

GENERAL ORDER 44.3.1

School/Community Liaison

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Describes the Department's school and youth liaison program.

DISCUSSION

School liaison programs provide a forum through which students, parents, faculty, and law enforcement personnel can become acquainted and, as a result, earn mutual respect. Apart from the obvious benefits accruing to youths, such programs demonstrate to parents and faculty that the Department has a genuine interest in the community's youths. Visits to schools by liaison officers should be frequent, and efforts should be taken to have the same officer serve, on an ongoing basis, the same school so that students can come to recognize and identify with a particular liaison officer. The use of liaison officers as security guards or hallway monitors shall be avoided. By acting in such a capacity, liaison officers may irreparably damage the relationship of mutual trust they have established. However, if a violation of the law occurs within plain sight, police officers should take appropriate action.

POLICY

I

The School Resource Officer (SRO) serves as a liaison with the schools, regularly meeting with school administrators to discuss problem youth, community problems associated with youth, diversion programs and provide a forum for a general exchange of information.

II

As part of the Department's school liaison program, the School Resource Officers and Community Outreach Coordinator act as a resource with respect to delinquency prevention; provide guidance on ethical issues in a classroom setting; provide individual counseling to students; and explain the law enforcement role in society.

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Chief of Police