



**UNIVERSITY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**6801 DELMAR BLVD.**  
**UNIVERSITY CITY, MISSOURI 63130**

**Anti-Crime Initiative**

The University City Police Departments Anti-Crime Initiative program allows the police department to improve methods of preventing crime, the fear of crime, increase police visibility and continue to develop a cohesive partnership with residents. In keeping with the core elements of the Department's community policing strategy, the Anti-Crime initiative brings together law enforcement, community residents, stakeholders, other City Departments and sister agencies to develop, implement and report on comprehensive, multi-faceted strategies to prevent and reduce the most prevalent violent crime problems in the target neighborhoods.

Another key aspect of the Anti-Crime Initiative is the integrated involvement of specialized units of the Police Department – Including the Canine Division, Bureau of Investigations, Special Operations Unit, and the Community Action Team.

Anti-Crime Initiative will focus on the 6 Pillars of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing.

- **First Pillar: Build Trust and Legitimacy.**
- **Second Pillar: Policy and Oversight.**
- **Third Pillar: Technology and Social Media.**
- **Fourth: Community Policing and Crime Reduction.**
- **Fifth Pillar: Training and Education.**
- **Sixth Pillar: Officer Wellness and Safety.**

**Methods:**

- **Collaboration with the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces to target high crime areas.**
- **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)-** Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, or CPTED offers a way to enhance the safety of our homes and neighborhoods by going beyond the traditional approach of dead bolts and window locks. Design that eliminates or reduces criminal behavior and at the same time encourages people to "keep an eye out" for each other. These are just a few of the ingredients that go into creating an effective CPTED environment which is conducive to a safer more livable community.
- **Implementation of Community Action Team and Canine Division (9 Officers)-** The Community Action Team (CAT) uses a two pronged approach in responding to the concerns of citizens in the City.
  - The first approach is directed patrol which uses uniformed CAT officers to respond in the high crime areas of the City or areas that are experiencing specific problems. This gives a greater police presence in these areas (hotspot policing), which helps prevent crime and increases the chances of catching criminals. This approach gives the platoon commander more



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flexibility in responding to crime trends in the precinct ranging from speeding cars, burglaries in a neighborhood, and drug dealing on a street corner, without affecting services to the community.

- The second approach uses the expertise of the CAT Team's "plain clothes"/ undercover officers to respond to precinct drug problems. The approach can be very effective because officers work closely with the community receiving complaints about drug houses and drug dealing. The CAT Team also investigates disorderly houses and illegal liquor and cigarette sales.
- **Canine Unit-** the Canine Unit is staffed by police officers who handle 3 canines. The canines are available on a 24-hour basis to assist with searching for evidence, tracking suspects, locating missing persons and locating illegal narcotics. The canines and their handlers spend countless hours working together and training in order to become efficient partners. The canines and their handlers also receive ongoing training after they have become "partners" in order to provide the best possible service to the department. Canines play an important role in both solving and preventing crimes.

This two pronged approach creates a highly responsive and effective team for the citizens.

- **Special Operations Unit-**The Special Operations Unit establishes a highly visible enforcement profile in an effort to prevent criminal activities along the business corridors of the City.
  - The SOU will consist of the following (6 Officer Unit):
    - **Bike and Business Patrol Unit-** Bike and Business patrol units offer a high-visibility, proactive community policing presence. The officers will focus their policing efforts on to the business corridors of the city. Bike and Business officers can meet with local business owners, clergy, citizens and other stakeholders in the community.
    - **Traffic and Code Enforcement Unit and ( 1 officer)-** The goal of the Traffic Unit includes serving the community by enforcing motor vehicle traffic laws as well as reducing the number and severity of accidents within our community. This includes educational outreach and interventions relating to traffic and pedestrian safety. Most of the current enforcement programs are a direct response to community complaints regarding speeding and other violations. The ultimate goal includes fostering greater traffic safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.



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**Through the Police, Partnering with the Community (PACT) process, you have the chance to raise any issues or concerns you have in your area to your police department.**

*The University City Police Department strongly embraces the philosophy of Community Policing in all its daily operations and functions. Community Policing is based upon a partnership between the police and the community whereby the police and the community share responsibility for identifying, reducing, eliminating and preventing problems that impact community safety and order. By working together, the police and the community can reduce the fear and incidence of crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. In this effort, the community and police work as partners to identify and prioritize problems of crime and disorder and share the responsibility for the development and implementation of proactive problem-solving strategies to address identified issues.*

**What PACT will do**

- Engage with the community
- Set local priorities
- Work together and take action
- Focused Deterrence
- Provide feedback

**How to get involved**

There are a number of ways to get involved. Team to talk about any issues or concerns you have, to 'have your say' on local policing and community safety priorities and to get involved in tackling the issues.

- Crime Prevention Meetings
- Police Focus Group Meeting
- Citizens Police Academy
- Volunteers in Police Service Program
- Online Crime Submission
- Neighborhood Watch Programs
- Community Camera Program

**Policing with technology**

Police technology can cover a number of different innovations and advances in policing in recent decades. Some of these technologies, such as computerized crime mapping, have been important in advancing effective strategies such as hot spots policing.

**Body-Worn and In-car cameras**



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Body worn cameras have quickly become a prominent part of discussions about police reform. Research on the effects of body-worn cameras on police use of force, complaints, citizen behavior is beginning to accumulate and studies in progress will provide more data on the effects of cameras on citizen perceptions of police legitimacy, officer behavior, and crime. There is suggestive evidence to date that officers wearing cameras may be less likely to receive complaints. The evidence on police use of force is less conclusive, as is the data on whether citizens act differently when officers are wearing cameras.

***Gunshot detection technology***

Acoustic Gunshot Locations Systems are designed to quickly locate the location of a gunshot after shots are fired and then alert police about the gunfire. The idea is that police could more quickly respond to gunfire incidents to make arrests and the system could potentially act as a deterrent to gunfire as the risk of detection increases.

***Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (drones)***

The technology may enhance the ability of police to do surveillance work versus helicopters or other more traditional approaches.

***License Plate Readers (LPR)***

License plate readers take images of vehicle license plates and compare them to a database of information on vehicles associated with particular crimes and offenders. There was some evidence of residual deterrence effects on drug crime in the locations where LPR was used.

***Handheld Fingerprint Scanners***

Police officers are now able to use portable, handheld scanners to instantly fingerprint and identify persons with criminal records. With instant access to a suspect's criminal history, these handheld devices save police enormous time during initial bookings and reduce the amount of wrongful arrests.