

Creating Your Niche in Crime Prevention

Submitted by ISCPP Member Matt Barnes, ICPS, Thornton, Colorado, USA

Diversify! When I was assigned to the Community Relations position in 1988, my job was heavily focused on Crime Prevention.

As time passed I began to see fellow crime prevention practitioners being reassigned, units being disbanded, resources being diverted back to street operations, and that's when I knew it was time to create my niche and "diversify".

Every employer is looking for employees who believe in themselves and the mission of the organization, embody excellence and integrity, can communicate clearly and effectively with others, and can solve problems and deliver results. As a result, I believe that it is up to you as the crime prevention practitioner to create the job you want, to identify what the department is missing and what the department needs and be just that.

That was my vision. That's the position I was gunning for – not my boss' job or my boss' boss' job. It's something different entirely, something that suited my interests, my passions and my talents uniquely. Something that hadn't even been created yet. Which leads me to the point of this article and my advice for you and other crime prevention professionals: always look for the cracks in your department's infrastructure. Always be thinking about what your department is doing now that

could be done better – and, especially, how you can be that person to fix it. It's there, if you just look hard enough.

Do not make excuses; you are fully responsible for doing what you can do to make your crime prevention position a long term reality. You must see yourself as a product and you are marketing and selling that product to your boss, co-workers, and the community on a daily basis.

My position evolved over time because I seized every opportunity for professional training, certifications, and designations. I joined community boards: Head Start, Seniors Organizations, Chamber of Commerce, etc., and became known as the police/community liaison. I became our Departments Public Information Officer (PIO) and started or participated in numerous community based initiatives helping those less fortunate in our community.

I took every opportunity to market myself, provide a service, build relationships, and develop networks within the community, which, is why I am still pursuing my passion as a crime prevention officer 25 years later! Diversify and survive! ■



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CLOUD Officers on the Horizon in Glendale, CO

Submitted by ISCPP Member Justin Baumgartner, Glendale, Colorado, USA

The Glendale Police Department has created a new division of the Community Liaison Officer of Urban Development (CLOUD). These positions have been established to proactively reduce and deter criminal activity, and to create active partnerships through collaboration, cooperation and coordination with the diverse businesses and community members that are the foundation of the City of Glendale.

The CLOUD officer's flexibility and imagination allows the influence of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

(CPTED) practices within architectural surveys of new developments and businesses, along with current facilities throughout the city in cooperation with the Glendale Planning Commission.

Glendale maintains their motivation to the CPTED concept by training and certifying partnering departments, such as public works. Looking towards the future, CPTED principles will be incorporated in the liquor license renewal processes throughout the city. ■



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