



## Successful Practices & Strategies

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# Key West Police Department

Key West, Florida

<http://www.keywestcity.com>

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### Community policing element

Community partnerships

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### Problem/issue

Expanding community/school involvement

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### Problem description

We are very pleased to have reactivated our Police Explorer program in the high school. We believe that having the students involved in the program will present a positive image with the police and will affect other students, parents, teachers, and administrators to become more involved in this community policing effort.

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### Community policing strategies implemented

It is essential that the police and our schools have a very close, trusting, and interactive relationship with each other. By re-establishing the Police Explorer program, the police department, through our school resource officers, has laid the foundation for enhancing this relationship. In addition, we are confident that the program will, as a recruitment tool, produce high quality police officer candidates with good values and character who have demonstrated their desire to learn about law enforcement and have started a career path toward achieving that goal if they desire.

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### Change and/or impact as a result of these community policing efforts

While the program is in its beginning stages, we expect to achieve the goals of the program, which are to help our young adults choose a career path within law enforcement in their hometown and to challenge them to become responsible citizens of their community. The benefits of an explorer program include improved self-confidence, development of leadership skills, fun and exciting “hands-on” career experiences, team building, and community service opportunities.



By participating in community service projects, we expect our explorers to learn the value and importance of other people and to develop empathy for people who are in need or less fortunate than themselves.

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