



Community Vitality Officer Program Community Policing Initiative

Program Overview

The Community Vitality Officer (CVO) program was developed as part of a US Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant awarded to the Manassas City Police Department in October 2020.

The department's Community Vitality Officer (CVO) program aims to enhance community relationships, reduce juvenile-involved violent incidents, and build trust through engagement, education, and empowerment. By integrating principles of 21st-century policing, the program aims to address public safety proactively while strengthening community trust and building partnerships.

COMMUNITY POLICING

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Community Vitality Officer Program Targeted Strategy

Core Elements for the Community Vitality Officer (CVO) Program

- Community: Strengthening ties with residents to foster mutual trust and cooperation.
- Parent: Equipping parents with tools and resources to support positive youth development.
- **Youth:** Engaging youth through targeted programs to guide them toward constructive life choices.
- Partnerships: Collaborating with community organizations, schools, and other agencies.

Community Vitality Officer Program Program Goal

To achieve this objective, the Community Vitality Officer (CVO) program focuses on establishing and exhibit positive and a "Guardian" mindset relationships within the community by three primary objectives:

- *Engage*: Proactively connect and create meaningful relationship with community members to build trust and open lines of communication.
- Educate: Provide training, workshops, and resources to enhance community awareness and skills.
- Empower: Foster resilience and self-sufficiency within the community through mentorship and support.

GUARDIAN MINDSET

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Community Vitality Officer Program Implementation Framework

Community Vitality Officer (CVO) Program Pillars

- 1. Youth Outreach Programs
- 2. Parental Education Outreach Programs
- 3. Community Engagement & Enrichment Outreach Programs
- 4. Education & Career Fulfillment Outreach Programs
- 5. Multi-disciplinary & Interagency Partnerships
- 6. Data Collection & Reporting



Parent E3 Series: Engage. Educate. Empower

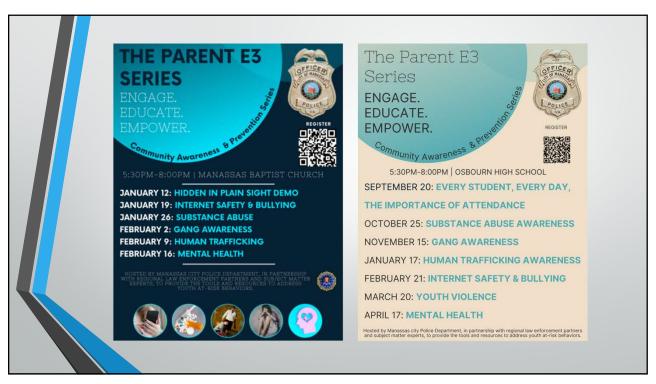
Parental Education Outreach Pillar:

• **Parent E3 Series:** Workshops designed to Engage, Educate, and Empower parents to support youth effectively.

The Parent E3 Series aims to *Engage*, *Educate*, and *Empower* parents and caregivers in addressing at-risk behaviors among Manassas City youth. Created by the Manassas City Police Department in principal partnership with Manassas City Public Schools, the program fosters informed and engaged families to strengthen relationships and enhance community safety.

Through expert-led discussions, resource connections, and interactive sessions, the series covers critical topics such as *Substance Abuse, Internet Safety, Cyberbullying, Truancy*, and *Mental Health*. Rooted in 21st Century Policing principles, the initiative reinforces community collaboration as a key crime prevention and youth intervention strategy.

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Parent E3 Series: Engage. Educate. Empower Impact and Outcomes

- Partnered with local school division doubled attendance
- Provided simultaneous headset interpretation in Spanish
- Expanded topics that include:
 - School Chronic Absenteeism
 - Understanding Teen Dating & Healthy Relationships
 - Youth Violence and Mitigation Strategies
- Program delivery to Community/Neighborhood level
- State and National Award Recognition:
 - 2023 Virginia Municipal League (VML) Public Safety Innovation Award
 - 2024 U.S. Department of Justice Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing

Juvenile Arrest Impact & Outcomes

- 2021: Juvenile -12% decrease
- 2022: Juvenile -17% increase
- 2023: Juvenile -33% increase
- 2024 : Juvenile Arrest 16% decrease





Team Quest – Greater Manassas Youth Project: "Learning through Experiences"

Youth Outreach Program Pillar:

• Team Quest - Greater Manassas Youth Project: "Learning through Experiences."

This program is a collaborative multi-disciplinary strategy comprised of community stake partners within the Greater Manassas area. As an early intervention strategy, the program aims to enrich the lives of vulnerable, at-risk youth, both low-level court-involved and non-court-involved, with positive adult community mentors to provide engaging and interactive opportunities to develop youth to grow, mature, and prepare them to become responsible and caring young adults in their community. The program targets youth from the community between the ages of 13 and 17.

Collaborative Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Members Included:

Local Police Department
 Local School Divisions
 Juvenile Court Service Unit
 Department of Social Services

Parks and Recreation
 Non-Profits
 Community Services Board – HIDTA Prevention
 Other identified Community Partners & Stakeholders

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Team Quest – Greater Manassas Youth Project: "Learning through Experiences"

Funding Support: Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)

The Team Quest program is funded through the Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) and its local plan through the Prince William County Juvenile Court Service Unit and the City of Manassas Department of Social Services.

What is the Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)?

In 1995, the Virginia General Assembly enacted the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) to establish a community-based system of progressive intensive sanctions and services that correspond to the severity of offense and treatment needs. The purpose is to deter crime, with community and evidence-based based solutions that reduces recidivism and promotes accountability, and improve juvenile outcomes while balancing community safety.

Key Components

Community Driven Community-Based Services and Programs Community Partners











