

Reimagining Community Safety & Service

ACPD Annual Activity

- **Approximately 8,000 requests for services per year**
- **Deferrable services:** lock-outs, maintenance matters, non-criminal alcohol/cannabis complaints, residence hall patrols, noted security lapses, and disturbances/parties account for 6,400 calls a year.
- **Medical Calls** (excluding psychological emergencies) approximately 350 calls a year.
- **Fire Alarms and Fires** approximately 250 calls a year.
- **Investigations, Crimes, and Emergencies** approximately 1,000 calls a year. More complex and time consuming than deferrable services.



Reimagining Community Safety

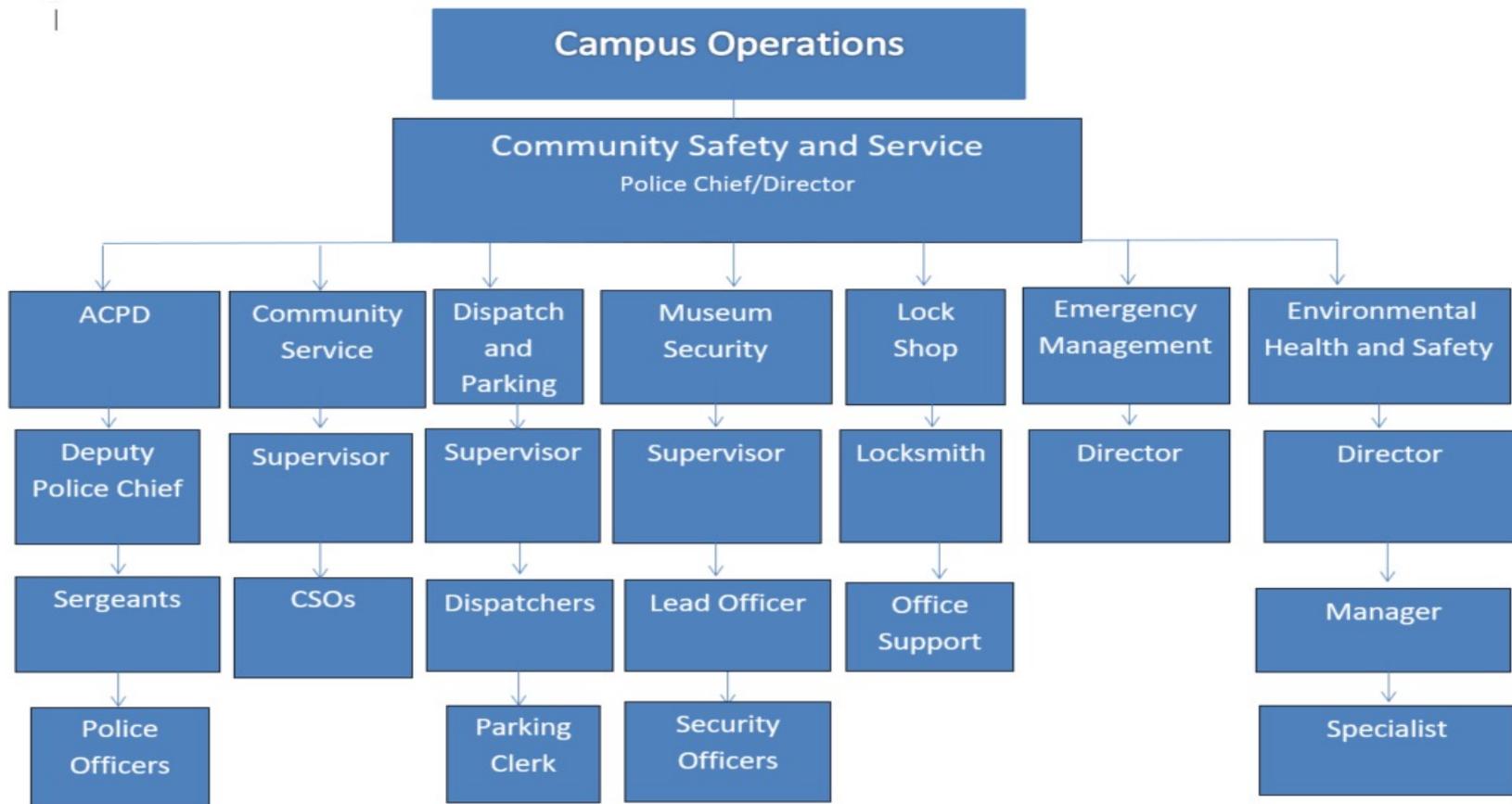
- Goals
- Police and Community Service Officer Model (Community Safety and Service)
- Community Oriented Responsibilities and Expectations Advisory Group
- Differential Response Strategy (Dispatch triage)
- Policies and Procedures
- Police Officer Training



Goals

- Enhance the sense of community safety
- Strengthen Community Engagement
- Hire and train a team of Community Service Officers before the Fall 2021 Semester
- Reduce reliance on police officers for non-police related functions
- Maintain an appropriately sized and equipped sworn police component to respond to emergencies on campus
- Continual evaluation of the model to ensure safety needs and priorities are being met

Community Safety and Service Organizational Chart 2021-2022



Role of the Police Officer

- Respond to reports of activity that place people in realized or potential physical harm or violence
- Investigate reports of crime
- Focus on threat assessment and event management.
- Focus on community engagement in a structured manner. Programs will allow officers to interact without the barrier of a uniform (or a relaxed uniform) and firearm. The department is currently investigating a “comfort dog”.
- Maintain an independence from the Amherst Police

Role of the Community Service Officer

- Patrol the academic and administrative buildings
- Provide services (lock-outs, escorts, maintenance triage)
- Staff an accessible van
- Provide support and assistance to the Office of Student Affairs in the Residence Halls
- Provide support and assistance to the police officers as needed.
- Respond with ACEMS, OSA or ACPD to medical calls and fire alarms

Differential Dispatching

Triaging calls at the Dispatch Center to send the most appropriate resources

- Office of Student Affairs: Administrator on Call and Community Development Coordinators
- Community Service Officers
- Facilities and Custodial
- Student staffed resources (ACEMS, Safe RIDE)
- Sworn, armed police officers for investigations, crimes, and emergencies

Task	ACPD	OSA	Community Service Officer	Custodial	ACPD Student Staff	Facilities	ACEMS
Active Threat Response	Primary						
Alarm (intrusion, panic, fire)	Primary						
Accident (MVA or personal)			Primary				
Alcohol Violation-non-criminal		Primary					
Animal Complaint			ONLY EMERGENCIES				
Assistance-general		Primary	Secondary				
Crimes (reports)	Primary						
Disturbance		Primary	Secondary				
Drug Violation-Cannabis		Primary					
Drug Violation-criminal	Primary						
Escort (Safety)			Secondary		Primary		
Fire	Primary						
Harassment-general	Secondary	Primary					
Hazing	Primary	Secondary					
Hate Crimes	Primary						
Hate incidents	Secondary	Primary					
Lock-outs			Primary	Primary	Primary		
Maintenance Matters			Primary	Primary		Primary	

	ACPD	OSA	CSO	Custodial	ACPD Student Staff	Facilities	ACEMS
Medical--general							Primary
Medical-alcohol		Primary					Primary
Medical-alcohol-ambulance transport		Secondary	Primary				Primary
Medical-general-ambulance transport		Secondary	Primary				Primary
Medical-Psychological	Secondary	Primary					ONLY IF INJURY
Medical-Psychological-transport/12	Primary	Secondary					
Missing Person	Secondary	Primary					
Party Policy Violation		Primary					
Party Policy Check		Primary					
Patrol-residence halls		Primary					
Property-confiscated	Secondary	Primary					
Property-lost	DISPATCH						
Property-found	DISPATCH						
Property-damage		shared	shared	shared	shared	shared	
Safety Violation		shared	shared	shared	shared	shared	
Suicide	Primary						
Suspicious Activity	Primary						
Unauthorized party		Primary	Secondary				
Vandalism	Primary						
Wellbeing check	Secondary	Primary					10



Community Oriented Responsibilities and Expectations Advisory Group

Advises the Police Chief/Director and the Administration on the strategic direction, roles, and effectiveness of our revised Community Safety and Service model to serve and protect of the campus community

Will be committed to ensuring that the Amherst College Police and other offices in Community Safety and Service design and deliver the highest quality comprehensive and integrated public safety program for all members of the Amherst College community.



Community Oriented Responsibilities and Expectations Advisory Group

- What are the main services that will need to be provided to meet our objectives?
- What other offices can be more or equally effective in providing these services?
- What different models exist for delivering these services on college campuses to communities like ours?
- What organizations, structures, and resources are needed to support these models? What are the relative strengths and weaknesses of those models? What type of model will best meet our needs?
- How can we ensure that our public safety capabilities evolve over time to reflect the changing needs of our community and reflect leading public safety and community engagement practices?



Community Oriented Responsibilities and Expectations Advisory Group

- Membership broadly representing Amherst College community, Faculty, Staff, and Students
- Margolis Healy Facilitators (for the initial phase): Chief Ronnell Higgins, Police Chief/Executive Director of Public Safety, Yale University and D.A. Graham, Ph.D., the Ombuds at the University of Kansas

Policy Review

- Policy review was undertaken immediately in the summer of 2020
- Policies already met the standards of the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission
- **Use of Force** --ban on chokeholds
- **Bystander Intervention**--in the Use of Force and Code of Conduct
- **Unbiased Policing**
- **Professional Standards**

Note that revised standard policies written by the Municipal Police Training Committee will be required to be adopted by all police departments under the Massachusetts Police Reform Act

Police Officer Training

- **Continue a commitment to training that is appropriate and useful to the community**
- **Continue to ensure officers are knowledgeable about other campus resources**
- Impartial policing to help officers recognize and challenge implicit bias
- De-escalation techniques, and crisis intervention
- Responding to Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Risk Assessment and Prevention
- Trauma-informed investigations
- Use of Force and Bystander Intervention

Opportunities for Improvements

- Change in police officers' uniforms to a less traditional and more approachable appearance, but differentiated from a Community Service Officer.
- Removing the markings from the police cruisers.
- Online Complaint Process. A link where community members can make a complaint about public safety staff that is received and formally reviewed by the Chief Human Resources Officer, the Chief of Campus Operations, and the Police Chief/Director of Public Safety.
- Body Cameras for Police Officers?

May 25, 2020

AAS Update: Public Safety Town Hall

March 29, 2021

Setting the Scene

- a. Intent: Increasing dialogue between Amherst community and ACPD
- b. Public Safety
 - i. Policing
 - ii. Mental Health

Setting the Scene

- a. Long history of policing
- b. Recent history of policing
 - i. Incidents at Columbia, Yale, Smith, etc.
- c. Disarmed police departments
 - i. Other campuses like Amherst's: Smith College, Mt. Holyoke College, Hampshire College, and our neighbor to the South, Swarthmore College all have disarmed campus police
 - 1. Smith and Mt. Holyoke are part of a safety consortium
- d. Last summer: Harvard, Yale, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Northwestern and others have called on their campus to either disarm or abolish their police

History of ACPD

- a. ACPD was unarmed before 1941
- b. In the past 20--and likely the past 60--ACPD has not fired guns on anyone and has only displayed guns once
 - i. Instead, they have used pepper spray to detain only two people
- c. In the entire history of, only 26 have been arrested

ACPD Today

- a. ACPD has 15 sworn officers
 - i. Compared to the Counseling Center's # of counselors
- b. The most recent Clery report shows that the majority of crimes committed under ACPD jurisdiction are alcohol and drug violations, followed by rape/fondling, and finally burglary. None of these crimes are prevented by on-campus police, and none require armed police intervention.
 - i. No research demonstrates a correlation between armed police presence and the prevention of shootings
 - 1. Brief Personal Story
- c. Bureaucratic

Recommendations

1. Shrink responsibilities of ACPD
2. Disarm ACPD
3. Increase the number of counselors in the counseling center
4. Timelines

Conclusion

1. Bare minimum
2. Anti-racism
3. A Note on Further Discussions