COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING:
LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

by

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OUTLINE

Thesis:Community-based policing provides hope for the future of Law enforcement.

 I. Introduction to C.B.P.
    A.The roots of C.B.P.
    B.So what is community?
 II.The two elements of C.B.P. law enforcement   philosophy are:
    A. Community partnership.
    B. Problem solving.
 III. The reaction of police to change.
 IV. The future of C.B.P.
      A. A first step in C.B.P.
      B. Measuring success.
      C. Crime prevention.
            V. Conclusion.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING.

"In Philadelphia, a pulsating tavern juke box that has caused irate
neighbors to log 500 Police calls in six months, was moved away from a
common wall with the adjoining building.@ (Author unknown US News) The calls
stopped. Though it seems simple, such a move is at the heart of what we know
as Community-based Policing.
The movement toward C.B.P. has gained momentum in recent years. As
Police and community leaders search for more effective ways to enhance the
sense of public safety and the quality of life in their communities. We have
accepted C.B.P in one police department after another,and we are ready now
to agree that "C.B.P. provides hope for the future of Law enforcement."
We can trace the seed of C.B.P. back to Sir Robert Peel, the father of the
modern Police system, who said "the Police is the public and the public are the
Police"(Braiden). For different reasons, the Police lost sight of that principle
defining their relationship with the public. Modern historians have said that the
reform era in government, which started in the 1900's to combat corruption,
along with the move toward the professional image of police work, resulted in
the separation of Police and Community (Kelling, Moore, pg-5)
Reform style Policing emerged in the 50s and 60s with rotating shifts and
frequent movement of officers, (to prevent corruption). Random patrolling (a
reactive police technique) was also detrimental to the link between Police and
public. The police adopted a policy of centralized control to ensure
compliance with set standards, and to encourage a professional aura of
impartiality. All these policies along with the use of automobiles, telephones,
and other technological advances helped distance the Police more.
The calls for service increased as urban population and crime awareness
increased, making the police almost totally reactive. The introduction of
computers only encouraged that false idea of "quick" reactive response and a
statistical view toward measuring success in policing(rather than analyzing the
local needs of the community.)

By the late 70's the communities had become a diverse pool of
nationalities, subcultures, and attitudes. People identified themselves as parts of
separate groups and at times the Police was not part of what they called "us.@
During this time, a burst of new ideas and changes in the sociopolitical and
economic structure began to occur that would eventualy,bring about a new
kind of police officer.
In this changing environment, all social institutions were scrutinized. The
Police, slow and overburdened, were losing ground rapidly. Police leaders felt
the need to reflect on these problems and their overall relationship (their
image) with the public. In their attempts to understand what was going wrong,
many studies and experiments were sponsored. One of them, the "KANSAS
STUDY" proved that, no matter how many police officers are devoted to
random patrolling, there is no effect on the actual crime rate. (Bureau of justice
asst. pg. 13-65)
The government had recognized the problems of crime fighting and the
problems of Police - Community relations, as far back as 1967.The Presidents
Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice report: The
Challenge of crime in a free society, called"for the creation of a new kind of
police officer.@
Almost thirty years later that idea of a "new kind of police officer" has
provided a whole new model for Policing. It is an evolutionary and not
revolutionary philosophy that attempts to refocus the essence of policing to "a
Law Enforcement (philosophy) that tries to do two things: first bring police
officers and citizens together in neighborhoods. Second give the Police
responsibility for solving problems in the community.@ (Wilson pg. 21)
As stated above the new Law enforcement philosophy
incorporates two elements: Community partnership and Problem solving. These
two elements are the cores of the policing strategy for the future of American
large communities(inner cities) and other high crime areas. The way to
achieve the results promised by C.B.P. is through constant education and the
application of the two elements of C.B.P.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP means adopting a policing perspective that
exceeds the standard Law enforcement emphasis. This broadened outlook
recognizes the value of activities that contribute to the orderliness and well
being of a neighborhood (community). These activities could be helping
accident or crime victims, improving emergency medical services, helping
resolve domestic and neighborhood conflicts, controlling automobile and
pedestrian traffic(Bureau of Justice assistance pg. 15)
The two major functions of the Community partnership are to keep the two
parties communicating, and to assess the level of fear (of crime)in the
community. To avoid high level of fear in the Community Problem solving
techniques are utilized in the daily contact of Police and Public and through
communication.
PROBLEM SOLVING is the second part of C.B.P., the philosophy behind it is
based on the assumption that "crime can be reduced by studying the individual
problems and by applying the proper resources"(ECK XVI-XVII)and that"when
people make choices based on the opportunities presented by the immediate
physical and social characteristics of an area, by manipulating these factors
people will be less inclined to act in an offensive manner"(ECK XVI-XVII)
So "Problem Solving" involves bringing problems of the community to the
right persons attention; Hopefully, resolving that problem, so it will not get
worse
or create other problems. An example of a tool used in "Problem Solving" is what
is called the "broken window" theory which suggests that an abandoned, or
non-maintained house (or community) will attract disorder or mischief and the
criminal element. Through "Problem Solving" the window is fixed, deterioration is
prevented and the community is safe once more. Like any other part of C.B.P.

"Problem Solving" requires a lot of communication, compromise and information exchange in order to yield.

THE REACTION OF POLICE TO CHANGE

Despite the optimism of C.B.P. proponents it has not been accepted as the mature successor to the Reform Model of the Sixties.
The Police have a difficult time dealing with the contradictions that exist within them; this also restricts them from achieving their newfound goals. The Police being a paramilitary organization, it is difficult to encourage flexibility and creativity (that strict supervision stifles), and still insure that the incorrupt image is
maintained.

The reactive instinct of the Police will also have to be curtailed, the so called "tyranny of 911" has to be controlled and although some reactive or emergency services will be necessary they have to escape the tyranny of the 911 services in favor of reliance to the community and the new model along with mutual trust.@ (Sparrow chapter 4)
It will take some time for the movement from "just the fact=s ma'am" to a more caring police officer who is a social worker, councilor and law enforcer.

THE FUTURE OF C.B.P(ACTION PLAN)

A first step in C.B.P. is a plan of action or a statement of beliefs and goals that will provide direction and make values become actions and behaviors. C.B.P. is only a philosophy or a statement of value, nuts and bolts are worked out later by setting
goals and objectives unique for each community, aiming to achieve your value statement. The change in values that is in the heart of C.B.P. must be pursued in order to achieve success, because once the first excitement goes, and the first difficulties arise, the statements of value that have been adopted will be the guiding
light that will provide the solutions.
In order for C.B.P. to be evaluated and its success determined two things need to be done, first day to day work evaluations need to change and adapt to c.b.p goals, second c.b.p. should be accepted and a commitment to increase man power if necessary should be made.
There is a distinct difference between C.B.P. and other models of policing and that is the way we can measure success, "measures such as crime rates, arrest rates and response times are obsolete, A(Moore 10)"these numbers have little to do with community needs and they only represent serious committed crimes and not the increase of public disorder (or fear) or other so called non priorities"(Kelling pg. 21-21)
To know if C.B.P. is working, we need to know; are we solving problems instead of reacting to them? Are police officers encouraged to leave their patrol cars and cooperate with the public? Do we have streets free of drug dealers, rowdy teenagers, soliciting prostitutes, predatory criminals, graffiti or drive by shootings?
In conclusion C.B.P. is striving to build stronger more self sufficient communities, in which, crime and disorder do not thrive.

Effective C.B.P. has a positive impact on reducing neighborhood crime, helps reduce fear of crime, and enhances the quality of life in the community; It accomplishes this by combining the efforts and the resources of the police, local government, and community members. Crime prevention takes on renewed importance in C.B.P. AND the community becomes a partner to law enforcement in order to address disorder and neglect or other problems that can breed serious crime.

As links between the police and the community are strengthened over time, the partnership is better able to pinpoint and mitigate the underlying causes of crime.
Following all these principles we can at least attain a new sense of community and at best we can make true the vision of Sir Robert Peel "It should be understood at the outset that the object to be attained is the prevention of crime. To this, great and every   effort, of the police is to be directed. The security of person and property and the preservation of a police establishment will thus be better affected than by the detection and punishment of the offender after he has succeeded in committing the crime" . . . (Braiden 120)

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