FAIRHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY POLICING AGENDA & RELATED INFORMATION

Community policing is a break from traditional policing in that it utilizes direct community participation through the forging of partnerships between the police department and the public. These partnerships focus on gathering information pertaining to problem areas within the community, examining these problems, brainstorming ideas, presenting viable solutions, and assessing the effectiveness of these solutions. Community policing also addresses quality of life and social issues within the community.

The Idea of Community Policing

Community policing is an idea that turns traditional policing on its head by empowering the community rather than dictating to the community. Philosophically, community policing consists of a number of community-based elements that differentiate it from the traditional police model. A few of the core ideas found within community policing are:

- ✓ **Relying on citizen input**
- ✓ **Working together with the community**
- ✓ **Forming partnerships within the community**
- ✓ **Creativity in problem solving**
- ✓ **Sharing responsibility**

Problem Solving & Community Policing

Historically, policing has been a reactive profession. As the police receive calls for service, they are addressed and handled accordingly. One principle of community policing is that it is more proactive. Underlying conditions causing the incident can be addressed, thereby reducing the likelihood of recurrence.

Forming Partnerships with the Community

Equal input from the community will enable a more appropriate solution to be used in addressing certain issues. Communication is the key. Only members of the community truly know what it will take to solve problems in the most satisfactory manner.

- ✓ Importance is placed on people and their concerns
- ✓ The ideology of law enforcement shifts from a crime fighting role to a service related role
- ✓ RESPONSIBILITY of crime control is SHARED between the police, the citizens, and other civic organizations
- ✓ Not only is crime addressed, but also crime control, quality of life issues, and social issues as well
- ✓ Community policing serves as an instrument to promote two-way communication between the public and the police