



PUBLIC SAFETY: WHAT PROVIDES US COMFORT

Why This Matters For Sartell: Be Safe

Sartell has a reputation as being one of the safest, if not the safest community, in the region. The crime rate in Sartell is generally very low. With the City's population increase, the calls for service have also increased, but not out of context regarding the rate of continued growth of the community.

Six year calls for service:

2010: 9,471;

2011: 10,091;

2012: 10,419;

2013: 11,774

2014: 11,478

2015: 12,064

The City uses two main tactics in its policing approach: community policing and high police visibility. The City has numerous ongoing programs to support and implement community policing and uses a combination of personnel and technology to deter crime through strategic and targeted police visibility efforts. Overall, the police force gets high marks from residents and business owners for being responsive, and citizens fully appreciate the high visibility approach the City has taken. Residents also

appreciated "how the police department interacts with the community and is significantly different from the surrounding metro cities, having many community outreach programs that others in the area do not have." Residents value friendly and engaging police officers with community ties. Having a strong police presence improves the quality of life, which is good for attracting and retaining residents and businesses.

During the public input sessions that produced these goals, participants all felt public safety was a very important aspect of the City's services but debated about how to prioritize it with regard to the other topic areas. They generally felt that the City was doing a good job and expect the same quality of service in the future. Hence, although public safety was not actively discussed as much as economic development during this planning process, public safety is by no means a low priority. Participants felt that public safety already is a high priority and should remain that way because people want to move their business and their families to a community that is safe.

PUBLIC SAFETY GOALS

GOAL 1: PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Sartell Police Department embraces the concept of community-oriented policing and seeks ways to form partnerships with residents. Through constant communication, police and citizens form more effective relationships and begin to address crime and disorder together. Police officers should continue to embrace their strong partnership-building culture as the central public safety philosophy in Sartell.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

1.1 Expand Community-Oriented Policing Where Possible

Continue to align community policing with activities of local homeowner associations as well as the Sartell Chamber of Commerce. Ensure that information about the community policing philosophy is integrated into all marketing materials and Welcome to Sartell packets for new residents and businesses. The City’s Code Enforcement services are also a way the City maintains safety in the community and provides another opportunity for residents to partner with the City.



1.2 Assign police to planning neighborhood based on priority and needs

1.3 Teen Driving Education and Programs





GOAL 2: EDUCATE & ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Education and engagement are integral to community-oriented policing. Effective partnerships mean that citizens need to know how police operate and what to do and look for in an emergency. Many residents are in contact with the police only when something bad happens. The goal is to ensure that all Sartell residents have contact with police and an understanding of their tools and methods prior to a time when they may need an officer's help.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

2.1 Promote and Expand Existing Programs

The police department offers many programs designed to engage and educate the community. These include the Metro Citizens Police Academy, which provides an insight into the

officers' training and what they have to know in order to do their jobs effectively; SALT (Seniors And Law enforcement Together); Coffee and Conversation (seniors); Coffee with a Cop (entire community); Cookout with Cops; Shop with a Cop; Big Brothers Big Sisters Safe Night; DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education); GREAT (Gang Resistance Education And Training); PAL (Police Activities League); Officers provide car seat safety checks through the St. Cloud Area Car Seat program.

Continue to seek new innovative education and citizen engagement programs and find ways in which to promote programs online and through social media and encourage greater volunteer involvement to expand their capacity to handle more participants.



Continue existing information pamphlets.

2.2 More PD and FD Presentations to the Community, Which May Include Luncheons to Gain a Better Turnout

2.3 Cook Out With Cops AND A Cook Out With Fire (FD has open house during fire prevention week)

2.4 FAQ in Paper about Fire and Police Topics

GOAL 3: USE TARGETED POLICE VISIBILITY EFFORTS

Numerous studies clearly demonstrate that high police visibility, including visible traffic enforcement, can and do deter crime. Criminals generally do not like to be in an area where police officers are present, so the City takes

purposeful efforts to give the criminals the perception that we have police everywhere. As such, Sartell police officers make concerted efforts to be visible at key locations and times to maximize effectiveness – whether undertaking routine monitoring or performing traffic enforcement. If it sometimes appears that “police are everywhere” in Sartell, then job well done. Given the success of this strategy, the goal is to ensure that police are targeting the areas that most require their presence.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

3.1 Construct a New Public Safety Center

The police office is located at 4th Avenue South and 2nd Street South. There is nothing magical about the location, except it was the site of the former city hall and it is adjacent to the current township/fire hall. The city will be completing a location study for the proper location of a new facility.



3.2 Use Available Officers Strategically

Assign officers to locations where crimes are occurring and base these decisions on up-to-date data including hotspot mapping. As identified by the police department, visibility on this road is warranted to deter crime throughout the City.

GOAL 4: EMBRACE NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The Sartell Police Department is a progressive force that seeks to stay on top of national best practices concerning public safety. As such, the police department should maintain its goal of embracing new technologies that will help train police, solve crimes, and track progress.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

4.1 Maximize the Future Use of a Public Safety Center

Completion of this project will bring substantial benefits to the City's police and fire departments. These facilities should be used, as appropriate, as a part of the community engagement and education programs that the police department already offers. Partnerships which complement the facility should be discovered to assist in the funding of the facility.

4.2 Use Technology for Effective Policing

Sartell police use a variety of technology tools to help them police more effectively. These include squad car audio/video recording systems that capture traffic violations when the emergency lights are activated, or when an officer manually begins recording; computer aided dispatch which allow officers to communicate via computer with dispatch and prioritize calls for service more appropriately; digital audio recorders and cameras which allow better gathering of evidence of crimes; e-Charging which allows officers to sign complaints from the County Attorneys offices at the police department rather than driving to St. Cloud or Foley to do it. Continue to look for the latest technology available in policing and determine if it would be effective in Sartell.



4.3 Expand the Use of Mapping and other Technology to Track Criminal Activity

The Sartell Police Department does use mapping technology to gather data and identify crime hotspots. Police officers use these hotspot maps to allocate officers and discuss crime trends with City leaders.

4.4 E-citation.

The police department is implementing e-citation, which prints citations and warnings in the car and automatically forwards them to attorneys and court. It will also provide the ticket information into the Records Management System

(RMS) rather than having staff have to enter it.

GOAL 5. PROMOTE THE SARTELL FIRE DEPARTMENTS MISSION OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY PROTECTING LIVES, PROPERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN A SAFE, EFFICIENT, AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER.

The Fire Department is responsible for extinguishing fires, fire prevention, and the maintenance of firefighting equipment and fire department facilities. In addition, the Building Department enforces laws and ordinances pertaining to fire safety; it also provides public safety information. The primary purpose of fire suppression and special operations is to provide an

immediate response to protect lives, property, and the environment from exposure to natural, industrial and environmental hazards. Typical actions are search, rescue, and removal of persons in immediate danger, interior fire attack to stop the fire development, exterior fire streams to prevent fire extension, fire extinguishment, and control. Also necessary are actions and measures to minimize property damage by smoke, water, weather and release of hazardous or toxic materials.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

5.1 Prevent Fire Ignition Whenever Possible.

5.2 Perform Pro-Active Information Management.

Forecast needs in the areas of building fire protection systems, operational support and program development.