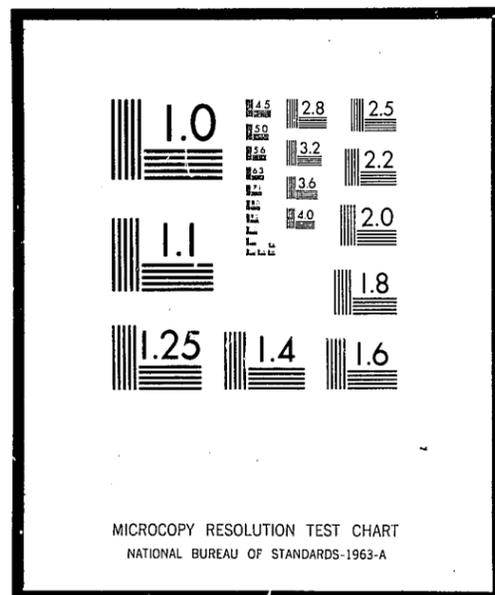


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EL PASO POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY RELATIONS SECTION

Chief of Police
Robert E. Minnie

Lt. William Rodriguez
Community Relations Director

1973

The Police-Community Relations Bureau, which works directly under the Chief of Police, is made up of one sergeant, three Community Relations Officer supervisors, six patrolmen, six youth-aides, and one clerk typist. The personnel in this bureau were selected by the Chief of Police and the Sergeant, on the basis of their past records, their ability to get along with people, and their interest in helping people with personal problems, along with other necessary attitudes for this type of work. The officers are titled Community Relations personnel. Two are assigned to the Storefront Centers on any given day, between the hours of 2:00 PM and 10:00 PM. These officers are given additional training in Police-Community Relations and also attend several seminars per year.

Police-Community Relations Service Centers (storefronts) provide police departments with neighborhood "homes away from home." They bring the police department to people who cannot come to headquarters or who need police services more often than anyone else, and these are the people the police department must reach through its Community Relations efforts. The main goals of the Service Centers are to promote

police and community involvement, to open lines of communication between the police and the administration leaders, and to resolve conflicting situations or confrontations that may arise. The Community Service Centers must also help make police personnel aware of the public's point of view and more sensitive and responsive to the need, feelings and attitudes of the community as they pertain to police services. It can serve as a vital medium for public education and problem solving by interpreting to the community the police function and police techniques.

In February, 1972, this bureau expanded its operation by opening a new storefront in a remote area of East El Paso. The area selected had similar circumstances as the original storefront, which is located in South El Paso, as it consists of a Mexican-American slum area with much poverty, dissension, and a high crime rate. Three officers were assigned to each storefront along with two neighborhood youth-aides, which were selected from the area of the storefront, to assist officers in making contacts in these areas and promoting police community involvement. The youth-aides, members of gangs, have helped establish rap-sessions with the people from the community and assisted in altering negative attitudes towards police. These group leaders, in conflict with each other and with the police, have been brought together in group discussions and included in these discussions were administrative leaders of the city.

We opened our third Storefront in northeast El Paso in March 1973. This area of El Paso is highly populated with citizens of a transient nature due to the military. We have had various problems in this area in past years and there has been some definite communications conflicts between young adults and the police.

Since our opening in this area, the Storefront has had a constant influx of young adults coming to the Storefront with problems of parental disagreements to criminal acts. Thus far, our officers have been able to work with many people in this area. There are three storefront locations presently in the city, one is located at 807 E. Sixth St., another is located at 9043 Alameda, in the rear, and the third is located at 9888 Taj Mahal in northeast El Paso.

The storefront officers have gone into the community neighborhoods in uniform, on foot patrol, contacting the public and resolving issues through advise or some type of positive action. The officers have established rapport with several organizations such as: the MAYAS, BROWN BERETS, CHICANOS UNIDOS, and the COMANCHEROS, which has been beneficial in resolving disputes with discontented groups. Community Relations Officers have served as liaison between various discontented groups in the community and the city administrative leaders. Rap-sessions at high schools throughout the city have been established by the officers in order to gain more insight into the problems of the youth and to establish a closer relationship between them and the police.

This bureau is also responsible for assigning any lectures, tours, dialogue-sessions that may be requested by the community. When there is any indication of problems that may arise in a certain area of the city, this bureau sets up some dialogue sessions before it comes to a head. It is also involved in many other community programs designed to bring the youth and the police together for better mutual understanding and communications. Further, this bureau has a Youth-Ride-Along program designed for teenagers so that they may gain an insight to the problems the patrol officer is facing on a day-to-day basis.

In 1973, the Police-Community Relations Bureau plans to expand its operations by opening a new storefront in northeast El Paso and increasing its personnel. Plans are also being made to improve the present programs and to attempt to contact more people through these programs. We are presently searching for new methods and new ideas and attempting to apply them to the community relations operation.

PROGRAMS

YOUTH PATROL

Our department and Chief in recognizing the need for citizen participation, understanding, and support for law enforcement efforts, especially among the youth, initiated the "Youth Patrol." Originally, this program was handled by the Mayor's Youth Program and in January, 1972, it was turned over to the Police Department, Community Relations Bureau.

The program is directed at youth between the ages of 15 and 18. During school, they ride on Fridays and Saturdays, from 6:30 P. M. to 10:00 P. M., and during the summer months, they ride on Mondays and

Tuesday evening at the same time. There is a limit of eight riders per evening and each youth is required to have his parents or custodian sign a waiver, releasing the city from responsibility during the ride. There is also a dress code the youth are required to meet, casual and neat and females should wear slacks or jeans.

Our Youth Patrol program has been very successful in bringing the youth and the officers together for an exchange of ideas. Many misunderstandings are presented during these ride-a-longs and there is a mutual benefit for officer and youth that normally results from this contact.

Thus far we have had a total of 667 participants in these programs for a two-year period and our department has received very good feedback from this program.

On special occasions, with permission from the Chief, adults are allowed to ride in the patrol cars.

LECTURES

The Community Relations Bureau is responsible for all lectures given by police officers on the department.

Assignments for various specialized lectures are funneled from the Community Relations Bureau to the respective sections that are more familiar with the topic. By channeling most of the lectures to the various sections within the police department, we are better able to handle the individual topics and at the same time, improve the Community Relations attitude of all sectors within the department. More officers from the police department have been utilized for these programs over the past two years than in prior years.

There were a total of 311 lectures assigned during 1972 and total number of people contacted through these lectures were 17,381. There were fifty four topics lectured on, from thefts to Halloween Safety. These lectures have provided the police department with a means to communicate with many citizens and since most of the lectures end in a question and answer period, there is two-way communication.

DIALOGUES (Rap-sessions)

In a concerted effort to bring about communication and understanding between policemen and the community, we have developed a program by which police officers and five concerned citizens meet in an informal setting for eight hours and discuss many likes and dislikes one group may have about the other.

These sessions are held in a mutual site and the officers attend the meetings in plainclothes. Normally, there is a monitor who attends these sessions and attempts to give direction to the session if the interchange of attitudes falters.

These programs have been successful in that many officers are made aware of what citizens think and feel about policemen. Further, citizens are enlightened to the many problems faced by police in performing the law enforcement function.

Usually these sessions are scheduled in those communities where tensions are high and prior to any violent outbreak. Thus far, we have had a positive effect with these programs.

During the past two years, there have been nine sessions scheduled through the Community Relations Bureau. We expect this project to

continue in the future as an aide in preventative police work.

The Community Relations Bureau has further gained permission from certain local high schools and have been allowed to have dialogue sessions within those schools for two-hour periods. This program is in existence at these local high schools and have been good feedback resources from the youth in our community.

SENTENCED YOUTH RIDERS

The Youth Advisory Court of El Paso was placed into operation in February of 1972. The court is sponsored by the Municipal Court of the City of El Paso and the Young Men's Christian Association.

Youths between the ages of fourteen and nineteen may request a hearing before the Youth Court if they have had no more than one moving violation or hazardous traffic violation in the previous twelve month period. They are required to be a student at one of the local high schools, technical school or college.

The fines range from monetary to a four-hour ride in a police traffic accident investigation car. After a youth has been given this sentence to ride, he is assigned to a traffic officer for a four hour ride. The officer picks the sentenced rider up at their home and returns them home at the end of the tour.

During the tour, the youth is exposed to the significant effects of violating traffic laws. He visits the scenes of major and minor traffic accidents and has an opportunity to see his or her mistake and what it could have caused. The most important thing is that the youth can talk to the officer and gain from his experience as a police officer.

When the tour is over, the youth fills out an evaluation of what he has learned, which must be returned to the court in order to complete his or her sentence. Eleven youths were sentenced to ride during 1972.

TOURS

The Community Relations Bureau is responsible for scheduling all tours on the department and these tours are conducted mainly by the Patrol Bureau assigning officers from the field to conduct these tours. There were a total of eight-two tours scheduled in 1972, with a total of 1,360 people involved.

INTER-DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMS

Understanding that for a Police Community Relations effort to be successful, all personnel should be involved in the programs.

Our department, in an effort to bring about total participation have recently started to assign supervisors from various sections on the department to work two days with Community Relations personnel in the Storefronts. By working in the storefront, supervisors can be made aware of the various programs the Community Relations personnel undertake in attempting to bring about better communication and understanding between the police and the community. Further, these supervisors attend neighborhood meetings and come face to face with problems facing certain communities. The citizens in turn sense that the Police Department is interested in their problems and become more supportive of the law enforcement effort.

The Community Relations Bureau has some in-service training films and these films have been shown to personnel in the shift meetings. The films are concerned with police-citizen attitudes and have proved beneficial to those that have seen them. This program will continue in the future with changes as to the type of films shown.

Another department involvement program we have instituted is concerned with the many neighborhood meetings held by the citizens, usually originating from some common problem and how to find solutions. The Community Relations officers find out where the meetings are to be held and attempt to have the leaders invite a representative of the police department. Once the invitation is received, the district patrol car where the meeting is to be held, is assigned to attend the meeting along with a Community Relations officer. This program has been very effective in bringing about a closer relationship between the officer and the citizens' where patrols. An officer should be aware of the mood, the problems, and the people where patrols and attending these neighborhood meetings provides him with an insight to his district that he might not be able to receive from the patrol car. There were a total of fifty-seven neighborhood meetings attended by Community Relations personnel and the district car was assigned to some of them where time allowed.

NEIGHBORHOOD SEMINARS

In an effort to bring about communication and the fact that the police are concerned with the problems of the community, and to mutually attack these problems, there was scheduled during 1972, a neighborhood

seminar. This seminar was scheduled in conjunction with the local office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and Project "Jura", sub-project of the El Paso Urban Coalition.

This seminar was held at Riverside Jr. High School in the Thomas Manor and Cedar Grove sub-divisions in the eastern section of the city. These areas had been having some inter conflicts and there was a need for all around communication. This seminar was designed and directed mainly at the youth of these areas with the hope of generating some positive communication between the two areas and the police.

Topics discussed at the seminar were:

1. Police-Community friction,
2. Inter-community friction,
3. Lack of adequate organized and supervised recreational activities,
4. Unemployment and economic development,
5. The courts and what do you know about them,
6. Drug abuse,
7. The facilities in the community,
8. The schools, education and dropouts.

At the end of the day, the various groups made evaluations of what had been discussed. There was some very positive output as a result of this seminar and plans for three more are scheduled in 1973, in areas where the need arises.

There were fifteen officers from the patrol bureau assigned to this seminar and 150 citizens. It was beneficial to all attending in bringing to the forefront many of the problems misunderstandings, and conflicts that exist in the community.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

In an effort to bring about total involvement within the police department on the Police-Community Relations, The Community Relations Bureau held two in-service training sessions for 1972. There were approximately thirty officers assigned to each session and were conducted by qualified consultants who were hired to come to El Paso and instruct on Police-Community Relations.

These training sessions were very successful in bringing about an awareness of how community relations applied by officers in the field can make the job of the policeman easier and bring about more support from the citizens to the total law enforcement effort.

There are several in-service schools scheduled for 1973 and on a continuing basis for the future.

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The Burglary Bureau of our department has set up some crime prevention programs. Operation Identification is one of the programs and thus far, 5,000 citizens have taken advantage of marking their items.

There are engravers in all fire stations and the Police Community Service Centers and are loaned to individuals, free or charge, to mark their property with their Texas Driver's License number and fill out an index card that is on file at police headquarters. The police department is concerned about the burglary and theft problem, as are our citizens. Marking personal items makes for easier identification and location of owner. This program will prove successful as more citizens become involved in marking their property.

FILM LIBRARY

The Community Relations Bureau is responsible in maintaining a small film library. These films are utilized by officers and citizens alike. They may be checked out when needed and are available. The films consist of anywhere from police community relations to traffic safety. They have been utilized by officers in giving lectures and citizens may check them out to show to group meetings.

1. Dialogue	3
2. Gluc Sniffing	1
3. Tours	82
4. Narcotics	42
5. Burglaries	6
6. Police Department Function	1
7. Handling of Juveniles	1
8. Safety	21
9. Bus Display	1
10. Public Contact	1
11. Vehicle Display	8
12. Law Enforcement	47
13. Community Relations	10
14. Drug Abuse	1
15. Home Safety	1
16. Patrol Boys - Safety	1
17. Juvenile Delinquency	2
18. Holiday Safety	9
19. Bicycle Safety	20
20. Filming.....	1
21. Panel group discussion	1
22. Office Security	1
23. Funeral	1
24. Neighborhood meeting.....	1
25. Auto Theft	1
26. School Pedestrians Safety	1
27. Motorcycle Safety.....	3
28.	

28. Thefts.....	1
29. Qualifications for becoming policeman	1
30. Abandoned vehicles	1
31. Beware of Strangers	2
32. Youth Protection Seminar	1
33. Security	1
34. Halloween Safety	1
35. Rape Laws	1
36. Holiday Crisis	1
37. Bomb Reporting	1
38. Auto mechanics safety	1
39. PR releases to journal	1
40. Motor Vehicle Laws	1
41. Career in Police Work	1
42. Mexican-American Background	1
43. Hitch-hiking	1
44. Shooting Exhibition	1
45. Inner thoughts of Chicanos	1
46. Rap-Sessions	6
47. Recognition Award	1
48. Organizational Structure	2
49. Fraudulent Checks	3
50. Judge, Oratorical Contest	1
51. Use of Spray Paint	1
52. Forgeries	1
TOTAL _____	
311	

Out of 320 programs schedule nine were cancelled.

Total number of programs scheduled out of Community Relations Office ,,,311
 Total number of persons contacted through these programs 17,381
 Total number of hours spent preparing and presenting the programs ... 378

YOUTH PATROL RIDERS

1972

JANUARY	41
FEBRUARY	29
MARCH	32
APRIL	31
MAY	33
JUNE	23
JULY	3
AUGUST	12
SEPTEMBER	22
OCTOBER	33
NOVEMBER	13
DECEMBER	55

TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH RIDERS 327

Community Relations Section also scheduled 8 adult riders for the year. This section also handles the Youth Advisory Court Youths who are sentenced to ride in the Traffic Cars as a punishment for their traffic violations.

Number of youths handled for this program during 197212

STOREFRONT # 1 ACTIVITIES

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF FOLLOW-UPS</u>
January	64	35
February	50	50
March	50	10
April	37	18
May	20	10
June	19	9
July	12	4
August	9	5
September	4	1
October	40	20
November	45	18
December	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>
TOTAL FOR 1972	368	192

Officers assigned to Storefront # 1 attended a total of 27 meetings during 1972, with the following organizations: Union de Inquilinos, Project Machos, MAYA, Mexican-American Club (Bowie High School), Professional Skills, Neighborhood Improvement Associations, Project Bravo, Heavy Sessions Car Club, and Housing Authority (Kathy White Apartments).

STOREFRONT # 1 PHONE CALLS AND VISITORS

<u>Month</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Calls</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Calls</u>
January	603	142	July	559	342
February	519	385	August	512	302
March	362	347	September	433	315
April	382	284	October	625	316
May	356	261	November	609	322
June	<u>448</u>	<u>308</u>	December	<u>554</u>	<u>278</u>

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS 5,962

TOTAL NUMBER OF PHONE CALLS 3,603

STOREFRONT # 2 ACTIVITIES

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF FOLLOW-UPS</u>
February	47	19
March	52	20
April	57	28
May	19	8
June	25	8
July	17	8
August	29	17
September	16	6
October	32	11
November	18	5
December	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
TOTALS FOR 1972	322	139

Officers assigned to Storefront # 2 attended a total of 30 meetings during 1972, with the following organizations: Cub Scouts, Chicamos Unidos, Tigua N. I. A., Ysleta, N. I. A., Project Bravo, Socorro N. I. A., Cedar Grove N. I. A. and Presa N. I. A.

Officers also held a total of 19 Rap Sessions At Bel-Air, Eastwood and Ysleta High Schools, and a total of 677 Students attended these sessions.

STOREFRONT # 2 PHONE CALLS AND VISITORS

<u>Month</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Calls</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Calls</u>
			July	820	235
February	316	142	August	673	203
March	345	211	September	605	222
April	534	215	October	473	268
May	894	276	November	421	196
June	<u>506</u>	<u>243</u>	December	<u>457</u>	<u>261</u>

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS 6,044

TOTAL NUMBER OF PHONE CALLS 2,472

END