

# PERF Project...

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We then partnered with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), a premier "think tank" on policing strategies, and asked them to conduct a study. And it needs to be clearly stated that while improving our patrolling processes and conducting this study in enhanced policing strategies, the grant is also paying for the training of the officers, as well as the study itself.

We wanted to make sure the study was an in-depth look into deployment strategies and we wanted it to include quantifiable outcomes. PERF will be looking at a few things:

**Strategic Deployment:** We want to "take it to the next level." In addition to community policing, we have empowered these officers to actually solve community problems that are reported before they become crimes. It means partnering with communities to focus on the whole crime reduction "P.I.E." - prevention, intervention and enforcement.

In this new paradigm, I want to make sure we are measuring proactive police efforts. We'll know it works if calls for service decline AND arrests in those same areas decline.

**Intelligence-Led Policing:** Our Crime Analysis Unit is one of the best, if not the best, in the country. We didn't have the technology and intelligence gathering in 2003 at our finger tips like we do today. Let's make sure the intelligence we have is the driving force behind the neighborhoods we select for this policing activity and that our deployments and tactical problem solving is led by that intelligence. I hope the report will reflect that this innovation is serving us well in both our traditional patrol and enforcement efforts and in the problem solving policing.

Finally, there is the issue of **sustainability**. When an officer, through creative problem solving, accomplishes a goal of preventing repeated calls for service to the same address, does that crime migrate to another officer's area of responsibility? Does the crime just "pop up" somewhere else? That is called displacement.

We know the importance of "keeping crime down" and the demand that puts on officer staffing. That is why we need to continue to increase our officer staffing levels, until we reach that minimal number necessary to maintain the crime reductions we are begging to experience through Operation Safe Streets.

The "PERF Project," as we call this grant initiative, will wrap up in April. Several other law enforcement agencies from around the world have been here to observe our activities. The final report is due out in August. We're not going to speculate, or guess, what the results will show. But if there is one thing 34 years of policing has taught me, when you listen to citizens, build relationships, try to help them solve their problems, you are engaging in real crime prevention. And anytime you can find ways to work smarter, and better, you should. I look forward to seeing what the study reveals.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE.

There is a host of topics and reports available for your viewing at [www.coj.net/sheriff](http://www.coj.net/sheriff). When the "PERF Project" report is in, that will be posted for your review. I have also begun a periodic newsletter for those who sign up to receive it. All this, and much more, is available on our website. I hope you will visit it, often. Please feel free to share your feedback!

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