
	MESQUITE POLICE DEPARTMENT
	232.00 PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING (P.O.P.) PROGRAM
	Effective Date: August, 2011
	Approved: _____ <div style="text-align: center;">  Chief of Police </div>

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Problem Oriented Policing Program (P.O.P.) is to ensure that police resources are directed towards areas where they will be most effective and to ensure that areas where on-going criminal activity has been identified are properly addressed by the police department.

II. Policy

The Mesquite Police Department strives to maintain a proactive policing approach and will attempt to immediately intervene in problem areas before more serious crimes occur. The P.O.P. program is part of this effort to proactively deal with crime.

A. Use of P.O.P. – There are numerous ways in which the P.O.P. program may be used to benefit the citizens of Mesquite. Examples of how P.O.P. may be used include, but are not limited to:

1. Watching specific locations where there is reason to suspect that criminal activity is taking place (such as "drug" or "gang" houses).
2. Saturating an area with police presence to deter criminal activity in situations where crime is likely (such as rumored fights at schools or sporting events).
3. Providing increased patrol in areas that have had an unusually high incidence of crimes (such as numerous robberies or burglaries in an area) and/or valid citizen complaint.
4. Providing increased police presence around sensitive locations during times of heightened alert (such as critical facilities that may be targeted for attack).

B. Activation of a P.O.P. Operation– The Mesquite Police Department is committed to treating all people in a fair and equitable manner. The P.O.P. program will target criminal activity and will focus on the cessation of criminal activity through either voluntary compliance or arrest. P.O.P. activity will only be conducted to deter or detect criminal violations. The P.O.P. program will never be activated for a personal vendetta or because of someone's views or opinions.

1. Any officer who believes that P.O.P. should be activated for a particular purpose should contact the Intelligence Section, P.O.P. Lieutenant or their immediate supervisor with proper justification. The Intelligence Section or P.O.P. Lieutenant will determine the validity of the complaint and if it is determined that sufficient cause exist then P.O.P. will be activated.
2. All recommendations to activate P.O.P will be supported by the facts that led to that recommendation. Some facts that could be considered include, but are not limited to:
 - a) The information that suggests criminal activity is ongoing at the location. (Sources of information, etc.)
 - b) The number of times the police department has responded to the location for complaints within the recent past.
 - c) The impact the behavior is having on the community.
 - d) The potential consequences of the activity.
 - e) The likelihood that we can successfully address the problem with P.O.P.
3. The decision to activate P.O.P. will be based on the totality of the circumstances presented.

C. Implementation of P.O.P. – Once a P.O.P. location has been identified, the P.O.P.

Lieutenant will ensure that personnel are assigned the P.O.P operation and that they are completing all associated documentation and intranet entries.

If a residence is selected for P.O.P. enforcement, and if circumstances permit, the resident may be contacted and given the opportunity to correct their behavior prior to the implementation of P.O.P.

- D. Termination of P.O.P operation. – A P.O.P. operation will be terminated when the issues that led to the P.O.P have been resolved. The P.O.P Lieutenant or Intelligence Section will make the final determination as to whether or not a P.O.P. operation should be terminated.

EFFECTIVE: March, 2004; FORMERLY: 232.00; REVISED: August, 2011