- Washington, DC: Patrol areas were realigned to give officers greater flexibility in combating crime and improving ties to the community. Old patrol boundaries were examined to make sure that the amount of police coverage corresponded to the current need. Police presence was concentrated in areas that demonstrated a higher incidence in criminal activity. This example stresses the need to examine current realities and to re-think police deployment.

- Mount Pleasant, SC: Specially hired and trained civilians were hired to be "Community Service Officers." These non-sworn police department employees provide response to non-emergency, non-enforcement calls for service in order to allow sworn officers more time for enforcement, problem solving and crime prevention activities. Time saving, alternatives that these positions provide include the authorization to perform traffic accident investigations, traffic control and post incident reports such as burglaries and stolen vehicles.

- Monterey Park, CA: This city has a population of 60,000 and is 61% Asian and 29% Latino. A program was developed to help nonnative English speakers improve their English skills, learn about the law enforcement system and to overcome their fear of the police. Sessions are aimed at removing misconceptions about the police as well as how to respond to police in the event of an encounter, such as a traffic stop.

- Denver, CO and Kansas City, MO: These two cities initiated community policing efforts, including the formation of Community Policing Units. These units, among several duties, heighten police-community relations' efforts, work with community groups, serve as conduits between the police department and the community and establish neighborhood watch groups and neighborhood specific crime reduction efforts.

Common themes in the examples cited include:

- Rethinking traditional police efforts
- Shifting uniformed resources as needed
- Development of civilian alternatives to policing, including expanding the role of civilians in traditional police work
- Communication and contact with neighborhoods, identifying needs based upon a changing demographic population, and developing initiatives to respond to those needs, including partnering with established community-based and social service groups

The examples cited in the cities that were found in the data search demonstrate initiatives to improve relations with the community with a strategic premise that better communication and "out of the box" thinking pay back in an actual reduction in criminal activity.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if I may be of further assistance.

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excerpt from a LRB report — Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

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