

2023 Fairfax County Police Department  
Certified Crime Prevention Community Summary

A review of the nineteen (19) Core Elements and Optional Elements materials and discussion demonstrated that the prevention efforts of the Fairfax County Police Department are strong and proactive. This is Fairfax County Police Department re-certification application for the Certified Crime Prevention Communities Program.

Throughout the review, it became clear that the success of Fairfax County's prevention efforts was due to three factors; community interactions, the dedication of the Fairfax County Police Department personnel not only to the Police Department but to their community, program developments, and finding ways to bridge the identified gaps within their community during the COVID pandemic.

Fairfax County's focus on community interactions and empowerment was evident in the leadership role and responsibilities that the member agencies take in their proactive role of finding new programs to implement to better their community.

Within the re-certification period, Fairfax County CAC faced some obstacles during 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The department adapted by holding Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting and activities virtually. These meetings were held by utilizing the media apps ZOOM and Microsoft Teams. Nexdoor.com being the main avenue for announcing meeting and topics. They began operating a new social media sit to expand the CAC audience outside of its current members. This includes the Neighbors by Ring App. Social media has made announcing and advertising for station CAC meeting quite successful. In 2020, attendance was over 1,000 even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021 and 2022, the CAC meeting attendance went up from 2020 with district stations utilizing both virtual and in person meetings. They exceeded the 1,000 participants each year.

They have at least on CPS at each of their eight district stations during the re-certification cycle. They had two Certified Crime Prevention Specialist at the Sully, Mt. Vernon, West Springfield, and Fair Oaks. In addition, they had five officers who were anticipated to complete their certification in September. The unit was expanded to include a Crime Prevention Officer and Community Outreach Officer at each district station.

The Sully District saw firsthand how important Neighborhood Watch program is for their community. A community in the Fairfax Station area of Fairfax County was encountering a rash of stolen mail (particularly checks) from mailboxes in front of the residents' homes or from the blue mailboxes stationed outside the post office. The Neighborhood Watch coordinator was contacted and would ensure the victims knew how to file a police report and will help the US Postal Service. He would send an email blast to the community to bring awareness of the current incidents happening in the neighborhood. With the assistance of the Neighborhood Watch coordinator, the Crime Prevention Officer and the Inspector for the US Postal Service, a suspect was identified. The West Springfield District trained a total of 268 new community member and presented an Intro to Neighborhood Watch to 41 new community members during the re-certification cycle. The Neighborhood Watch Program has been active in Fairfax County since its inception in Camelot Community in the late 1970's.

In May 2021, Chief Davis restructured the frequency and format in which information is shared amongst command staff, implementing the Crime Operations Response and Engagement (CORE) framework. Topics that are tracked and analyzed on a county-wide scale include use of force, crime prevention, and community engagement. They initiated a countywide Integrating Police and Community (iPAC) patrol initiative, which uses discretionary time within every police officer's shift to cultivate relationships with residents and business owners

with specific patrol areas. The goal of the program is to build upon their already strong connection with the community by providing time and space for conversations and problem solving.

From 2020 to 2022, Nextdoor was the primary communication channel for the Crime Prevention Unit to engage with the community they served. During this period, they witnessed a remarkable 35% increase in followers. The average increase for each district station surpassed 11,000 residents. This growth reflects the successful efforts of their Crime Prevention Unit in leveraging Nextdoor to connect and communicate with their community member during the COVID pandemic. Through Twitter, they shared road closures, accidents, community events, meeting, and crime prevention information. In three years, they have increased from 240,000 to over 267,000 followers. In addition, they utilized Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor. During the 2019, they increased Facebook followers from 71,800 to 85,824. Instagram followers increase from 7,079 to 18, 540 by December 2021. Between 2019-2022 Nextdoor membership increased to 90,597. In 2020, they published 295 news releases (blogs) which led to 1,128,400 views and 430,222 visitors. In 2021, they published 215 new releases which led to 1,144,708 and 483,665 visitors. In 2022, they published 238 news releases which led to 1,267,351 and 569,278 visitors.

During the re-certification 2020-2022 cycle there has been 110 Residential Security Assessments and 66 Business Security Assessments conducted. The goal for residential was 27% short and the goal for business assessments was 34% short. This shortage can be directly attributed to the regulations and limitations places on community members about non-essential interactions during the COVID-19 pandemic. All the officers who are part of the Crime Prevention Unit have been given the opportunity to attend either Basic Crime Prevention School or Basic

CPTED classes. Some of the officers have also attended the Advanced CPTED class and CPTED for schools.

In 2021, a Data Manager was hired to oversee the activities of the Crime Analysis unit and to drive actionable intelligence and strategic processes. A new position was established Director of Planning and Research Bureau. This position aims to guide Fairfax County Police Department approach to fair and effective policing through the collection, analysis and sharing of statistical information. They use Tableau, as the agency's business intelligence tool, continues to provide personnel with the ability to conduct in-depth research for information. There is now an assigned analyst in many of the district stations. Two new positions were created, human trafficking analyst and the gang coordinator analyst.

Fairfax Public Schools is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest school system in the United States that is comprised of 141 elementary schools, 23 middle schools, 22 high schools, three secondary schools, two alternative high schools and seven special education centers for a total of 198 school facilities. In 2020, they went on an annual rotation ensuring all Fairfax County Public Schools participate in a tabletop exercise every year. A partnership between Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Fire Department, and Office of Emergency Management, a tabletop exercise is conducted every school year on security and individual crisis plans. Over the re-certification period 529 tabletop training exercises were completed, 1,188 lockdowns drills were performed, and 251 staff safety trainings were completed. During 2020-21, 121 tabletop exercises, 26 staff safety trainings and 396 lockdowns drills. During 2021-22, 203 tabletop exercises, 117 staff safety trainings and 396 lockdown drills were performed. During 2022-23, 205 tabletop exercises, 107 staff safety trainings and 396 lockdown drill.

In January of 2020, MPO Crime Prevention Officer conducted active violence training and numerous business locations which entailed pre-event awareness,

situational awareness, personal preparedness, with an element on first aid. Beginning 2021, most Crime Prevention Officers received training in Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. Throughout 2021 and 2022, Crime Prevention Officers have provided the CRASE training program in all districts to businesses, place of workshop, community associations, and other entities.

The Victim Service Division is supported through the general county fund, the Victim Witness Grant (\$178,460), the Violence Against Women Grant (\$52,993), and the Victims of Crime Act New Initiative Grant (\$124,990). The VSD Specialist in 2022 submitted \$134,322.85 to provide relief to individuals and families to include funeral costs, medical bills, loss of support, relocation expenses, counseling expenses, and crime scene cleanup. In 2022, they hosted two events, the Back to School Fair and Breakfast with Santa. The VSD provided advocacy to 3,216 victims and survivors in 2020, 3,510 in 2021, and 3,922 in 2022.

The first Road DAWG camp began in 2004. In 2022, Road DAWG camp was reinstated after a suspension for COVID. The camp maintained its schedule from previous years, activities from NCS, a conversation about joining a gang and drug abuse. This year the police driving track was incorporated to give the campers positive experience sitting and exploring a police vehicle.

The Fairfax County Police Department completed its seventh VLEPSC re-accreditation in 2021 and is currently preparing for its eighth in 2025. Additional was re-accredited with CALEA in 2020.

The Crime Prevention Unit between 2020-22 presented 38 related CRASE/active violence and STB within houses of worship throughout the county. Fairfax surpass the goal of creating 3 PFC groups. Within the re-certification period they created 6 PFC groups out of the 8 district stations.

Seventy-four Worship Watch trainings was provided by the Crime Prevention Unit from 2020-22.

During the reporting period, the 65+ population in Fairfax County was 170,237 in 2020. It is expected to increase 16% every ten years. During the reporting period, there were 22 programs presented to the community with various topics to include personal safety, scams, and identification fraud. There were many programs cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The National Night Out program expanded over 146% over this three-year cycle. The COVID-19 Pandemic created a significant challenge. The event was held later in the year. Many events were held remotely and in person events were held outdoors. The Crim Prevention Unit focused on safety, enhancing the quality of events, and participation. During the tree-year re-certification cycle, participation in National Night Out saw an increase of over 146% and an almost 300% increase in the number of attendees.

Fairfax County Police Department has moved to a fully automated system. This system could allow members training status to be reviewed. General Orders in the Department was reviewed and managed by the Planning and Research Bureau. The Department has moved to an online version for all Department level documents such as General Orders, Standard Operating Procedures, and other manual and documents.

The Fairfax County Police Department's School Resource Office Program began in 1995. Between 2021 and 2022 1,377 incidents involving students were documented by the SROs with 82 closed by arrest. The survey given to students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 each year and 85% said that they felt safe in school.

With the shut down during COVID-19 Pandemic they saw an uptick in domestic violence and dispute related calls for service. Recognizing that Domestic Violence related incidents were on the rise and in need of better

visibility; the Domestic Violence section was relocated to Headquarters in January 2022. By creating a centralized unit out of Headquarters, it allowed for more oversight, by a cohesive unit of detectives, of all domestic violence cases across the county. During the last 3-year re-certification cycle huge strides were made in ensuring collaborative training sessions were conducted both within and out of the agency.

In the Fall of 2018, the Community Outreach Officer Program was implemented. The community outreach position was created to bridge the gap between the community and the police department. The Community Outreach Officer is a welcomed liaison in the community and helps to promote a positive image of the police department. There has been an increase in the request for the Community Outreach Office to attend meeting and events as well as the increased engagement between community and Community Outreach Officer's on social media platforms. In May 2022, a My90 public survey 9-month pilot program to solicit feedback on community member's experiences on the officers they interact with. The feedback measured their level of trust in the department as well as their satisfaction with their interaction and services rendered by the officer(s). During COVID-19 Pandemic the Trunk-or-Treat was redesigned. They found a safe alternative of drive through trunk-or-treat. By 2022, the community was happy to return to the traditional trunk-or-treat gathering that were offered prior to the pandemic.

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