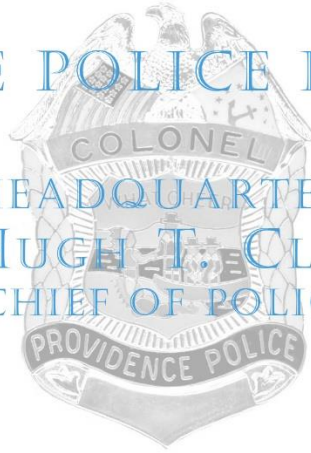


# PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS  
COLONEL HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE



TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	510.02	6/7/2022	6/8/2022
SUBJECT TITLE		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Community Relations Unit		4/9/2017	
REFERENCE		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
N/A		As Needed	
SUBJECT AREA		DISTRIBUTION	
Community Relations and Services		All Personnel	

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to identify and establish the components and strategies that comprise the Providence Police Community Relations Unit (CRU).

## POLICY:

It is the policy of the Providence Police Department to establish the Community Relations Unit (CRU) under the auspices of the Chief of Police. This unit will be responsible for all facets and programming deemed "community relations."

## DISCUSSION:

The success of a police force in the performance of its duties is largely measured by the degree of support and cooperation it receives from the people it serves. It is of paramount importance, therefore, to secure for this Department the confidence, respect, and approbation of the public. The mission of the CRU is to develop, recommend, and strengthen policies and programs that enhance police/community relationships, increase understanding and cooperation, build and maintain trust and respect between the Department and the community, and reduce the fear of crime.

The CRU is responsible for furthering current Department programs and initiatives, overseeing individual officer initiated activities, and developing new programming which maintain and further positive community relations. Unit members will establish and maintain contact with community-based organizations, leaders, spokespersons, and other stakeholders in order to promote open lines of communication with the Chief of Police and mutually beneficial relationships. CRU personnel will partner with community groups and the public in order to monitor emerging trends or tensions and

take positive action to avert situations that could be damaging to the City, the community, and the Department.

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

*Community Relations*: Any program or effort by a person or group representing themselves as a member, sworn or civilian, of the Providence Police Department that promotes positive interactions, connections, relationships or partnerships with individuals, organizations, community groups, or any other entity.

*Department Programs and Initiatives*: Any program, partnership or event designed to promote positive contact and/or relationships with individuals, organizations, community groups, or any other entity.

*Individual Officer Initiated Activities*: Those activities initiated by individuals, sworn or civilian, representing themselves as members of the Providence Police Department with the purpose or result of either directly or indirectly promoting positive community relations. This can include but is not limited to: participation in charitable events, mentoring, coaching, volunteering or the creation of programming or events whose purpose results in positive community relations.

## **PROCEDURE:**

### **I. THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT (CRU), GENERALLY**

- A. Hereby the Community Relations Unit is established under the office of the Chief of Police and is charged with the development, coordination, implementation and oversight of all actions and programming that have the goal, purpose or outcome of positive community relations. The office shall maintain records of all programs covered by the definitions provided above, and shall provide oversight, technical assistance and guidance for all such actions.

### **II. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The following responsibilities will also fall under the CRU:
  1. Liaison with communities throughout the City. Team members from CRU will maintain contact with community-based organizations, leaders, spokespersons, and other sources to develop and keep open the lines of communication between the Chief of Police and those groups or individuals and establish mutually beneficial relationships.
  2. CRU personnel will also partner with community groups and the public in order to monitor emerging trends or tensions and take positive action to avert situations that could be damaging to the city, community or the Department.

3. The CRU will train regarding community policing issues conducted for recruit officers at the Police Academy.
4. The CRU will coordinate annual meetings between the Chief of Police or their designee and various community forums such as Asian, Hispanic, African-American, Gay and Lesbian, and youth and clergy groups citywide.
5. The CRU will conduct community surveys to determine levels of satisfaction with Department services.
6. CRU members will attend various meetings throughout the city as representatives of the Chief of Police.
7. When the Chief of Police is unable to do so, CRU personnel may make presentations or give awards on his behalf.
8. Liaison with community activists and leaders covering the entire political spectrum is maintained by the CRU.
9. CRU is the official Department liaison with the gay and lesbian community.
10. CRU may act as an agent to the Chief of Police in an advisory capacity with all levels of government, including city, state and federal plus foreign consulates.
11. At lawful demonstrations, CRU team members advise demonstration leaders and police personnel on first amendment rights and guarantees in addition to limits on police powers at such incidents.
12. CRU personnel respond to the scene of high-profile incidents, such as law enforcement-related deaths or injuries or major confrontations between the police and the public to take a proactive role in quelling rumors and misinformation. The dissemination of factual information at such incidents is a primary task for CRU personnel.
13. The CRU is required to maintain written or electronic records for all of its activities.

### **III. PROVISIONS**

- A. Any member of the Providence Police Department sworn or civilian who wishes to participate in any program that falls within the definitions provided within this policy shall first obtain written permission from the Commanding Officer of the CRU or their designee. The request shall be made in the form of a written request on Department letter head and shall include the member's name, dates and times of the activity, associated

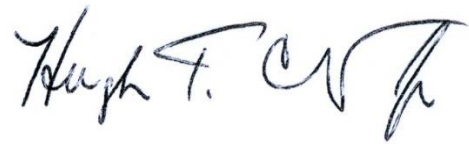
organizations or individuals, and the goals and purpose of the event or activity. The Department member shall also provide the name and current contact information of the person(s), organization head or contact person for the activity or initiative. This requirement also applies to all Department-member initiated activities such as food drives, toy giveaways, charitable work, or any activity where a Department member is an actual or perceived representative of the Providence Police Department

**APPROVED:**



STEVEN M. PARÉ  
COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**APPROVED:**



HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.  
COLONEL  
CHIEF OF POLICE