

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 Cauley. "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."

This 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 police 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.

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

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"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."

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 striking 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 S. 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 @CRpoliceCO on social media – Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor. Or, check out the CRPD webpage at CRgov.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," Cauley 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.

Help keep watch with CRPD

They say moms have eyes in the back of their heads, and Castle Rock Police is trying to take that saying to heart by asking for the public's help in keeping watch over the community. Do you have a video camera set up outside your home? Register to help Castle Rock Police keep an eye on your neighborhood.

Rock Watch is a program where residents can register their security cameras. The department is working to create a secure, private map of locations with possible video footage. That way, if there is ever a crime in your neighborhood, police know where they may have access to more information.

Keep in mind, signing up for the program does not give police a live feed to your camera. It simply tells police you have a camera outside your home.

If you are contacted for video footage, it's still your decision whether to share the files.

As the Police Department works to patrol our entire community, engaging the public for its help is one more tool to make sure Castle Rock stays safe.

Learn more, or register for the program, at CRgov.com/RockWatch.

