

Two River Regional Police Study Group

Presentation to Joint Meeting of Participants

Presented by:



9 July 2008
Little Silver Municipal Building

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Introduction

- RFP
- \$25,000 NJ SHARE Grant
- Mobilization
- Investigation
- Analysis
- Report

Purpose

- First of several meetings
- Brief elected officials
- Discuss sharing feasibility
- Offer initial recommendations
- Review potential courses of action
- Anticipation of completing final report

Department Data

- 46 Sworn Police Officers
- 19,244 year round residents 9.6 miles in land area
- \$6.85 Million dollars per year for police & dispatch services in personnel related costs (2007).
- "Calls for Service" data inconsistent

Results

- Similarities between the three towns:
 - Community Demographics
 - Community Identity
 - Police Identity
 - Municipal Philosophy
 - Police Philosophy
 - Community Culture
 - Police Culture
 - Types of Calls for Service

Results

- Reviewed
 - Rules & Regulations
 - Ordinances & Statutes
 - Budgets
 - Total Personnel Costs
 - Call Volume & Demands for Services
- Interim Meetings
 - Study Group
 - Chiefs of Police

Decision Rules

- All recommendations MUST
 - Maintain or preferably improve law enforcement service delivery to the public.
 - Result in a projected cost savings
 - OR must be rejected.

Input, Guidance & Notice

- Executive & Legislative
 - Elected Officials
- Management
 - Chiefs of Police
- Rank & File
 - Civilian Employees
 - Sworn Officers
 - Unions and Union Representatives
- Regulators and Rule Makers
 - Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
 - State of New Jersey
 - Department of Community Affairs (Local Gov't Services)
 - Department of Law & Public Safety

General Observations

- The three municipalities are receiving outstanding yet duplicate police services.
- Many of the services studied are already being shared in some informal manner.
- Common sense dictates that these three similar towns can share some, and possibly all, of their police services.

Shared Services Make Sense Now

- Purchasing
- Communications & IT
- Prisoner Processing/Holding
- Criminal Investigations (Detectives)
- Traffic
- Youth Aid

During Sharing

- Shared function officers work at one agency as a team.
- Cross jurisdictional assignments
- Individual Chiefs continue to command their own officers
- Patrol functions remain in existing departments.
- **NO recommended layoffs, terminations or reductions in staffing of sworn law enforcement officers due to sharing of services.**
- **No recommendations that will result in a reduction of services**



Known Issues

- Call Data
- Financial Data
- "Unpredictables"
- Opinion of the Chiefs of Police
 - Have already informed the Study Group that they cannot support all of the recommendations.
 - They prefer the immediate versus incremental regionalization of all three departments.

Recommendation 1

- Traditional shared services agreements should be executed to implement the sharing of communications, information technology, detectives, youth aid, prisoner observation, purchasing and traffic functions between and among the three towns.

Recommendation 2

- Prepare for and then establish a Joint Management Committee or other structure to oversee sharing and regionalization efforts.

Recommendation 3

- As soon as technologically feasible, implement uniform collection of call data tracking how law enforcement officers are deployed, how efficiently they operate while deployed and what functions they are required to perform during deployment.

Recommendation 4

- As soon as a significant set of call data is collected, the feasibility of a full regionalization of all law enforcement services should be considered.

During Sharing

- Shared function officers work at one agency as a team.
- Cross jurisdictional assignments
- Individual Chiefs continue to command their own officers
- Patrol functions remain in existing departments.
- **NO recommended layoffs, terminations or reductions in staffing of sworn law enforcement officers due to sharing of services.**
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Known Issue

- **The Chiefs of Police, as a group, do not support the sharing of Detectives, Traffic or Youth Aid functions.**
 - Purchasing
 - Communications & IT
 - Prisoner Processing/Holding
 - **Criminal Investigations (Detectives)**
 - **Traffic**
 - **Youth Aid**

Consultant's Position

- The recommendations meet the directions of the Study Group
 - Maintain or Improve Services
 - Reduce Costs
- Many of the areas recommended for sharing are
 - Already being shared informally
 - Common sense
 - Reduce waste, inefficiency and redundancy

Consultant's Position

- The recommendations enhance the quality of life for the average law enforcement officer and dispatcher
 - More variety
 - Larger response area
 - Specialized teams
 - More diversity
 - More promotional opportunities
 - Expanded training opportunities

Purchasing

- Centralized Purchasing Operation (with existing staff)
- Bulk Purchasing
- Scales of Economy
- Standardization
- Simplification
- Safety and Cohesion
- Reduced Overall Costs

Communications

- Centralized Emergency Communications Center
- 2 dispatchers, 24/7
- Higher training standards
- Possible designation as an E-9-1-1 PSAP.
- New and upgraded radio and communications equipment paid for by State Implementation Grant
- Use of GPS/AVL technology

Communications

- Increased, Improved and Enhanced Communication
 - All three agencies on ONE dispatch channel
 - Multiple tactical channels if necessary
 - Closest unit can be dispatched/provide backup
 - Improved response time

Known Issue

- At least one Chief has stated that he also will not support the sharing of communications functions unless they are housed in his municipality.
 - Purchasing
 - Communications & IT
 - Prisoner Processing/Holding
 - Criminal Investigations (Detectives)
 - Traffic
 - Youth Aid

Information Technology

- Standardized & Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System
- Already in use in Rumson
 - Requested by both Little Silver and Fair Haven PDs
- Officers can do more in the field
- Allows for the uniform collection of call data
- Tracking how law enforcement officers are deployed
- How efficiently they operate while deployed
- What functions they are forced to perform during deployment

Prisoner Observation

- Centralized Processing & Detention Center
- Formalizes current sharing of prisoner processing technology.
- More efficient use of personnel.
- Increases officer, dispatcher & prisoner safety.
- More efficient use of facilities funding.

Criminal Investigations

- Centralized detective bureau
 - One supervising detective
 - Two detectives
- Formalizes current sharing of detective resources and personnel.
- More efficient use of personnel.
- Detectives “on-duty” more often.
- Cross-jurisdictional assignments
- More efficient use of Patrol Officers
- Allows for additional expertise to crime scenes and investigations
- Increases communication between all three departments
- Anticipated increase in the number of solved cases.

Youth Aid Team

- Expressed desire of many Elected Officials
- Formalizes Current Sharing
- Specific responsibilities:
 - Crimes on school property
 - All Cases with Juvenile Victims or Defendants
 - D.A.R.E./Drug Education
 - Juvenile Public Relations
 - Youth Community Groups
 - School “Presence”
 - DYFS Referrals
 - Complaints involving Juveniles
- Provides Flexibility
 - Traditional Youth Outreach
 - Non-Traditional & “High Risk”
- IACP also recommends, citing:
 - Communications
 - Partnerships
 - Law Enforcement
 - Families & Youth
 - Mental Health Services
 - Advocacy
- School Resource Officer(s)

Traffic Bureau

- One Traffic Safety Supervisor
- Three Traffic Safety Officers
- Formalizes Current Sharing
- Organization
 - Traffic Safety & Accident Investigations
 - Traffic Enforcement
 - School Crossing Guards (Potentially)

Traffic Bureau

- Traffic Safety & Accident Investigations Team
 - Traffic Safety Operations
 - Signs
 - Lights
 - Signals
 - Lines
 - General Traffic Safety Initiatives

Traffic Bureau

- Traffic Safety & Accident Investigations Team
 - Accident Investigation Team
 - Specialized Training
 - Conducts Investigation & Follow up
 - Allows Patrol Officers to return to PATROL functions more quickly
 - Work closely with Monmouth County Serious Collision Analysis Response Team (SCART)

Traffic Bureau

- Traffic Enforcement Team
 - Targeted, Routine & Special Enforcement
 - Goal is Rapid Response to Citizen Complaints
 - Speeding
 - General Traffic Complaints
 - Allows Patrol Officers to remain on PATROL & available for Emergencies.
 - Permissive use of Patrol Officers performing Traffic Enforcement duties.

Traffic Bureau

- School Crossing Guards
 - Local Option
 - Allows for pooling of resources and personnel
 - Helps avoid use of law enforcement for crossing guard functions
 - Standardization

Full Regionalization?

- Full Regionalization **may** be feasible when the Sharing Plan has been in operation long enough to:
 - Assess its effectiveness on a limited scale
 - Assess its viability
 - Collect sufficient call data to determine
 - Call Type, Number and Statistics
 - Committed vs. Uncommitted Officer Time
 - Deployment Characteristics

Sharing Plan

- Share & Assess
 - Communications & IT
 - Prisoners
 - Detectives
 - Traffic
 - Youth Aid
 - Purchasing
- Existing three police departments remain in full force and effect

Next Steps

- Discussion & Debate
 - Municipality specific
 - As a group
- Plan for and implement Joint Management Committee to oversee sharing operations and long term activities
- Adopt traditional Interlocal/Shared Services agreements to implement sharing
- Apply for NJ SHARE Implementation grants

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