

Peacekeeping & Order Maintenance

CHAPTER 8
INTRO TO POLICING

The Police Role

- ▶ Crime Fighting vs. Order Maintenance
 - Order Maintenance
 - Police intervention in incidents not involving actual criminal activity
 - Often entail “interpersonal conflict” or “public nuisance”
 - Some people consider these calls unimportant

The Police Role (cont.)

- ▶ Stephen Mastrofski's Models
 - Ways that non-crime calls for service can help improve police effectiveness in dealing with crime
 - 1) Criminal Prophylactic Model
 - Defuse potentially violent situations; prevent escalation
 - 2) Police Knowledge Model
 - Broader knowledge of community; helps solve crimes
 - 3) Social Work Model
 - Steer potential lawbreakers into law-abiding behavior
 - 4) Community-Cooperation Model
 - Can help police establish greater credibility with the public

The Police Role (cont.)

- ▶ Issue with Stephen Mastrofski's Models
 - Assume that crime fighting is the central police role
 - Some argue that order maintenance is at least as important
 - Some say more
- ▶ If the police did not respond to these problems, who would?

Calling the Police

- ▶ Public Expectations:
 - Maintain a social boundary
 - Remove someone who doesn't belong
 - Relieve unpleasant situations
 - Restore order & keep the peace
 - Counterpunching
 - Divert attention from their own behavior
 - Obtain an emergency service
 - Missing child; medical crisis, suicide attempt; car lockout

Calling the Police (cont.)

- ▶ Police response:
 - Officers exercise great discretion
 - Informal handling with no official action very common
 - Mastrofski, Snipes, & Supina found that:
 - Citizens comply with police requests 80% of the time
 - Compliance varied with:
 - Nature of situation (the more serious, the less likely there was compliance)
 - Behavior of officer
 - Condition of citizen
 - Private vs. public places (less likely to comply in public)

Traffic Enforcement

- ▶ Most common type of order maintenance
- ▶ Police departments & citizens influence traffic enforcement policy
- ▶ Source of friction between Police & Citizens
- ▶ Traffic enforcement crackdowns
 - Drunk driving
 - Question over whether crackdowns reduce drunk driving
 - Risk of arrest for drunk driving is low
 - Arrest is very time consuming

Policing Domestic Disputes

- ▶ Defining Terms:
 - Domestic Disturbance: A dispute requiring police response that involves two or more people engaged in an intimate relationship
 - Married or divorced couples
 - Live-in lovers
 - People on a first date*
 - Adults & adult children
 - Adults & elderly parents

The Prevalence of Domestic Violence (DV)

- ▶ Domestic Violence: A disturbance between two or more people engaged in an intimate relationship that has escalated to a degree involving actual or threatened violence
- ▶ Intimate partner violence decreased substantially from 1993 to 2010
- ▶ Calling the Police
 - Many domestic violence victims do NOT call the police
 - Non-white, low-income people call more frequently
 - Middle-class women turn toward private sectors for help

Police Response to DV

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Police response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrest ▪ Mediation ▪ Separating the parties ▪ Referral to social service agencies ▪ No action at all | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Factors influencing arrest decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mandatory arrest policies ▪ Preference of victim for arrest ▪ Relationship between victim and suspect ▪ Disrespect to police |
|--|---|

DV (cont.)

- ▶ Factors Influencing Arrest Decision:
 - Private, family matter to be dealt with
 - Many DV arrests are dismissed
 - Victims do not pursue an arrest
 - Arrests require work
 - Low value placed on DV arrests
- ▶ Revolution in Policy: Mandatory Arrest
 - *Bruno v. Codd* (1978)
 - *Scott v. Hart* (1979)
 - These cases mandating arrest in cases of felonious assault

DV (cont.)

- Impact of Arrest on Domestic Violence
 - Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment (1981-1982)
 - Arrest produced lower rates of repeat violence
- Impact of Mandatory Arrest Laws and Policies
 - May discourage calls from people who only want immediate resolution
 - Both individuals in dispute may be arrested
- 1996 – Lautenberg Amendment
 - Prohibits anyone with a DV conviction from owning/possessing a firearm

Policing Vice

- ▶ “Victimless crimes” with no complaining party
- ▶ Police must investigate on their own
- ▶ Involves behavior that many regard as legitimate & private
- ▶ Conflicting public attitudes
- ▶ Enforcement is selective, arbitrary, & inconsistent

Prostitution

- ▶ Estimated 250,000 full time prostitutes in the nation
 - ▶ **Streetwalkers:** Represent the lower end of the social and economic scale of prostitution; solicits on the streets, thus is highly visible to police and the general public
 - ▶ **Bar Girls:** Prostitutes who work out of bars or other entertainment establishments
 - ▶ **Skeezers:** Women who trade sex for crack cocaine
 - ▶ **Brothel Prostitutes:** Work for legal brothels, illegal massage parlors and escort services
 - ▶ **Call Girls:** Represent the upper end of the economic scale of prostitution. They get their name because in most cases they receive telephone calls from clients and arrange to meet them at convenient locations

Prostitution (cont.)

- ▶ Crimes related to prostitution
 - ▶ Drug Use
 - ▶ Physical/sexual abuse from pimps
 - ▶ Robbery
- ▶ Enforcement issues
 - ▶ Temporary
 - ▶ Confining it to certain areas
 - ▶ Entrapment

Policing the Homeless

- Reactive police response addressing complainant concerns vice addressing homelessness itself
- Other dept.s transfer homeless people to shelters, treatment programs, & financial assistance services

Policing the Mentally Ill

- ▶ Estimated 7-10% of police contacts are with a mentally ill person
- ▶ Reasons for police contact:
 - ▶ Calls from family members (32%)
 - ▶ Calls from business owners
 - ▶ Calls from landlords
- ▶ Mentally ill much more likely to be crime victims
- ▶ Police usually called because of threatening behavior
 - ▶ Almost half involve a weapon
 - ▶ ~33% involve property damage
- ▶ Calls can be very time consuming

Policing the Mentally Ill (cont.)

- ▶ Police response to the mentally ill:
 - 1) Hospitalization
 - 2) Arrest
 - 3) Informal Disposition
 - “Psychiatric first aid” (IEH/IEA)
 - “Mercy booking”
- ▶ Old Problems/New Programs
 - Police-Based Specialized Response
 - Police-Based Specialized Mental Health Response
 - Mental-Health-Based Specialized Mental Health Response

Policing People with AIDS

- ▶ Police risk infection when dealing with AIDS patients
- ▶ Result is officers become reluctant to give medical assistance so departments take other measures:
 - Wearing latex gloves
 - Unofficially keep records of infected individuals
 - Provide HIV/AIDS-related education and training for officers

Policing Juveniles

- ▶ High level of contact with officers
- ▶ Young people express more negative attitudes toward police
- ▶ Represent significant aspect of crime problem in U.S.
 - Controversy over the police role
 - Specialized Juvenile Units
 - On-the-Street Encounters
 - Based on officer discretion
 - The Issue of Race Discrimination
 - More African American juveniles arrested than white
 - Crime Prevention Programs
 - D.A.R.E & G.R.E.A.T