



CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



Stratified Policing Operations and Responsibilities

Eff. Date: 11/06/2025

Purpose

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to define and illustrate the implementation of Stratified Policing, a method to address crime and disorder problems identified as immediate, short-term, and long-term patterns so they are addressed quickly and effectively by all personnel. Additionally, Stratified Policing provides a framework that clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities for all personnel in crime prevention and problem-oriented policing. Stratified Policing uses crime analysis, problem solving (see the Evidence-Based Problem-Oriented Policing SOP), evidenced-based police practices, and a structure for organization-wide accountability.

Glossary

Immediate Problems: Isolated incidents that occur and are resolved within minutes, hours, or in some cases, days. Immediate activity is broken down into two distinct categories:

Incidents: Individual events to which a police officer typically responds to or discovers on patrol. Calls for service are generated by the community and the officer and are the initial indication of a potential problem. They include crime, disorder, or service related tasks such as: disturbances, robberies in progress, traffic accidents, subject stops, and traffic citations.

Significant incidents: Individual events that are deemed more serious, thus requiring additional investigation and/or a more extensive and immediate response. They occur within minutes and hours, but might take days, weeks, or possibly months, to resolve. Significant incidents will depend on the nature of the crime.

Short-Term Problems: Incidents that occur over several days or weeks and typically require short-term (not immediate) responses. They are broken down into two distinct categories:

Repeat incidents: Two or more incidents that occurred at the same place within a 28-day period. These are non-criminal disorder activity (e.g., disturbances, barking dogs, juveniles, or traffic crashes) or interpersonal disputes and crimes between individuals who know one another (e.g., bar fights, domestic violence, drug offenses, and neighbor disputes).

Crime Patterns: A crime pattern is a group of two or more crimes that share at least one commonality such as the behavior of the offenders or victims; characteristics of the offender(s)' victims or targets; the type of property taken; or locations of occurrence. Criminal activity is typically of limited duration, and the set of related crimes is treated as one unit of analysis and is addressed through focused police efforts and tactics. There are different types of crime pattern types:

Series: A group of similar crimes committed by the same individual or a group of individuals acting in concert. Series can also be crimes that occur within a short time frame with limited suspect information, but where it appears to be committed by the same person.

Micro-Time Hot Spot: A group of similar crimes committed by one or more individuals at locations within close proximity to one another.

Other Crime Pattern Types: These are less common than series and micro-time hot spots, but should still be identified. These are crime patterns in which the suspect is not known or involve different suspects. They could be crimes committed at one specific address or type of place, or crimes in which a unique type of property is targeted. They could also be crimes involving victims who share similar physical characteristics and/or engage in similar behavior.

Long Term Priority Areas: Those areas can exist over several months, or years and stem from opportunities created by everyday behavior and environment. Problems can consist of common disorder activity as well as serious criminal activity.

Priority Individuals: An individual who is suspected of recently committing a focal crime.

Priority Address(es): Addresses or places at which there is a concentration of crime or problematic activity.

Short-term Pattern: Small areas with a disproportionate amount of crime or disorder activity that is related (also called hot spots).

Procedure

The Stratified Policing Model distinguishes among different types of problems for which crime reduction strategies are implemented. By separating and distinguishing the types of problems, different personnel carry out the different analyses, responses, and accountability mechanisms within MPD which “stratifies” the workload, and responsibility for problem solving and crime reduction. Every MPD employee has a role in crime reduction.

Agency Priorities:

The Chief sets crime reduction goals on an annual basis after reviewing crime trends and statistics. These goals become the priority of the agency for the year.

Crime Analysis:

Crime and data analysis is generated on several levels:

- The Criminal Intelligence Section (CIS) works closely with analysts providing intelligence related to problems. Analysts will lead, present and participate in weekly and monthly accountability meetings.
- City-wide trends and patterns are identified across one or more years. This provides the information needed for the Chief to set goals and for the department to generate regular reports.
- Analysis is conducted on short-term problems and long-term priority areas.

Accountability Meetings:

Accountability meetings are held to brief the agency on problems and status of response(s), and to identify what resources are needed. These meetings identify the needed tools, training, time and resources to develop a successful response plan. Types of meetings and responsibility include:

Staff Briefings: Facilitate action-oriented accountability for strategies implemented for immediate and short-term problems. The purpose of these meetings is to develop, monitor and assess strategies to address significant incidents, repeat incidents and patterns.

- The Officer in Charge (OIC) will present new or existing incidents and patterns, updates, or closures.
- Crime pattern bulletins will be posted and shared by CIS for agency access.
- District Commanders and Supervisors assigned a problem will:

- Communicate with participating staff
- Discuss assigned problems
- Set, restate, or update the response plan, roles and activities.
- Obtain feedback and ideas from assigned officers to help with a daily assessment of the response plan.

Weekly District or Section Meetings: Weekly meetings that are held at the district or section level and facilitate action-oriented accountability within and/or among sections (e.g., patrol, investigations, crime analysts, etc.). Officers and staff meet to develop, coordinate and assess strategies implemented for short-term problems

Assistant Chief Meetings: Weekly meetings are led by the Operations and Investigative Services Assistant Chiefs. They are action-oriented and include the Captains in Patrol, Investigative Services, and Community Outreach Section. Discussion and collaboration occurs with the response to significant incidents, short-term patterns, priority areas, priority address, and priority individuals.

- Crime Analysts, CIS, and invited personnel will attend.
- Outside stakeholders may be invited for transparency or partnership-based responses.

Chief's Monthly Meetings: These occur on a monthly basis and facilitate evaluation-oriented accountability across the entire agency. These meetings are used to assess the effectiveness of short-term crime reduction strategies, emerging priority areas, and the progress of current long-term crime reduction strategies.

- Chief will evaluate the crime reduction efforts of the entire command staff.
- Assistant Chiefs, Captains, and invited personnel will attend.
- Discussion will cover the period from meeting to meeting, not necessarily calendar month.
- Minutes should be taken.
- Crime Analysts:
 - Attend and present a set criteria of analytic products to assist in evaluating organizational crime reduction as well as emerging crime issues.
 - Produce a 12-month crime trend comparison presentation based on the most significant city-wide identified crime issues. The presentation will compare the current and previous year's crime data. The command staff will review overall crime trends and changes.
 - Produce a six-month crime trend comparison for each police district based on the most significant identified crime issues. This should compare the current and previous year's crime data. The command staff will review overall crime trends and changes.
 - Produce a six-month crime pattern comparison for each police district based on identified crime pattern bulletins. The command staff will evaluate the identified patterns to evaluate crime reduction efforts and to identify any emerging long-term problems within each district.
- Investigative Services Captain:
 - Attend and present on significant incidents under their purview.
 - Action items may be assigned and followed up prior to the next monthly meeting.
 - Cases may be presented until resolved (may be discussed for several meetings).
 - As needed, CIS, Gang and Neighborhood Crime Abatement Team (GNCAT), and Task Force actions are to be included. Presentation will include information about nature of and responses employed to address gangs, narcotics activity, and significant security issues as they relate patterns and problems.

- District Captains:
 - Will attend and present significant incidents under their purview, and both short term and long term problems occurring in their respective districts.
 - Pattern Bulletin presentations include the following, as appropriate:
 - District Captains will present on crime patterns occurring in their respective districts.
 - Crime patterns that were updated and unresolved at weekly district or section meetings will be assigned to the Chief's monthly meeting agenda.
 - Presentation will focus on evidence based policing strategies and their results to include directed patrol hours, case reports, traffic stops, investigative follow-up, and crime prevention efforts.
 - Repeat Incident/Priority Addresses
 - District Captains present on identified repeat incident locations as well as long-term crime and disorder problems
 - Depending on the stage in the problem-solving process, the presentation will focus either on the problem analysis, response, or evaluation of the problem location.

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