



CITY OF ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

225 NEWBURYPORT AVENUE
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA 32701-3697

RADAR

Repeat Adolescent Delinquency Abatement Responsibility

SCANNING

In the law enforcement field there has been a noticeable increase in juvenile crime in the last couple of years. In 1991 juveniles were responsible for 19% of all violent crimes reported by National Crime Victimization Survey. The FBI reported that 11 % of all violent crimes were cleared by arresting a person under the age of 18 years old. Juveniles were also arrested in 22% of all cleared property crimes such as larceny from motor vehicle, motor vehicle theft, and burglary.

There has been many studies done on juvenile contact with law enforcement. The first Philadelphia study found out 6% of all males had contact with a police officer 5 or more times before their 18th birthday. The study stated that chronic juvenile offenders should be identified early in their offending career if the interventions were to be successful.

The Altamonte Springs Police Department has placed school resources officers in every Elementary, Middle, and High school in our city plus a DARE Officer in the Elementary schools to educate our children in safety and to be positive role model. This is a great step to interact with the children but we felt that we needed to assist the parents in their part of being responsible for their childrens actions. This is the reason we developed the RADAR program.

ANALYSIS

A complete criminal analysis was completed in all juvenile crime in the last 5 years in our city. Juveniles arrest in 1993 were 1202 and then in 1994 the arrest totaled 1632. We also request the Seminole County School Board to give us information on their suspensions and crime. The numbers for 1994 were 1057 suspensions, 47 expulsions, 130 reported felonies, 550 reported misdemeanors. The above facts are alarming but some prevention could decrease these numbers if the parents were aware that their child has a problem before a criminal act takes place.

RESPONSE

The range of possible resolutions for this problem is never ending. We have tried a lot of educational means that are showing a success but we felt that we needed to go in a different direction. The direction we took for RADAR was to place the parents on notice

that their child had a contact with a police officer not always in a criminal matter (ie, skipping school, skateboarding at 1:00am at a closed business, and fighting at a bus stop) but their was a contact due to many possible reasons.

To notify the parents we decided to use the police departments form called a field contact card. This is a infomratiojn card we fill out on anyone we contact or talk to during our shift. These are field out on adults as well as juveniles. The contact cards are done totally voluntarily by the subject.

Once the field contact card is completed by the officer on a juvenile it is given to the Community-Orieted Police Services Division to enter into a data base and generate a letter to the juveniles parents. The letter has to be sent within 72 of the initial police contact.

The letters change in contents as the number of contact increases. (See attachment A,B, & C) This is to give the parents the information they need as their child makes worse decisions or behavior increases to a criminal matter.

Letter #1 is sent to the parents as regular mail but the Letter #2 & 3 are sent certified mail to make sure the child is not intercepting the letter meant for the parents. Letter #2 & # 3 have an attachment (See Attachment D) for any assistance the police department can give to the family or juvenile.

The RADAR Program involves many different agencies and people. I have signed Interagency Agreement with the Seminole County School Board, Department of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Council, Altamonte Springs Police Officers, Juveniles and parents/guardian.

EVALUATION

Community-Oriented Police Service Division has sent out every parent that has received a letter from the RADAR Program a survey letter. (See attachment E) 100% of the parents that returned their survey stated the program was a benefit to the public and they wanted to know when their child had a contact with law enforcement no matter for what tÿpe of reason.

As of this date, I have sent out 204 letters, this is broken down by 190 letter #1, 12 letter #2, and two Letter #3. I have received 36 phone calls from parents receiving the RADAR letter #1. This number is realivant due to the fact the letter does not ask the parents to call only gives them a number to call if they want more information on this incident. I have received 3 calls from letter #2 and two acknowledgement letters back. No phone calls or acknowledgement letters returned for letter #3.

This survey will continue to update the success of the program from one of the main people that benefit from the program....parents/guardian.

This program has surpassed the accomplishment we anticipated. The overwhelming positive response from the parents were refreshing in knowing the parents really do care what their children are doing when they are away from home.

PHILOSOPHY

A patrol officer wrote the initial grant to begin this wonderful program with the assistance in the concept by a lieutenant. The program is a benefit to every officer, detective, and supervisor. The officers and detectives benefit by having a working document on juvenile offenders and their personal information to make positive contacts with a youth they see might take the criminal path. This document is updated monthly by the Community-Oriented Police Services Department. The supervisors have a tool to utilize to know if their personnel are making contacts with juveniles under suspicious conditions.

The Altamonte Springs Police Department has a functioning division called Community-Oriented Police Services Division that deals with the data base and collecting the data on RADAR. This is nice that the same officer that wrote the grant has the ability to now be the director over the operations of the program.

The States Attorneys Office-Juvenile Division gets a copy of the monthly print out that they can use for Violation of probation cases. This is a great working tool for the entire circle of law enforcement to use.

The RADAR Program has been a news spot on Channel 2 and Channel 9 News on different dates. Due to the new cast two other police departments have called us for the complete packet to implement at their police department. There has been a front page article in the local newspaper also. (See attachment F)

RADAR is a program to foster an ongoing positive relationship between officers and the juvenile community by working with the parents/guardians to correct the juveniles problems. Parents have a disadvantage in dealing with a their child's problem if the community doesn't assist in telling them there is a problem. RADAR helps solve this communication gap.

RADAR**Repeat Adolescent Delinquency Abatement Responsibility Program
Altamonte Springs Police Department**

DATE

POSTNET(FIELD(zip))
FIELD(title) FIELD(pfirst) FIELD(plast)
FIELD(street)
FIELD(city), FIELD(state) FIELD(zip)

Dear FIELD(title) FIELD(plast):

The Altamonte Springs Police Department has developed a program called **RADAR**: Repeat Adolescent Delinquency Abatement Responsibility. Its goal is to inform parents and guardians about situations their children were involved in that led to a police officer's inquiry. It is our belief that if parents know about questionable activity leading to a stop by a police officer, they will be able to take appropriate action to ensure their children do not become involved in criminal behavior.

This letter is to inform you of activity your child was involved in that caused a police officer to inquire into FIELD(his/her) actions. On FIELD(contact.date), your child FIELD(contact.info).

While this may or may not have been criminal activity, the point is to let you know the incident occurred so you can take appropriate action. Our goal is to prevent your child from repeating this behavior because it may lead to injury or arrest.

The Altamonte Springs Police Department is committed to excellence in service through community involvement. Together our partnership will develop a sense of community pride and an atmosphere intolerant of criminal activity.

If you have any questions, please call the Community-Oriented Police Services Division at (407) 263-3788. Let me know you are calling regarding **RADAR** letter number one.

Thank you for your cooperation.

William A. Liquori
Chief of Police

PFC S. A. Walters
Community-Oriented Police Services Division

RADAR

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Repeat Adolescent Delinquency Abatement Responsibility Program Altamonte Springs Police Department

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This letter is to inform you that this is the **second time** since FIELD(letti) your child was involved in an activity that caused a police officer to inquire into FIELD(his/her) actions. On FIELD(contact.date), your child FIELD(contact.info).

Since this is the second time an officer has had contact with your child, we would like to assist you with any needs of service you and your family could use preventing your child from being involved in similar activity.

At this time, please complete the enclosed acknowledgment and let us know any way the Altamonte Springs Police Department can assist you and your family. There is a stamped, self-addressed return envelope for you to mail the acknowledgment back as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please call the Community-Oriented Police Services Division at (407) 263-3788. Let me know you are calling regarding **RADAR** letter number two.

Thank you for your cooperation.

William A. Liquori
Chief of Police

PFC S. A. Walters
Community-Oriented Police Services Division

RADAR
Repeat Adolescent Delinquency Abatement Responsibility Program
Altamonte Springs Police Department

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This letter is to inform you of activity your child was involved in that caused a police officer to inquire into FIELD(his/her) actions. On FIELD(contactdate), your child **FIELD**(contact.info). This is the **third time** since FIELD(letti) a RADAR notification has been made, and we once again offer our assistance coordinating any family related support services that would benefit you and your situation.

We ask that you please take a moment and complete the enclosed acknowledgment and let us know if we can assist you and your family. There is a stamped, self-addressed return envelope for you to mail the acknowledgment back as soon as possible.

Our purpose is to provide support for you and your child to prevent your child from being involved in illegal activity which leads to arrest. In the unfortunate event of arrest, the courts can require a parent or guardian to pay full costs associated with the treatment of their child (*FSS 39.059*). The courts can also **order a parent or guardian to perform community service** if the court finds they did not make a diligent and good faith effort to prevent the child from engaging in delinquent acts (*FSS 39.054*).

The primary purpose of our program is to provide parents and guardians with information about the activity of their children so they can take corrective action if necessary. We provide support and coordination of resources to help when requested. The program also creates a record of parental notification which might be used by the courts to determine whether a "diligent and good faith effort" was made to prevent a child from engaging in delinquent acts. Parental responsibility is mandated by law, and we urge you to seek help

if you are faced with a situation beyond your control.

if you have any questions, please call the Community-Oriented Police Services Division at (407) 263-3788. Let them know you are calling regarding RADAR letter number three.

Thank you for your cooperation.

William A. Liquori
Chief of Police

PFC S. A. Walters
Community-Oriented Police Services Division

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONCERN

1. Are there other professional agencies that your family has dealt with in the last six months you would like us to coordinate with?
(Example: School Social Worker.HRS, other Police Dept., etc.)

2. Are there any probation or parole officer your family has dealt with in the last six months you would like us to contact? (Please provide names and phone numbers)

3. Were you aware of the listed incidents your child was involved in before this letter?

_____ Yes

_____ No

4. Please indicate what type of service(s) your family needs that the Altamonte Springs Police Department can offer or coordinate for you.

- My family **does not** need any type of service at this time.

DATE

FIELD(title) FIELD(pfirst) FIELD(plast)
 FIELD(street)
 FIELD(city), FIELD(state) FIELD(zip)

Dear FIELD(title) FIELD(plast):

You have received a letter from the Altamonte Springs Police Department in regards to your daughter/son having contact with a patrol officer. This program is called

RADAR: Repeat Adolescent Delinquency Abatement Responsibility.

The reason we began this notification to parents is to assist them in their knowledge of what activities their child is involved in outside of the home. If the Altamonte Springs Police Department can foster a relationship with the parents in regards to the juvenile population in Altamonte Springs we can combat the juvenile activity concerns.

At this time I would like you input of the RADAR program. This will assist us in the future plans of this program. Please answer all of the survey questions completely and all negatives and positives are highly appreciated.

1. Did you know about your child's contact with a police officer before the RADAR letter arrived? YES NO
2. Do you want to be notified when you child is involved in any type of situation? YES NO
3. Did you call the contact phone number on the RADAR letter for further information about the incident? YES NO, Go To #5
4. Were you satisfied with the information you received about your childs incident? YES NO
5. Is this program a benefit to the you as a parent? YES NO
6. The Orlando Sentinel wants to do an article on this program. The Altamonte Springs reporter needs any parents that is willing to talk about your likes and dislikes of the RADAR Program. **They only want your thoughts about the program NOT YOUR CHILDS SITUATION. NAMES CAN BE WITHHELD**
 YES, I will talk to the Sentinel NO

PLEASE SEND THE SURVEY BACK IN THE STAMPED ADDRESS ENVELOPE IN IT'S ENTIRETY.

Thank you for your assistance in this Survey. If you have any questions please call (407) 263-3788 PFC S.A. Walters.