

OBJECTIVE: Reduce the Incidents of Crime in Dalton

Addressing crime trends and the prevention and reduction of crime in Dalton are primary concerns of the Dalton Police Department and its staff. The Dalton Police Department strives to lower the incidents of crime and effectively respond to citizen concerns by partnering with the public that we serve. Furthermore, we will continue to improve our aggressive and high profile enforcement efforts involving all aspects of the department. We will educate the public in the areas of crime prevention and the realities of reported crime in Dalton through open meetings and other forums.

In analyzing the Dalton Police Department Strategic Plan for 2004-2006, we observed results for several targets. In 2004, overall public awareness events were increased and participation in Operation RAP saw graffiti reduced considerably. In 2005, the target to reduce incidents of burglary and thefts was not met; however, in 2006 there was a drastic reduction in these areas due to efforts in 2005 and 2006. In 2006, the formation of the Conasauga Safe Streets Task Force helped identify and investigate gang activity and violent crime, and formerly active areas for street level drug sales have seen significant drops in activity. In planning for the future, we want to continue to build upon successful programs and revise or discontinue unsuccessful ones.

Performance Indicators:

The Dalton Police Department will endeavor to find solutions and deterrents to different crime trends and problems in and around the City of Dalton. Community concerns about crime and other challenges that come with growth and change will be addressed through information sharing and education. The following were identified as areas of concern through citizen surveys and crime data:

- Immigration Issues
- Gang Activity/Vandalism
- Burglaries/Larcenies
- Illegal Drug Use
- Safe Environment for Children

By providing professional police service we can foresee the following:

- Increased mutual trust with partnerships and community awareness through the joint ventures of department activities.
- A decrease in the amount of property crimes as a direct result of increased street level drug enforcement and interaction with school-aged children and parents.

- Reduction in the number of “no forced entry” burglaries due to increased public awareness of simple prevention techniques.

Targets:

- 2007 Interaction at public meetings will continue to establish partnerships with the community while increasing their awareness on crime, immigration, gang activity, and other areas of concern. Existing programs will be continued and new strategies developed for aggressive enforcement to reduce burglaries by 5%, larcenies by 10%, and increase street level drug arrests by 15%.
- 2008 Crime reduction efforts will continue through partnerships formed in 2007. New and improved educational programs will be added as needed. Continued persistent and aggressive enforcement techniques and public awareness in areas of burglaries, larcenies, and street level drug and gang activity will further the downward trend in the reduction of crime by 10%.
- 2009 Solid partnerships will be realized within the community. We will continue to work to maintain previous levels of crime reduction (10%) in high profile areas by active enforcement, maintaining partnerships, and implementation of programs as needed.

Strategies:

- Develop and teach community educational programs targeted at, but not limited to, the following topics:
 - a. Immigration Issues Awareness
 - b. Personal Safety
 - c. Burglary Prevention
 - d. Gang Activity
 - e. Illegal Drug Crimes
- Officers from each sector will attend PTA Meetings at schools in their area and will have current information to present/share.
- Continued use of the Drug Unit, SRU, and other Patrol elements for concentrated patrols and undercover operations to combat street level drug and gang activity.
- Take advantage of civic, school, church, and other public forums to educate the public regarding Internet safety (ISAFE sexual predator prevention and identity theft), Neighborhood Watch, and parent training to reduce juvenile unruliness/delinquency.

- Follow crime trends through crime analysis. Use a web-based system available to the public for viewing actual crime locations and statistics. Produce a monthly crime bulletin to provide information on a scheduled basis.
- Expand the volunteer program to assist with educating the public on simple preventative measures to keep their private property safe from burglary or vandalism, thus freeing the officer to patrol the community.
- Increase officers' and volunteers' use of the security assessment checklists for victims of burglaries and recognized problem properties.
- Maintain quick response time of Operation Report and Paint (RAP) and increase citizen participation and awareness of this program by public service announcements.
- Increase public awareness of programs and activities through public service announcements, TV, website, departmental blog, and other community forums or programs.