

# **Community Oriented Policing: Impact on Low Income or Project Housing Residents**

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This research was conducted to determine the measurable impact of Community Oriented Policing on residents of housing projects or in low income neighborhoods. A local project housing development, Flagler Village, located in St Augustine, Florida, and a two block area surrounding the project was the target of this study. The study shows the effect of community oriented policing on crimes in those areas and on the number of calls for service and in the reduction of crimes in those areas. Currently, many agencies in Florida are embracing the community oriented policing concept and are implementing programs with varying degrees of commitment of personnel and equipment. However, some of these personnel and some community members are questioning whether the concept is working adequately to justify further expenditure of public and private funds. "A shift to Community Policing implies dramatic changes in the "winners" and "losers". The law-abiding people living in decaying, high-crime neighborhoods plagued by open drug dealing who received the full time service of a new Community Officer are the obvious new "winners," and they often become the most vocal supporters of the new approach. However, their visibility can inspire a backlash from middle and upper-class residents who resent what they perceive as more of their tax dollars flowing to neighborhoods that already consume a disproportionate share of the police departments time." (Trojanowicz,1996). Surveys were mailed to all 67 Sheriff's Offices in Florida. Additionally, 50 surveys were completed by residents of Flagler Village housing project and in a two-block area surrounding the project.