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REGINA POLICE SERVICE

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Submitted by
Regina Police Service

September, 1995

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regina Police Service Citizen Police Academy is an organization of volunteers who assist their police department in numerous ways. As an example, at the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Conference held in Regina in 1995, the Citizen Police Academy participated with many organizers in the overall operation of the conference to ensure its success. There are over 800 graduates of this highly successful program who are "police ambassadors" within the community. This Technical Memorandum describes the origin and intent of the program administered at the academy.

For further information on the Regina Police Service Citizen Police Academy, please contact Ms. Lois Wallace of the Regina Police Service at (306) 569-3333.

SOMMAIRE

L'academie de police civile du Service de police de Regina est un organisme de bénévoles qui viennent en aide à leur service de police de bien des façons. Par exemple, elle a aidé les organisateurs de la Conférence de 1995 de l'Association canadienne des chefs de police, à Regina, à veiller à la bonne marche de l'événement. Il y a plus de 800 diplômés issus de ce programme extrêmement fructueux qui sont des ambassadeurs de la police au sein de la collectivité. Ce document technique décrit l'origine et l'intention du programme offert à l'academie.

Pour plus d'information sur l'academie de police civile, veuillez communiquer avec Mme Lois Wallace du Service de police de Regina, au (306) 569-3333.

REGINA POLICE SERVICE CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

Origin of the Citizens' Police Academy

In May, 1985, -an article in the "Community Crime Prevention Digest" caught the attention of Regina Police Chief 'Tom' Savage. The article outlined the implementation by the Orlando, Florida Police Department of a British concept in community relations, a *Citizens' Police Academy*. The model, developed by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Middlemoor, Exeter School in 1977, was known as 'Police Night School'. The Orlando Police are believed to be the first American police force to adopt the program. With the support of Chief Savage and Inspector Helen Kaeser, the Regina Police Service launched what is believed to be the first Citizens' Police Academy in Canada.

The First Class

On March 26, 1986, twenty Regina citizens representing the broad spectrum of the community formed the first class of the Academy. They were selected following an advertising campaign which included a local newspaper story, a television appearance by public affairs staff from the Police Service, and posters distributed throughout the city. The group ranged from a 17 year old high school student to a 57 year old retired civil servant. There was a media representative, a cosmetologist, a teacher's aide, a nurse, the Manager of a Taxi company, a new Canadian from Ethiopia, a native Canadian, the wife of a Police Officer, an insurance salesman, a Neighbourhood Watch Captain, a teacher, two students from the Faculty of Human Justice at the University and a school secretary.

Each Wednesday evening for ten weeks, the class met from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Police Service Headquarters building. After a welcome from Chief Savage, police officers from various areas within the service addressed the group, providing insight and information on the challenges and responsibilities associated with the job. The "citizen recruits" were introduced to a curriculum based on the topics presented to regular recruits at the Saskatchewan Police College, including Criminal Law, crime prevention, gun control, firearms instruction, disaster management, canine demonstrations, identification procedures, polygraph, internal affairs, cross-cultural studies, child abuse issues, alcoholism, the Young Offenders Act, drug laws, Provincial Statutes (liquor, vehicles) and Stolen Autos. Participants also received a tour of the police building and the opportunity to go on a 'Ride-a-long'.

Written critiques with recommendations were completed by the participants. The firearms training and Ride-a-long proved to be very popular; most of the participants recommended additional time be devoted to both in future classes.

The First Class, continued

On May 28, 1986, seventeen of the original 20 citizen recruits graduated in a ceremony held at Police Headquarters, attended by Chief Savage, Deputy Chief Ed Swayze, members of the Regina Board of Police Commissioners, and friends and relatives of the participants. Each graduate received a Certificate of Participation, a Regina Police Service lapel pin and baseball hat, and a class photo.

Intent of the Citizen's Police Academy

It was hoped the Academy would serve as a vehicle to improve relations between the police and the community. By understanding police policies and practices and issues, citizens more readily identify with the police, their role in the community and the challenges unique to law enforcement. Those citizens are able to speak with some knowledge and authority about police matters in various circumstances they encounter within the community.

Outcome to date (September, 1995)

The Citizens' Police Academy has evolved into one of the most popular police - community programs offered by the Regina Police Service. There is a 'waiting list' of persons wanting to participate, in spite of the fact the program has not been 'advertised' for the last three years. The weekly sessions, offered twice annually, spring and fall, have been increased from 10 to 12 weeks. There are two concurrent classes, each with 22 participants. Police Service personnel from the topic areas on the curriculum make the presentations to the participants. (Exceptions may occur, for example, prosecutors may address the group to discuss Justice/Court issues). The curriculum has been modified over the years, based on critiques from participants and changes in the nature of policing and organizational development. There are over 800 graduates of the program throughout the community, many of whom are active members in the "Citizens Police Academy Alumni". The members are 'ambassadors' in the community, and have proven to be competent and dedicated volunteers, serving in a support capacity for numerous activities and functions such as the Oldtimers Hockey and Baseball Benefit Games, community surveys, and the 1995 Canadian Association of Chiefs Conference held in Regina in August.

CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

Date	Class #34	Class #35
March 8	Orientation/Structure/School Resource	
M a r c h 15	Police Community Interactions (Cpl. R. McKendrick/K. Pelletier)	
March 22	S.E.U. (Sgt. R Gray) K-9 (Cst. Shain)	K-9 (Cst. Shain) S.E.U. (Sgt. R. Gray)
March 29	Family Services (Sgt. B. Guy) Traffic Safety (Cpl. K. Calfas)	Traffic Safety (Cpl.K. Calfas) Family Services (Sgt. B. Guy)
April 5	Polygraph (Sgt. B. Eiswirth)	Firearms (Cpl. D. Eberle)
April 12	Asian Crime (Sgt. M. Arp) Use of Force (Cpl. K. Calfas)	Use of Force (Cpl. K. Calfas) Asian Crime (Sgt. M. Arp)
April 19	Vice (Sgt. N. Gherasim) Victim Services (Peggy Hennig)	Victim Services (Peggy Hennig) Vice (Sgt. N. Gherasim)
April 26	Forensic Identification (Cst. A Forster) Major Crimes (Sgt. R. Seiferling)	Major Crimes (Sgt. R. Seiferling) Forensic Identification Cst. A. Forster)
May 3	Motorcycle Gangs (Sgt. M. Arp) S.W.A.T. (Cst. K. Sabo)	S.W.A.T. (Cst. K. Sabo) Motorcycle Gangs (Sgt. M. Arp)
May 10	Firearms (Cpl. D. Eberle)	Polygraph (Sgt. Eiswirth)
May 17	Underwater Recovery Team (Cst. G. Leggett) Explosive Disposal Unit (Cst. W. Hurlbert)	Explosive Disposal Unit Cst. W. Hurlbert Underwater Recovery Team (Cst. G. Leggett)
May 24	Drugs (Sgt. M. Wood)	
May 25	Graduation - City Hall Forum 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	