

2022 Chesterfield County Police Department Certified Crime Prevention Community Summary

Review of the nineteen (19) Core Elements and optional element materials and discussion demonstrated that the prevention efforts of Chesterfield County Police Department are strong and proactive. Throughout the review it became clear that the success of Chesterfield prevention efforts were due to three factors; continued growth, innovation and finding ways to bridge the identified gaps within their community.

Chesterfield County's focus on community involvement and empowerment was evident by the leadership role and responsibilities that the member agencies take in their proactive role of "Neighborhood Watch". Even as the pandemic was limiting in person meetings, the group found ways to reach out to their community. Their focus was not only concentrated to middle aged adults within their community but had special segments for the youth and seniors alike.

With the identified limitation that the pandemic brought to light, the group has focused on developing a Neighborhood Watch Website to increase their reach in the coming years. They also have focused on training sessions for people of all ages within their community by reaching out and partnering with national, state and local resources.

Some of the strongest examples are found in their community-based programs and how they are thinking forward. The group began looking at today's environment and began developing training programs to keep their citizens better informed on law enforcement use of force training, body cameras, school safety/protection, and other high-profile issues.

In 2022, the Chesterfield County Crime Prevention and the Community Policing Units were combined to form the Community Engagement Unit. The merger's intent is to comprehensively address short- and long-term crime prevention and community issues with a “one-stop-shop” approach that allows officers to work hand-in-hand and utilize multi-faceted strategies to enhance community safety.

The group expanded from three (3) officers to twelve (12) to better serve their community. The Unit strives to stay abreast of criminal trends and current threats and apply tested as well as unique measures to address these threats. It has two non-sworn members: the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Planner and the Multi-Family Housing Crime Prevention Coordinator. They are working to ensure that all team members become Certified Crime Prevention Specialists as well as attend a minimum of two (2) crime prevention trainings annually.

Chesterfield County does an excellent job of information sharing with their community. As of June 2022, the group has close to 44,000 Facebook followers, 9,900 Twitter followers, 3,800 Instagram followers, and 60 “Nextdoor Neighborhoods” that include 70,000 members. The Community Engagement Unit strives to develop new, creative ways to engage the community and share crime prevention messages. The staff has received training on how to utilize the newly formed Social Media and Messaging Unit for crime prevention video messaging. The original “Crime Prevention Commentators” videos morphed into creative, often humorous, educational videos that addressed topics for which their group frequently received calls for service. Four videos were produced that covered Smartwater, Frauds and Scams, Locking Your Vehicle, and Vehicle Theft. Videos were distributed on social media platforms and were well received by their community.

Within the last recertification period, Chesterfield had an objective to create a safer, supportive, and nurturing learning environment for students and staff in their schools. Over the past school year, Chesterfield has completed over 1,000 crisis and emergency drills including active shooter/lockdown drills in their schools.

The group has provided hands-on instruction to faculty concerning the use of classroom equipment and materials to effectively barricade classrooms during incidents involving armed intruders. This training provided needed guidance that changed previous drill protocols to better utilize best-practices-of-exercise design. The group has begun the process of installing numerous security and safety equipment systems at their facilities to enhance levels of protection. These systems are being installed to both limit and eliminate unauthorized access to their facilities, while allowing for easier access for first responders.

Chesterfield has taken tangible, measurable steps to reduce the dropout rate. The 2021 on-time graduation rate in Chesterfield County increased 0.5 percent to 92.4 percent. The dropout rate for Chesterfield Public Schools improved from 6.2% in 2020 to 5.6% in 2021. District initiatives have made attempts to educate faculty members on topics including Cultural Competence, Equity, and Working with Students Living in Poverty. Mandatory training on Cultural Competence was in place for all Chesterfield Public School staff during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

Chesterfield strives to maintain a Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) Council program. SALT, the governing body of Chesterfield TRIAD, consists of representatives from the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office, the Chesterfield County Police Department, Chesterfield County Fire and EMS, the Senior Advocate's office, AARP groups in Chesterfield, local service agencies, and older adults that address safety issues in the community. The group strives to continue to provide resources to the senior population by holding "Senior Day

Events”, to increase vendor participation to over forty (40) vendors per event and to have attendance in excess of over 450 seniors at each event.

Chesterfield started a program titled HARP (Helping Addicts Recover Progressively) program in 2016 when Sheriff Karl Leonard noticed the growing heroin epidemic, and the associated fatalities, in Chesterfield County. The program's goal is to save lives and return productive members back into the Chesterfield community.

HARP is a peer-to-peer, Narcotics Anonymous (NA)-based recovery program that addresses the problematic behaviors that lead to addiction. The majority of classes are peer-to-peer, but a third are facilitator and/or clinician-led. Classes include Anger Management, Seeking Safety, Rising Strong, MRT, Coping Skills, GED Curriculum, Forgiveness, many Higher Power classes. The program has continued its success with male and female inmates, and there are 178 program graduates as of September 2022.

Along with HARP, Chesterfield participates in the SAFE (Substance Abuse Free Environment, Inc.) program. This program is to increase awareness of substance abuse issues and to advocate for effective substance abuse interventions through partnerships with local law enforcement and other numerous community partners. The program addresses underage drinking, underage marijuana use, drug and alcohol abuse in Latino communities and much more. Through their proactive initiatives, they show marked decreases in most areas targeted by their SAFE Program.

To combat crime and improve the quality of life in Chesterfield they initiated the Multi-Family Housing Program to continue to resolve issues and encourage resident involvement regarding safety within apartment communities by providing events on the property and encouraging residents to work with the police department. They work with citizens and property managers to improve communication and

quality of life for citizens living in multi-family housing areas. Even during the years effected by the pandemic, they had twenty-six (26) apartment communities participate in National Night Out and over eighty (80) managers attended the annual property manager's conference.

Chesterfield is working to create a program that promotes crime prevention concepts among property managers. The program entails six hours of online instruction regarding crime prevention and specifically addresses the multi-family housing community. Upon completing the class work, participants take a test which they must score 70% or above to pass. Upon passing, they will earn the *Premier Multi-Family Crime & Safety Certification*.

The Chesterfield County Police Department's Certified Crime Prevention Community program is very proactive and innovative. They strive to reach all aspects of their community and provide the best service possible to its citizens. After reviewing the Chesterfield County Police Department's Certified Crime Prevention Community program for recertification, I find that they have met the needed objectives and recommend them for recertification.



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