

The Next Evolutionary Level of Community Policing

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For the past several years, progressive law enforcement managers have been involved in what was described by Kelling (1988) as a "quiet revolution" that continues to reshape policing in the United States and the free world. Under a variety of names (problem oriented policing, neighborhood oriented policing, community policing) law enforcement agencies have developed new strategies and techniques to better serve their communities.

This research examines the next evolutionary plateau of the process. The institutional change will encompass public and private service agencies as well as the police. The success of citizens and community policing officers working in concert with various governmental agencies to improve community conditions will encourage continued and increasingly cooperative efforts. A holistic approach addresses criminal justice, socioeconomic, and environmental factors that adversely affect a community. It is this optimum policing strategy that will result in a lasting and positive impact that truly improves the quality of life of the community being served.