

Program Narrative (attachment # 1)

The Leicester Police Department (LPD) remains committed to the fundamental concept that the police are the public and the public are the police. It is the partnership established between the police and the public that permits the police to better address crime and disorder within the community. If the Leicester Police Department receives JAG funds it would permit the department to maintain its force strength and remain committed to regularly attending community meetings during which it receives a great deal of input from both residents and the organizations themselves. The department would also be able to establish a bike patrol and/or park and walk program in the areas identified as being in need of and likely to benefit from this type of patrol by the LPD's crime analysis.

The department would also seek to expand its problem solving initiatives and community surveying capabilities. In order to become more actively involved in problem oriented policing the department will network it's crime analysis information, experienced officers in the field, and community members and organizations with the goal of reducing crime through the development of a more effective method of dealing with it. Solving the problem is more than making an arrest which is a "quick fix", it requires dealing with the conditions and factors that created the problem on a permanent basis.

Knowledge is power. The police can only gather as much knowledge as the public provides them. The information gathered during a survey of the community and those who have had interactions with the police can provide valuable insight as to just how well the police are performing from a community standpoint. Many police departments rate their performance quantitatively based upon the number of arrests and cases cleared, while the public rates the department's performance qualitatively based upon the quality of life in the community including the lack of crime and disorder. In order to maintain community commitment the LPD would use JAG funding to help maintain current officer staffing.

Using JAG money will allow the LPD to focus on more Problem Oriented Policing (POP) along with working with the community to address the quality of life issues which they have identified as having the most impact on the community. Finding the root cause of a problem provides a lasting solution which will continue to make the Town of Leicester a good and decent place to live, work and raise a family.