Policing the Community
one by one

Engaging with the public one by one is a concept developed by the Castle Rock Police Department, and it speaks to the nationwide effort to provide better police officers.

Sometimes, protecting a community starts one person at a time. That's certainly the case for the Castle Rock Police Department as it works to keep the community among the safest in Colorado. One-by-one policing is not just a motto for the town's police officers, it's a complete lifestyle. Castle Rock officers believe focusing on a more compassionate approach helps them better connect with the community.

Engaging with the public one by one is a concept developed by the Castle Rock Police Department, and it speaks to the nationwide effort to provide better police officers. As more and more law enforcement organizations focus on community policing, officers are rethinking how they interact with the public and each other.

CRPD officers know that focusing on one person at a time is an important mechanism when building trust within the community. That unique approach is translated both externally and within the police force. While building that trusting relationship is a top priority, it isn't always easy.

"We believe that our officers need to feel like they are in a safe environment in order to effectively perform their job," said Castle Rock Police Chief Jack Casey. "I want our officers to feel like they are valued and heard. No idea is a bad idea. And, fostering that environment of trust will help our officers build a trusting relationship with the members of our community."

"Looking for ways to more personally interact with our residents fosters an environment where our entire community can thrive," Casey said.

"We believe that our officers need to feel like they are in a safe environment in order to effectively perform their job," said Castle Rock Police Chief Jack Casey. "I want our officers to feel like they are valued and heard. No idea is a bad idea. And, fostering that environment of trust will help our officers build a trusting relationship with the members of our community."

The community concept is something the department has been working on for some time. The idea is for officers to address their interactions with the public individually. The benefit of this individual policing approach is that the officer is able to truly evaluate how best he or she can serve each person. Sometimes, that service is based on a criminal event, but other times it's based on a quality-of-life issue.

"Whether it's helping shovel a sidewalk during a call, or creating new programs to engage the public, one-by-one policing helps the entire department take a more compassionate approach to policing," Casey said.

For many CRPD officers, interacting with the public is the best part of the job. That's why the officers are always looking for ways to get out in the community. In the Bike Unit, that means teaching special needs residents how to ride a two-wheel bike, or jumping hills with kids at Rhyolite Bike Park for Dirt Jumps and Donuts. For the public information team, that means setting up a conversation over a cup of Joe at Coffee With a Cop, or battling neighborhood kids in a water cannon fight at Splash Mobs at Philip B. Miller Park.

Maintaining a relationship with the community is a two-way street. Officers are always looking for new ideas on ways they can meet the needs of the community. Share your thoughts, or join the conversation, by following the department @CRPDpolicedep on social media - Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor. Or, check out the CRPD webpage at Cityofcr.com/police.

"Instead of concentrating only on metrics such as ticket counts and number of arrests, our department is dedicated to focusing on how we are impacting people's lives," Casey said.

For a community that prides itself on small-town charm, it doesn't get much better than knowing we have a Police Department that is not only looking out for the safety of the Town, but for the quality of the community as well.