



<i>Subject:</i> Community Engagement		<i>General Order Number:</i> 09.13
<i>Effective Date:</i> TBD	<i>Reference:</i>	
Approval: Chief Justin D. Laps		<i>No. of Pages:</i> 3
Updated: Annually		

Chapter 9

A. Purpose

The Stark County Park District Public Safety Department is committed to establishing close ties with community organizations by being receptive and responsive to the needs of the community. Members of this agency will work to maintain relationships with existing community organizations and will assist with establishing new organizations as agency operations permit.

B. Policy

It shall be the policy of the Stark County Park District Public Safety Department to become involved with community organizations in a cooperative, proactive manner to create a safer community, to encourage community groups, and to invite community groups and organizations to become involved with this agency. Its Rangers may make presentations and engage in problem resolution, and invite community groups and organizations to become involved with this agency.

All members have responsibility for achieving the department’s community involvement functions.

C. Programs

The Stark County Park District Public Safety Department considers the following as eligible community relations programs, as operational needs permit, and are not limited to only those listed below:

1. Catfish with Cops
2. Back the Blue Bass Tournament
3. Ranger for a Day
4. K-9 Gunnar Community Outreach
5. Ranger Cadet Program
6. National Night Out

Exhibit L

7. Trailblazers
8. Passport to Fishing
9. Introduction to Fly Fishing
10. Introduction to Backpacking
11. Shop with a Cop
12. Safe Kids Day
13. Special Olympics
14. Stark County Fair
15. Large Park Events
16. Ohio Hunter Education

D. Community Service Responsibilities

1. It is the policy of this department to maintain communication channels for the public to request attendance at community meetings and events.
2. Community groups can request a Ranger attend their meeting
3. Rangers will make appearances, as agency operations permit, at the above listed events to provide direct face-to-face interaction. They will provide citizens with opportunities to direct responses to questions and concerns, while providing the department with citizens input.
4. The Stark County Park District Public Safety Department will work directly with the Stark County Park District Marketing Department to publicize the department's objectives, problems, and successes through the use of electronic and print media.
5. Stark County Park District Public Safety Department Rangers are encouraged to convey information received from citizen organizations to the department and its members.
6. Stark County Park District Public Safety Department Rangers have the responsibility to ensure information forwarded from citizens is used to improve department practices that affect police community involvement.
 - a. Modifications in policy, procedure and / or activities may be need to be made in response input received from the community, particularly in regard to correcting actions, practices, behavior and attitudes that might contribute to community tensions and grievances.
7. The Stark County Park District Public Safety Department will identify training needs through interviews with citizen representatives, where applicable.
8. The Stark County Park District Public Safety Department will develop problem oriented or community policing strategies, as determined by need.

E. Use of Electronic and Print Media

1. The agency may utilize various types of media to publicize objectives, problems and successes, in an effort to keep the community informed about highlights occurring during the course of the year as well as obtain feedback from the community as follows:
 - a. The Stark County Park District Facebook page
 - b. The Stark County Park District Website
 - c. The Stark County Park District quarterly newsletter
 - d. Open two-way communication between the Public Safety Department and the public.

Exhibit L

F. Policy Review and Testing

1. Ranger personnel shall be issued copies of this directive annually.
2. Ranger Personnel shall complete annual proficiency testing of the content of the department directive to ensure awareness of department programs and expectations.
3. Testing may be conducted orally or by a written test. A supervisor shall document the required training and forward to the Chief Ranger.