

The Impact of Private Gated Communities on Police Service Delivery

Daniel C. Alexander

The number of private gated communities has increased significantly over the past two decades. Residents are choosing this alternative in order to obtain greater property values, a higher standard of living, and better security. These communities pose special challenges to law enforcement agencies. Police administrators must devise a service delivery strategy for gated communities if they intend to foster support and deal effectively with crime problems in this unique environment. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has developed an approach to serving four of their private gated communities. This paper reviews their efforts and offers some suggestions about policing gated communities.