

DAVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Specialized Assignments ***Special Operations & Patrol Division*** **ILP/COPPS**

Intelligence Led Policing Program

The word “intelligence” means different things to different people. The most common mistake is to consider intelligence as synonymous with information. Information is not intelligence; information plus analysis equals intelligence.

At the Davis Police Department we rely on intelligence to make assessments on where and how we police. To get intelligence, we require that employees assigned to the Department ILP Program be responsible for providing information so that we that we can evaluate and analyze the information in order to make informed decisions.

There are many forms of intelligence. Tactical intelligence contributes directly to the success of specific investigations. Strategic intelligence deals with “big-picture” issues, such as planning and manpower allocation. Evidential intelligence can help prove a criminal violation or provide leads for investigators to follow. The term “operational intelligence” is sometimes used to refer to intelligence that supports long-term investigations into multiple, similar targets. Operational intelligence is concerned primarily with identifying, targeting, detecting, and intervening in criminal activity.

Intelligence is critical for decision making, planning, strategic targeting, and crime prevention. We cannot function effectively without the ILP officers collecting, processing, and using intelligence.

Before we proceed to problem solving and creating safer neighborhoods, we must understand how to measure and assess crime and disorder. Measuring criminal activity is not an exact science because many crimes go unreported. Safety issues can be actual or perceived and the best assessments are always made by combining qualitative information with reported statistics.

Since our job is to address both crime and fear of crime, community concerns regarding both actual and perceived safety issues require police attention. Actual crime rates refer to criminal events that took place and may or may have not been reported or investigated. Perceived crime deals with the public opinions about the level of disorder that exists in a given area. As an example, neighborhoods with poor lighting and neglected landscapes may be perceived as unsafe. A growing transient population in the downtown core area may suggest higher levels of criminal behavior. While the necessity to deal with actual crimes is self-explanatory, many officers fail to see the need in addressing perceived safety concerns.

Consider the following issues surrounding perceived crime:

1. **Perceived crime may be a symptom of true criminal behavior:** You should never rule this out as a possibility as many criminal acts are never reported to

authorities. Let's say, for example, that neighbors are complaining of high burglary rates yet our statistics show very little activity. It could be that an incident or two has now escalated through gossip and exaggerations. You should never, however, rule out the possibility of under-reporting. Perhaps the burglaries did take place but were never called in.

2. **Perceived crime may lead to actual safety problems:** Neglected city blocks are the breeding ground for criminal behavior. When a community perceives an area to be unsafe and those fears are never addressed, property values decline along with any interest in that portion of the city. As apathy sets in, actual criminal behavior begins to emerge.
3. **Public confidence in our service delivery:** Citizen's perceptions are their reality so when the community expresses safety concerns, they must be addressed. If we dismiss such feelings of insecurity we will erode the public's confidence in our ability to promote safety. Even when fears are ultimately fruitless, officers should at least take the time to educate concerned stakeholders and reduce their anxiety.

The ILP officers assess crime levels in Davis, but they cannot paint an accurate picture without the help of the patrol beat officers. Patrol personnel spend the most time with the public and have the ability to gather valuable data. Data must be consistently passed on to the ILP officers who are responsible for working with the ILP manager and crimes analysis to assess criminality and deploy resources. Information shall be passed on daily and the ILP officers are required to routinely meet and analyze this data together so the information/analysis can be passed to patrol or other units.

Consider the following sources of information an ILP officer can cultivate:

Neighborhood Groups: These can be comprised of homeowner associations or Neighborhood Watch groups. The Crime Prevention Unit maintains a list of Neighborhood Liaisons. These are Davis residents who accepted the responsibility of managing their local block watch and are looking forward to working with their officer. Neighborhood groups can help you solve various problems, or they can provide feedback regarding safety concerns in their part of the city.

Merchants: Speaking to clerks, store managers, waiters, bartenders, or gas station attendants can be extremely educational. Businesses have a tendency to under-report minor criminal offenses when their employees get busy. Discovering a trend in alcohol related shoplifts by juveniles may help you identify a causative factor in rising levels of juvenile parties for instance. Bar employees have always been great sources for identifying suspects in various crimes that occur at night in the downtown area. Store managers can get you up to speed on their video surveillance systems.

Citizen Informants: The concerned citizen is one of our best allies. Many crimes are solved because a citizen chooses to call the police and report his or her

observations. Officers must place high value on such efforts and take the time to listen. Even if the information is not useful at that moment, you should thank the person for calling and encourage future contact.

Criminal Informant: The criminal informant is generally someone who is involved in criminal behavior themselves and has some motive to provide you with information. The criminal informant's motive may be good intentioned, it may be financial, the person may be trying to give up their "competition", or the informant may be attempting to gain leniency for a charge he or she is facing. Carefully evaluate the motives that drive the informant. Never take the information as fact, and do everything you can to verify what the person is telling you. Never make any promises of leniency (only the Yolo County D.A. and a Superior Court Judge can approve dismissal of charges in exchange for information). Criminal informants must be managed with care, but are an extremely valuable tool and you should cultivate such liaisons. ILP officers are required to review daily arrest logs to look for opportunities to get informants.

Duties of (ILP)/Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS)

Manage or assist in the supervision of those on probation, parole or PRCS, conduct special investigations or special enforcement operations, gather information relating to criminal behavior by analyzing reported crimes, managing informant assets, gathering feedback from community members and interviewing offenders. Analyze information and turn it into usable intelligence, identify either loosely knit or organized criminal networks that may be operating in our jurisdiction and design and implement solutions or effective management plans aimed at reducing or controlling criminal behavior.

Minimum Requirements

Sworn Police Officers, Police Corporals, and Police Sergeants who have left the Investigations/Detective Division, regardless of subsequent assignment, will be routinely and consistently assigned to perform intelligence duties under the Police Department Intelligence-Led Policing Program (ILP) and will be required to report to the Special Operations Division/Intelligence Unit to carry out intelligence related duties.

Position Training

Required prior to assignment

1. ICI Basic Investigations Core Course- Robert Presley Institute -84 hrs
2. POST Interview and Interrogation- CCN 31445 – 40 hrs
3. Search Warrant Preparation Course- CCN 2420, 24270, 24260- 16-32 hrs