

**Community Focus Statement D:** Enhance public safety by improving communication and coordination with law enforcement.

**Action Statement D.3:** Coordinate with the Sheriff’s Department to educate the community on the existing policing program.

**D3**

**Benchmarks:** Increase community level of satisfaction with police, community level of trust in the police, and community view of police legitimacy.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Volunteer time.



*By establishing small neighborhood stations, especially in an existing vacant space, a law enforcement agency can improve its accessibility and be more visible to the community. Photo source: Frank DiBona.*

Community policing is an approach to policing that involves building closer ties between law enforcement agencies and community members, and seeks to make law enforcement officers be proactive about preventing crime. Community policing has two key ideas: community partnership and problem solving. It is grounded in the idea that greater trust and openness between law enforcement officers and Phelan Piñon Hills community members helps ensure community members are more likely to view the police as trustworthy community partners. Law enforcement officers have an easier time carrying out their duties once a stronger

Phelan Piñon Hills involves law enforcement and the County making an active effort to engage with local residents and businesses, understanding and respecting the community’s views and concerns, keeping open lines of communication between law enforcement and community members, and helping to provide desired services. This partnership leads to greater trust with local residents and businesses, which in turn fosters increased communication and engagement. The increased trust that results from community policing can help solve crimes and make them more likely to be reported, including for many of the most commonly reported crimes in Phelan Piñon Hills, such as burglary, grand theft, and fraud. Problem solving, within the context of community policing, involves understanding the underlying conditions that lead to crimes. Law enforcement officers practicing community policing should work to resolve these underlying conditions. This problem-solving approach also ties into community partnership efforts, using community members as a resource in identifying and resolving conditions that contribute to crime, further resulting in increased trust.

Community policing programs can be put into place through a number of different strategies. Law enforcement officers can participate in community festivals and events such as the farmers market to increase their visibility and emphasize that the police are active members of the community. Law enforcement officers should patrol Phelan Piñon Hills by means that get them out of police cars and into the public space where appropriate, where they are

more easily approached. This may also make it easier for law enforcement officers to spot crimes such as public drunkenness, assault, and vandalism, which are fairly common in Phelan Piñon Hills but often occur in places that may not be visible from the roadway. The Sheriff's Department can open small neighborhood stations, often by taking over unused buildings, further integrating law enforcement into the fabric of the community and improving response times. Programs such as neighborhood watch and citizen patrol efforts (for which the County provides start-up and regular training) that engage community members more actively in crime prevention also support community policing. Regular forums for communication, such as meetings of local community service clubs or coffee with a cop (see Action Statement D.1), help both community members and law enforcement officials explain their views and concerns to each other, forging increased respect and leading to solutions that meet the objectives of both groups.

The Phelan Pinon Hills communities have a strong Sheriff's presence in the community with 12 deputies assigned to the community with two to three each shift. The services currently provided include everything described for a community policing program except foot patrols, which is not appropriate in a desert community. The following services are provided:

- Storefront at 4050 Phelan Road open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm
- Citizen Ride Along Program
- Present at all open community meetings including the Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), Community Service District and Annual Fun Days
- Coffee with a Cop

The Chamber of Commerce and Community Service District regularly advertise events with the Sheriff.



Action	Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting of residents interested in creating a Public Safety Committee	Champion	Month 1	<p>US Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services: Community Policing Explained  <a href="https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/vets-to-cops/cp_explained.pdf">https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/vets-to-cops/cp_explained.pdf</a></p> <p>The Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy: What Works in Community Policing?  <a href="https://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/What_Works_in_Community_Policing.pdf">https://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/What_Works_in_Community_Policing.pdf</a></p> <p>US Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs: Understanding Community Policing  <a href="https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/commp.pdf">https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/commp.pdf</a></p> <p>Community Policing Principles and Elements  <a href="http://www.ncdsv.org/images/communitypolicingprincipleselements.pdf">http://www.ncdsv.org/images/communitypolicingprincipleselements.pdf</a></p>
2. Meet with the local Sheriff's Department to identify better ways to educate the community on the existing community policing program.	Public Safety Committee	Months 1-2	
3. Revise Sheriff's Department training materials to reflect principles of community policing, and integrate community policing concepts into all training sessions to the extent appropriate.	Public Safety Committee with Sheriff's Department	Month 3 - 4	
4. Work with Chambers of Commerce, Community Service District, local newspapers and local businesses to provide better notification of opportunities to meet with Sheriff Deputies and upcoming events with Sheriff presence	Public Safety Committee	Month 5	
5. Conduct community satisfaction surveys for Sheriff's Department activities.	Public Safety Committee with Sheriff's Department	Month 6	
6. Provide information about crime statistics, police activity, and other relevant data of public interest on a well-designed and easy-to-access website.	Sheriff's Department, County Administrative Office	Month 8	
7. Monitor and report on the effectiveness of all policing efforts. Make changes to department training programs and operations as needed.	Sheriff's Department, County Administrative Office	On-going	