

Citizens on Patrol: The Eyes and Ears for Law Enforcement in Hillsborough County

Al Greco

This paper will describe a program that many agencies are starting to look to for additional help in patrolling neighborhoods. The program is called "Citizens on Patrol" (COP). When law enforcement agencies are told to cut back on their budgets, agencies have to come up with ways to patrol and answer calls for service. Citizens on Patrol are the eyes and ears for Law Enforcement. Agencies supply the cars, uniforms, radios and training. All the citizens have to do is supply the time. Many agencies are using these citizens in different ways. Some use them to patrol neighborhoods only, while others use them for directing traffic at minor accident scenes.