

POLICE

Intent

The Police Plan is designed to promote Prince William County's public safety strategic goal to continue to be a safe community, reduce criminal activity, prevent personal injury and loss of life and property, and to ensure effective and timely responses throughout the County. In order to maintain low response times and minimize the amount of crime, this chapter encourages:

- Funding and locating future police facilities to maximize public accessibility and police visibility as well as to permit effective, timely response to citizen needs and concerns;
- Educational initiatives, such as Neighborhood and Business Watch, as well as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), which encourages new development to be designed in a way that enhances crime prevention; and
- Effective and reliable public safety communications linking emergency responders in the field with the Public Safety Communications Center and ultimately to the public.

Residents and businesses expect a high level of police service for their community. This service increases the sense of safety and protects community investments. The intent of the Police Plan is to establish level of service (LOS) standards for police facilities and prescribe strategies for achieving and maintaining that LOS through the development review process. The Police Department has a staffing plan that provides for recruitment, training, retention of an appropriate cadre of sworn officers, as well as appropriate civilian support personnel. LOS standards are identified in order to quantify present and future capital infrastructure needs generated by this workforce in order to maintain county services as its population and employment base grows. These LOS standards are defined as the construction of the appropriate number of police facilities (district stations, administrative support facilities, animal control bureau, training facilities, and satellite police locations).

The LOS standards for police facilities are contained within this Plan, in its policies and in Appendix A. The LOS standards are based on County and national standards and also reflect demand for such service, as reflected in citizen calls. These LOS standards ultimately quantify per capita monetary costs for providing countywide police service to new residential and non-residential development in the County. These LOS standards are used to help policy makers make decisions concerning the number, location, and timing of new facilities.

The LOS standards for police services address work load capacities and capital costs for police facilities. These standards incorporate facility and equipment costs generated by new development.

Crime Preventions through Environmental Design (CPTED) is based on the premise that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and the improvement of quality of life. See Appendix B for a summary of CPTED strategies. The latest complete version of "CPTED Strategies – A Guide to Safe

Environments in Prince William County, Virginia” is maintained on the Police Department web site.

There are other strategies in this chapter that are aimed at identifying and resolving crime issues and other community problems that impact the quality of community life. This is often called community policing. The major thrust of community policing is to mutually identify and resolve crime issues and other community problems that impact the quality of community life. This is done by forming partnerships between the police, the community, and other public and private service organizations. Strategies have been implemented to facilitate problem solving and partnerships with the community such as the establishment of the “Watch” programs and neighborhood satellite police field offices.

The components of the Police Plan are:

- Intent, Goal, Policies, and Action Strategies
- Level of Service Standards Police Work Load (Table 1)
- Projected Facility Needs by Existing and Projected Population (Table 2)
- Equipment Needs (Table 3)
- Site Location and Suitability Standards for Police Facilities (Table 4)
- Existing and Projected Police Facilities Map (Figure 1)
- Level of Service Standards for Police Facilities (Appendix A)
- CPTED Defined (Appendix B)

GOAL: To achieve and ensure an adequate and timely response to emergencies – in accordance with established level of service standards.

GOAL: Maintain and enhance the Police Department’s community policing initiatives in coordination with the public, in order to maintain an environment in which residents, employees, and visitors feel safe and secure.

PO-POLICY 1: Acquire and construct an appropriate number of police facilities (land, buildings, and capital equipment including facilities and equipment for reliable and state-of-the-art public safety communications) to meet the LOS standards as population grows.

ACTION STRATEGIES:

1. Identify additional facility sites and seek commitments for the construction of facilities and the provision of additional equipment from applicants for rezonings, special use permits, and public facility reviews in order to maintain current and future services as identified in Tables 1, 2, and 3.
2. Design and build police facilities to meet the location and suitability standards in Table 4.
3. Continue to locate field or satellite offices at geographically strategic locations in order to increase citizen access to police services.

4. Require applicants for new development proposals, including rezonings and special use permits, to coordinate with the Police Department to seek donations of land and/or facilities, including commitments for construction of “to suit” office space where needed, with special emphasis on “Town Center” developments or other high density residential or employment centers, to meet the satellite office standards in Table 2.
5. Require new development proposals, including rezonings, special use permits, and public facility reviews, to coordinate with the Police Department to evaluate the public safety radio system site and equipment needs as outlined in the Telecommunications Chapter and to mitigate impacts of new development on these types of facility needs.
6. If a new development application has the potential to negatively impact public safety communications capabilities, require applicants to mitigate the impact by providing communications infrastructure such as bi-directional amplifiers, building electrical infrastructure, and radio fixed-based sites and towers. Examples of projects that have the potential to negatively impact emergency communications capabilities include:
 - Large brick building(s) with few windows;
 - Large areas of dense construction that collectively reduce or hinder communication coverage;
 - High-rise buildings; and
 - Buildings with extensive use of steel or metal framing.

PO-POLICY 2: Encourage all new development to utilize the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) in the design of all buildings and sites, to increase user safety and be responsive to homeland security issues.

ACTION STRATEGIES:

1. Require, where applicable, applicants for Comprehensive Plan amendments, rezonings, special use permits, and public facility reviews to provide information regarding the use and implementation of CPTED. Encourage applicants to commit to building and site designs which meet the goals of both CPTED as well as the Community Design Chapter.
2. Require applicants for uses which have historically resulted in increased demand for police services or have raised public safety concerns and issues – such as live entertainment, dancing, stadiums or arenas, or any use that may potentially generate large amounts of pedestrian or vehicular traffic in a given area – to consult with the Police Department and agree to an individualized security and traffic plan as a condition of application approval.
3. Continue to provide information to the public about crime prevention through programs and activities such as the Citizen Police Academy and Crime Watch programs.
4. Continue to locate field or satellite offices at geographically dispersed locations throughout the county in order to increase citizen access to police services, increase

- police visibility in the community, and achieve the Police Department’s community policing initiatives.
5. In order to operate additional satellite police offices, seek donations of land and open space as well as commitments for construction of “build to suit” office space in geographically dispersed areas of the county, with special emphasis on new “Town Center” developments.
 6. Investigate environmental studies that correlate increased tree canopy with reduced crime.

TABLE 1
LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS
POLICE WORK LOAD

Police Work Load	2 Sworn Officers per 1,000 residents
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The number of sworn officers per 1,000 residents affects the ability of the Police Department to reach its goals. The number of sworn officers, together with the civilian support personnel, directly affects the need for police buildings, which is the second level of service standard.

The Board of County Supervisors has approved a multi-year staffing plan for the Prince William County Police Department in order to recruit, train, and retain an appropriate cadre of trained officers and appropriate civilian support personnel. In order to provide for systematic training, additional positions are authorized every year of the five year plan. The requirements of recruitment and training restrict the number of positions that may be added at any one time. Similar increases are forecast to occur in future years up to 2030.

Using these projections, it is anticipated that the Prince William County Police Department will have 1,110 sworn officers and 276 civilian full-time equivalent employees by 2030, totaling 1,386 employees. The officers per 1,000 residents ratio is expected to be 2.0 in 2030.

There is no single nationally recognized standard for appropriate police staffing. In metropolitan areas, police agencies average 2.6 sworn officers for each 1,000 in population.

Sources:

- Prince William County Police Department Staffing Plan
- Crime in the United States, 2005, U.S. Department of Justice

TABLE 2

**PROJECTED FACILITY NEEDS
BY EXISTING AND PROJECTED POPULATION**

Facility Type	Existing (2006) 378,455	Projected 2015 population 463,343	Projected 2030 population 555,012
District Police Stations	2	3 (1 more)	4 (1 more)
Satellite Field Offices	9	15 (6 more)	20 (5 more)
Administrative Support Facilities	61,143 sq. ft.	81,143 sq. ft. (20,000 sq. ft. more)	143,243 sq. ft.
Animal Control Bureau	1	2 (1 more)	2 (same as 2015)
Public Safety Training Center	56,000 sq. ft.	282,000 sq. ft. (226,000 sq. ft. more)	282,000 sq. ft. (same as 2015)
Public Safety Driver's Training Facility	1	3,500 sq. ft.	12,000 sq. ft.

The number of district police stations and administrative support facilities projected to be needed by the existing and projected population is based on the ratio of 250 square feet per sworn officer (see Table 4).

The number of administrative support facilities, which vary in size and often consist of leased space, may be reduced in the event that some leased space is consolidated into future district police stations or other County-owned administrative facilities. Even if consolidation occurs, the total square footage of these facilities will be projected to grow over time at the ratio of 258 square feet per 1,000 residents (see Table 4).

Satellite field offices are not designed to permanently house sworn or civilian employees and so are not calculated based on a ratio of square feet per sworn officer.

Table 2 does not include emergency communication upgrades anticipated through 2030 to serve Police, Fire and Rescue, and other public service needs.

Projections of need within the text of the Police Chapter are based upon the information contained in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Round 7.1 population and employment projections prepared by Prince William County and revised by COG. Additional facilities may be needed.

From the Piedmont to the Potomac

The Public Safety Training Center will be shared on an equal basis (50%/50%) with the Department of Fire and Rescue. Future expansion is forecast at the current site.

The Public Safety Driver’s Training Facility will be shared with the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy. Prince William County’s share is 30%. Future expansion is forecasted at the current site.

Some forensic services are provided by a state forensics laboratory and, therefore, are not included in the County’s facility needs.

The proposed facility locations shown on Figure 1 represent general areas for the facilities and not specific sites.

TABLE 3

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Equipment	Ratio to Police Officer
Vehicle	1 vehicle to 1.5 officers
Mobile Data Computer (MDC)	1 MDC to 1 officer
Portable Radio	1 radio to 1 officer

TABLE 4

SITE LOCATION AND SUITABILITY STANDARDS FOR POLICE FACILITIES

Site Selection Standards	District Police Stations	Satellite Field Offices	Administrative Support Facilities	Animal Control Bureau	Training Facilities	Source
Minimum Site Size	7 acres	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable	PWC Police
Minimum Building Size	50,000 sq. ft.	Variable	Variable	11,000 sq. ft.	Variable	PWC Police
Square Foot Needs Standards	250 sq. ft. per sworn officer	1,500 sq. ft.	258 sq. ft. per sworn officer	40 sq. ft. per 1,000 residents	254 sq. ft. per 1,000 residents	PWC Police

- Stations shall be strategically located to provide geographically dispersed service county-wide.
- Stations should be located near, but not at, intersections or arterial and/or collector highways.
- Building and site location should include target hardened areas for safe egress/ingress of the public, the police, and individuals in custody.
- Where possible, stations should not be located next to natural or man-made barriers, such as freeways, extreme topography, and railroad lines.
- Noise, light, and police activity impacts on neighboring uses should be considered and mitigated through site design.

APPENDIX A

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS FOR POLICE FACILITIES

Level of service (LOS) standards has been developed for police facilities. These standards are to be used to evaluate new proposals and to evaluate Police Department system capabilities. These are not considered actual requirements to be met by all proposals or by the County on all occasions. There are many factors, including type of incident that affects actual system performance. These standards represent the optimum level of service and should not be interpreted to be attainable in each and every case.

The following represent the LOS measurements for police services:

- Ratio of two sworn officers per 1,000 residents
- Ratio of one district police station per 250 sworn officers
- Ratio of one satellite field office per 27,751 residents
- Ratio of 40 square feet per 1,000 residents for animal control
- Ratio of 254 square feet per 1,000 residents for training facilities for the percentage of the facilities serving the Prince William County Police
- Ratio of 258 square feet per sworn officer for administrative support facilities

“**Sworn officers**” are defined as employees appointed to the Department as a full-time, regular, salaried police officers.

“**District police stations**” are defined as structures comprising major functional organization components of the Police Department including an Operations Division, a Criminal Investigations Division, and/or an Administrative Division. These provide office space for both sworn officers and civilian support personnel, and serve a defined geographic area of the county. Each facility should be designed to serve approximately 138,753 residents.

“**Satellite police stations**” are defined as a police location within a specific neighborhood/community where police officers have a place to work and have the ability to educate, interact, and engage the public on a variety of policing issues. Each facility should be designed to serve approximately 27,751 residents.

“**Administrative support facilities**” are defined as structures that house specialized functions, such as personnel, evidence storage, and crossing guards. They may house both sworn officers and civilian support personnel. These facilities may be of variable size but supplement the space needs of district police stations at a ratio of 250 square feet per sworn officer employed by the County.

“**Animal control bureau**” is defined as a police location that houses animals, provides administrative space for personnel, and provides places for citizen visits in order to evaluate animals for possible adoption. Each facility should be designed to be approximately 11,000 square feet.

“**Training facilities**” are defined as areas for classroom and field instruction for public safety agencies. It may include classrooms, administrative space, training simulators, burn buildings, firearm ranges, and driver-training facilities for public safety recruits and experienced staff. Each facility should be designed with approximately 254 square feet per 1,000 population.

Any application for a rezoning, special use permit, or public facility review shall contain the following information:

- Number of dwelling units proposed;
- Number of square feet of non-residential development proposed;
- Name(s) and location(s) of police district stations and field offices serving the project area; and
- Commitments from applicants to mitigate adverse impact on police emergency communications systems.

Rezoning or special use permit applications that are found by the Police Department to generate a shortfall between the new demand and existing, projected, and already funded police facilities without committing to mitigation measures that are acceptable to the Police Department shall be found to be inconsistent with the Police Plan.

The methodology for determining equitable monetary contributions for new development is outlined in the *Policy Guide for Monetary Contributions, Prince William County Planning Office*.

APPENDIX B

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED) DEFINED

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an effective approach to preventing crime. It is much more far reaching than dead-bolt locks on doors or windows, and has been successfully implemented in communities across the nation.

The following CPTED strategies, summarized from the National Crime Institute, offer guidelines that property owners, design professionals, developers, or remodelers may apply to reduce the fear and incidence of crime and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. The four strategies are:

Natural Surveillance – These are design elements that maximize the visibility of people, parking areas, and building entrances which may include unobstructed doors and windows, pedestrian friendly sidewalks and streets, front porches, and appropriate nighttime lighting.

Natural Access Control – This is a design concept directed primarily towards decreasing crime opportunity by denying access to crime targets and creating a perception of risk for offenders. Design concepts are developed through strategic design of streets, sidewalks, building entrances, landscaping, and neighborhood gateways.

Territorial Reinforcement – Physical design features can create a sense of territorial control, discouraging potential offenders. This concept includes defining property lines and distinguishing between private and public spaces using architectural features, landscaping, pavement designs, gateway treatments, appropriate signage, and “open” fences.

Maintenance – Proper maintenance prevents property deterioration and blight that tends to indicate a lesser concern and control by the intended users as well as promotes a greater tolerance of disorder. Proper maintenance prevents reduced visibility such as from plant overgrowth and obstructed or inoperative lighting.

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