



Tulsa Police Department

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Policy # 314

Policy Name Collaborative Community Engagement

Approved by *Dennis Larsen, Chief of Police*

Effective Date 05/04/2026

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Previous Date 02/17/2025

PURPOSE OF CHANGE:

Updated reporting procedures for Axon.

POLICY:

The Tulsa Police Department is committed to community involvement in the belief that responsive, community-involved police service create and maintain an atmosphere of safety and security in the Tulsa community. Collaborative efforts between police and citizens facilitate the development of partnerships to address the underlying causes of crime.

The problem-solving process has been identified as a tool for all employees to use in enlisting the action of a community to address circumstances that lead to crime, disorder, and decay. Personnel are encouraged to utilize community involvement techniques in all aspects of their activities. The Department recognizes that the methods involved are not exclusive to uniformed field operations but should be utilized by all employees to target specific ongoing neighborhood problems. The Department's commitment to partnerships with the community will maximize the full range of police response to problems. The Department will establish a liaison with existing community organizations or establish community groups where they are needed.

In an effort to provide quality community policing to the citizens of Tulsa, the Department actively solicits input from citizens and Tulsa Police Officers regarding policing services. This input is received through surveys, officer and citizen contacts, and analysis and evaluations of various reports, crime data, etc. This input is used in the development of community involvement policies and the development of problem-oriented or community policing strategies.

The management of the Department has adopted the stance that performance should be measured by reducing calls for police service, easing fears, and correcting misperceptions about crime through education and community involvement. The department will publicize its objectives, community problems, and successes.

The Tulsa Police Department is committed to the development and perpetuation of programs designed to prevent and control juvenile delinquency. The responsibility is to be shared by all agency components and personnel. Juvenile outreach programs should be in coordination with professional citizen groups to help strengthen trust between youth and police by creating programs and projects for positive, consistent, and persistent interaction between youth and law enforcement.

The Tulsa Police Department will continue to provide training to new recruits in the academy in the area of effective community engagement, which can include, but not be limited to: Hispanic Community Relations, Interpersonal Communication, Police Interacting with Youth, Cultural Competency, LGBTQ Diversity Training, and the Greenwood Rising Museum Tour. These hours will always exceed that which the Oklahoma State Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training requires.

SUMMARY: Procedures to ensure that proactive problem-solving activities are employed by the Department in collaboration with individual citizens, government agencies, and communities by establishing a system for evaluating the goals and objectives of community policing programs.

APPLIES TO: All police personnel.

DEFINITIONS:

COMMUNITY – any group of individuals brought together by a common bond or concern.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) – a volunteer group of citizens, led by the Chief of Police, and representing diverse interests, who live or conduct business within city of Tulsa and meet to provide mutual insight and knowledge to help guide effective collaborative policing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – a collaborative effort between any employee of the Tulsa Police Department and citizens of the City of Tulsa to share information, talents, and energy to identify problems and develop solutions to improve the quality of life.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY – activity, either formal or informal (set meeting or impromptu encounter) that focuses on crime and social disorder through the delivery of police services that includes the aspects of traditional law enforcement, as well as prevention, problem-solving, community engagement, and partnerships.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT – a one-time community engagement activity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM – a set of related community engagement events or activities with a particular long-term aim.

PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCESS – the use of research and analysis (i.e., crime analysis, repeated calls for service, citizen complaints, officer observation, etc.) to identify the underlying causes of crime. The problem-solving process enlists community resources in an effort to eliminate or prevent the recurrence of conditions that first allowed the problem.

PROCEDURES:

A. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. Any employee who recognizes a community engagement program that may prove beneficial to a community and/or is participating in a community engagement program and wishes to utilize Department resources, or during the course of their duties receives information about a community engagement event or program, will submit an Interoffice Correspondence to their division’s personnel responsible for directing community engagement.
2. Any employee who recognizes a program that may prove beneficial to a community or, during the course of duties, receives information appropriate for inclusion in the Mayor’s Weekly Report, will notify their division commander in writing so that the information can be included in the Mayor’s Weekly Report.
3. Participation in community engagement events/programs/interactions shall be documented using the Community Engagement Event form in Axon Standards.
 - a. Only one *Community Engagement Event* form shall be completed per event/interaction.
 - b. The *Community Engagement Event* form will be completed by either a community ambassador (C.O.R.E.) or a TPD supervisor that attended the event/interaction.
 - c. If no TPD supervisor or C.O.R.E. employee was present during the event/interaction, an officer that was on scene shall complete the *Community Engagement Event* form.
 - d. The *Community Engagement Event* form will be forwarded to the division commander of the area where the event/interaction took place. The division commander will forward the *Community Engagement Event* form to Internal Affairs for finalization.

4. Community engagement events and programs are tools that can be used to address community concerns. Employees should develop problem-oriented and/or community policing strategies that focus by crime type and geographic area from information gathered from crime data.
5. Community engagement interaction including spontaneous field interaction and assigned events shall be captured through the assigned ten-code, 10-10.
6. If a community engagement program disbands or an employee's involvement is withdrawn, personnel who are participating in the program will submit an *Interoffice Correspondence* to their division commander with copies to their chain of command, and their divisions employees responsible for directing community engagement.
7. The Communications Unit will collect and compile information on community engagement events and programs for the monthly TPD Newsletter.
8. The Accreditation Manager will work with employees active in community engagement to complete an annual review and written evaluation of all enforcement and prevention programs relating to juveniles. This evaluation will include recommendations regarding whether a specific program should function as is, be modified, or be discontinued. This report will be forwarded to the Chief of Police for approval upon completion.
9. The Accreditation Manager will work with employees active in community engagement to complete a documented evaluation of all crime prevention programs at least every two years.
10. The Accreditation Manager will ensure that a documented survey of citizen's attitudes and opinions will be conducted biennially. The survey focus will be on procedural justice, giving citizens a voice within the department and determining the extent citizens feel they are treated with dignity and respect. This survey will be neutral and transparent. At a minimum the survey will measure:
 - a. Overall agency performance.
 - b. Overall competency of agency employees.
 - c. Citizen's perception of officer's attitudes and behavior.
 - d. Citizen's perception of police adherence to procedural justice practices, community voice in the Department, and the level of trust in officers.
 - e. Community concern over safety and security within the agency's service area.
 - f. Citizen's recommendations and suggestions for improvement.

*The report will have the survey results compiled, and a written summary provided to the Chief of Police upon completion.

B. COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS

1. The Operation Bureau will establish and maintain a Community Advisory Board that meets quarterly.
2. The board will consist of a minimum of 15 citizens. Each patrol Division Commander will be responsible for selecting 5 citizens to serve on the board who live or conduct business within the patrol division they represent. The selected citizens are then approved by the Chief of Police. This process will occur through the following steps, in partnership with the Crime Prevention Network:
 - a. The Crime Prevention Network will collect applications from all individuals who are recommended to them to serve on the board.
 - b. The Crime Prevention Network Board of Directors will evaluate the applications and submit a list of applicants to the respective Division Commanders.
 - c. The Division Commanders will evaluate the applications and submit a recommendation to the Chief of Police, through the Operations Bureau Chief, for approval of the board members.
 - d. The Chief of Police will give the final approval on all board members.
 - e. Selection will be made solely at the discretion of the Division Commander. Approval of the selection shall be

at the sole discretion of the Chief of Police.

3. A patrol Division Commander will act as the Chair of the Community Advisory Board for a 1-year term.
4. The patrol Division Commander or designee will submit a report to the Chief of Police after each quarterly meeting. The report should include:
 - a. Current concerns voiced by the community.
 - b. Potential problems that have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the community.
 - c. Recommended actions that address previously identified concerns and problems.
 - d. A statement of progress made toward addressing previously identified concerns and problems.
5. The Community Advisory Board will be guided by a single unit manual.
6. The Community Advisory Board will serve as the public comment forum on all Tulsa Police Department new and updated policies. These comments will be documented by the Chair and forwarded to the Accreditation Manager and the Chief of Police for consideration and documentation.

C. JUVENILE OUTREACH PROGRAMS

1. Employees responsible for directing community engagement will design and implement programs intended to prevent and control delinquent behavior in juveniles.
2. Employees responsible for directing the community engagement will maintain liaison with schools, social service agencies, and other organizations that provide services for local youths.
3. If a recreational program is needed but does not exist, personnel are encouraged to organize one. However, personnel should work with the unit responsible for directing the community engagement function. Once the program is established, it is best for the police personnel to turn over the management to professional recreational personnel or citizens' groups and allow agency personnel to participate in the program on a voluntary basis.

REGULATIONS:

1. Other than the patrol Division Commander, none of the Community Advisory board members may be an employee of the Tulsa Police Department. Those elected to public office are also excluded from board membership.
2. Appointment to the CAB in no way creates an employment relationship with the City of Tulsa, nor does this policy create a separate legal entity.

REFERENCES:

None