



Community policing is not a specific program, a series of special events, or a special unit within the police department. Community policing is a way of doing business – it is a departmental philosophy that the SHPD brings to all we do. Community policing is an interactive collaboration between the police and the community. We work together to identify and solve problems in our community.

Working together, the police and our communities can take a unified stand against crime, violence, and disregard for the law, and make a commitment to increasing crime-prevention and intervention activities. Working together, we can help build a stronger, more self-sufficient community – one where crime and disorder will not thrive.

More than that though, every day, SHPD officers can engage with the community. All our officers, including the Chief and other command staff, work the entire Village, and can interact with our citizens. Everyone in the SHPD is impacted by events that take place, by conditions in the Village, and has a personal connection to the community. Our citizens know us, and we know the Village. Our call volume generally allows us to take our time with each call, to slow things down, to get to understand issues, and to help. The SHPD is privileged to be able to effectively engage in community policing.

The SHPD is selective about the officers we hire. We have a crew that we trust, and a leadership team that empowers them to handle complex situations using discretion, and with the best interests of those involved at the forefront. We provide our officers with the training they need to effectively interact with the community and to provide exceptional police service. We don't dictate how things should be handled. Community policing is our daily work, and we realize that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work.

Community policing certainly does not mean that we won't hold people accountable for their actions. In fact, a police department that is proactive, targets specific data-driven problems, and tenaciously pursues criminals, does so as a part of an effective community policing strategy. The community expects that the police department will fulfill its law enforcement mission.

Police departments are guided by laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and standard operating procedures. It is the underlying culture of the department though, that defines each department, and that culture is powerfully influenced by the department's mission, vision, and core values. Take some time to review these, and other items within the SHPD website, and you will see how our culture enhances our relationship with the community.