


BRATTLEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY, PROCEDURES AND RULES

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Crime and criminality are problems of concern to the entire social community, not problems of the police alone. We are charged to prevent and suppress crime and to solve crime once it occurs, and we shall do these things to the utmost of our ability. At the same time, we are realistically aware that we can neither prevent all crime from occurring nor solve every crime that does occur. To attain the greatest possible degree of success in these endeavors, we require and must strive to obtain the active cooperation, assistance and moral support of the citizens we serve.

Two elements are necessary for a crime to occur: the desire of the offender to commit the crime and the opportunity to do so. Police efforts are primarily directed toward eliminating or minimizing the opportunity. Desire is controlled by the individual and has interaction with the environmental factors which influence every thought and deed.

The most effective means available to the police for crime prevention thus far is aggressive and conspicuous patrol, with meaningful deployment of available personnel in accordance with demonstrated need, combined with a meaningful preventative program which solicits and encourages community help through information, technical assistance and sponsorship of self-help efforts.

To the citizens within a patrol area to which the officer is assigned, each officer represents the Police Department as a whole. We are accountable for crime and vice conditions in our assigned area; we have a responsibility for preventing those crimes which are preventable by police action, and for taking appropriate measures when crimes or emergencies occur.

Specialized elements or actions of the Police Department may have a specialized or focused function of crime prevention. This in no way diminishes the responsibility of all members of the Department to be continuously crime-prevention oriented in their outlook and duty performance.