

# **2019 Resolutions**

## **Adopted December 2019**

## **Crime Prevention, Domestic Security and Quality of Life: Definition and Significant Value of Community Policing**

*Submitted by: Community Policing Committee*

*Co-Sponsored by: Communications & Technology Committee, Crime Prevention Committee, Education & Training Committee, Forensics Committee, Committee on Homeland Security, Human & Civil Rights Committee, Juvenile Justice & Child Protection Committee, Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs Committee, Police Administration Committee, Private Sector Liaison Committee, Police Professional Standards Ethics & Image Committee, Research Advisory Committee, Terrorism Committee, Transnational Crime Committee, Victim Services Committee*

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WHEREAS, for decades the IACP has recognized, acknowledged, and endorsed the value and effectiveness of community policing; and

WHEREAS, over the years various emphasis, attention, attitudes, and definitions have been given to the philosophy, principles, and practice of community policing; and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to clearly define and identify the elements of community policing; and

WHEREAS, problem-solving through proactive partnerships and community trust building are recognized key elements of community policing; and

WHEREAS, police legitimacy and police efforts to enhance community trust can have a positive impact on the conditions that produce crime and are elemental to the practice of effective community policing; and

WHEREAS, the essential elements of community policing, including problem-solving through partnership, community trust building, the recognition of police legitimacy, and significant community involvement and responsibility, are the foundations of a definition that has been supported and recognized by the academic community;<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, these elements do contribute to a more positive and productive relationship between the police and the communities they serve, where community policing has value internationally as an approach that will lead to a safer environment for the community and the police worldwide; and

WHEREAS, community policing seeks to reduce crime and fear of crime by having an impact on crime causation factors while recognizing the importance of enhancing police legitimacy and providing for better accountability of police and government and greater concern for civil rights and liberties; and

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<sup>1</sup> Lodewijk G. Moor et al., "Restorative Practices within Community Oriented Policing, or Meeting the Needs of the Officer on the Beat." *Journal of Police Studies* 11 (2009): 7-19, and in *Restorative Policing*, eds. Lodewijk G. Moor et al. (Antwerp, BE: Maluk, 2009); Robert R. Friedmann and William J. Cannon, "Homeland Security and Community Policing: Competing or Complementing Public Safety Policies," *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management* 4, no. 4 (2007): Article 2.

WHEREAS, the IACP Community Safety Policy Council has agreed that a comprehensive definition of Community Policing should be one of its missions. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the International Association of Chiefs of Police accepts, acknowledges, supports, and uses the following definition of community policing: "Community policing is a comprehensive philosophy that guides policy and strategy aimed at achieving more effective and efficient crime control, reduced fear of crime, improved quality of life, and improved police services and police legitimacy through a proactive reliance on community resources that seeks to change crime causing conditions. This assumes a need for greater accountability of police, elected community leaders, and the community in general, along with greater public share in decision-making through the identification of service needs and priorities and a greater concern for civil rights and liberties."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Robert R. Friedmann, *Community Policing: Comparative Perspectives and Prospects* (New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 1992).



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