraged, when applicable, in an effort to prevent a teenager from entering the criminal justice system when alternative avenues are available.

## ***Theft Prevention and Reduction***

The Fresno Police Department understands the responsibility our agency has to prevent and reduce crime. In an effort to address theft in retail stores within our City, as well as allow stores to network with each other and share information regarding crimes occurring at their establishments, FPD has created the Merchant Network. The Merchant Network consists of retail stores such as Walmart, Office Depot, and Home Depot, to name a few. Smaller local businesses are also invited to be a part of the merchant Network. Members of the merchant Network meet regularly with FPD detectives, share information

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regarding crime trends in their businesses, as well as share information regarding repeat offenders. The communication between the department and the businesses allows for detectives to share crime prevention tips to multiple businesses simultaneously, allows businesses to communicate successful crime prevention strategies they have implemented amongst themselves, and share information regarding current crime trends.

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