

Explain how the proposed activities address a specific public safety need.

Maximum 250 words

Pittsville is a small rural community with limited police staffing, yet its location near U.S. Route 50 between Salisbury and Ocean City creates public-safety demands greater than the Town's population alone would suggest. The Department must address traditional crime and traffic concerns while also maintaining close relationships with residents and responding to the particular needs of vulnerable populations.

The proposed Community Policing Improvement Initiative addresses these needs in three coordinated ways. First, \$20,000 will support recruitment of experienced law enforcement officers with community-policing backgrounds, increasing the Department's ability to provide proactive service and direct resident engagement. Second, \$20,000 will support community-policing activities focused particularly on preventing juvenile delinquency through positive officer interaction and protecting older residents through education about telephone, mail, internet, and other financial scams. Third, \$4,000 will purchase an electric police bicycle that will allow officers to patrol neighborhoods, community events, and residential areas in a visible and approachable manner while covering more territory than would be practical on foot.

Together, these activities will increase police visibility, improve communication with residents, strengthen trust, provide earlier intervention with youth, protect seniors from victimization, and improve the Department's ability to identify and respond to community concerns before they develop into more serious public-safety problems.

Explain how the proposed activities will be utilized to reorient any affected law enforcement agency's mission toward community-oriented policing or enhance its involvement in or commitment to community-oriented policing.

Maximum 250 words

The proposed activities will strengthen an existing Pittsville Police Department philosophy that views law enforcement as an integral part of community life rather than an agency that interacts with residents only after crimes occur. The Department already emphasizes communication with residents and incorporation of community concerns into its goals and policies, and citizens have expressed substantial support for this approach.

The project will deepen that commitment by increasing the number of officers with community-policing experience and creating additional opportunities for officers and residents to interact in non-enforcement settings. Youth-focused activities will allow officers to build positive relationships with young people before they become involved in delinquency, while senior outreach will allow officers to educate older residents about fraud and scams and become a trusted source of assistance.

The electric bicycle will further support community-oriented policing by placing officers directly within neighborhoods and community events in a manner that encourages conversation and makes officers more accessible than they generally are inside patrol vehicles. Pittsville has previously used community events and direct resident interaction to build trust, encourage reporting, and obtain information useful to investigations.

Rather than changing Pittsville's mission, this initiative will significantly expand the Department's capacity to carry out the community-oriented policing philosophy it has already embraced.

Identify any current governmental, community or agency initiatives that complement or will be coordinated with the proposed activities.

Maximum 250 words

The proposed project will complement several existing Pittsville public-safety and community-policing initiatives. Most significantly, the Pittsville Police Department and Town Commissioners recently launched **TOP Watch**, a public/private community-safety initiative involving the Police Department, Town government, local businesses, and potentially residents who participate through business surveillance systems and residential doorbell cameras. The program is intended to increase information sharing and strengthen the partnership between police and the community.

The new initiative will also build upon Pittsville's history of direct community engagement. The Department has previously participated in National Night Out and planned outreach activities at local apartment complexes to provide residents with opportunities to meet officers, discuss concerns, and learn more about crime prevention and Department activities.

Chief Robert Harris has also conducted active-shooter training for local churches, attended community and youth gatherings, and worked directly with at-risk youth.

The proposed recruitment, youth outreach, senior scam-prevention activities, and electric bicycle patrols will therefore expand activities already underway rather than create an isolated program. Together, these initiatives will create a broader and more consistent community-policing presence throughout Pittsville.

Identify any key community or other stakeholder partnerships that will play a role in the implementation of the proposed activities.

Maximum 250 words

Key partners will include the **Town of Pittsville and its Commissioners, local residents, businesses, community organizations, and regional law-enforcement agencies.** Town officials will support project implementation and help identify community priorities, while residents will provide information regarding neighborhood concerns, youth issues, senior-safety needs, and areas where increased officer engagement would be valuable.

Local businesses already participate with the Police Department and Town Commissioners through TOP Watch, demonstrating an existing public/private partnership that can support continued communication regarding crime trends, suspicious activity, and community concerns. Residents and community organizations will be particularly important in identifying opportunities for youth engagement and senior education and in helping the Department reach individuals who may benefit most from these activities.

The Pittsville Police Department also has established partnerships with the **Wicomico County Sheriff's Office and Maryland State Police.** The Sheriff's Office provides assistance including radar and laser support and cooperation through its Drug Task Force, while Maryland State Police has worked with Pittsville on gang-related concerns.

These partnerships will allow the project to combine local knowledge, resident participation, municipal support, and regional law-enforcement experience in implementing a comprehensive community-policing strategy.

Describe the strategy to consult with any community groups and appropriate private and public agencies in the implementation of the proposed activities.

Maximum 250 words

The Pittsville Police Department will use its existing community relationships to maintain ongoing consultation throughout implementation of the project. Rather than limiting consultation to a single meeting, officers will seek input through regular interaction with residents, Town officials, businesses, community organizations, youth, senior residents, and regional law-enforcement partners.

The Department will consult with the Pittsville Commissioners regarding project priorities and implementation and will use existing relationships with local businesses, including those participating in TOP Watch, to identify recurring public-safety concerns and opportunities for cooperative prevention activities. Officers will seek resident feedback during community events, neighborhood contacts, bicycle patrols, youth activities, and senior scam-prevention programs. These interactions will allow residents to identify concerns directly and give the Department an opportunity to adjust programming in response to community needs.

Pittsville will also continue consultation with the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, and other law-enforcement partners regarding crime trends, emerging threats,

effective community-policing approaches, and matters that cross jurisdictional boundaries. Pittsville already has established cooperative relationships with these agencies.

Feedback received throughout the project will be reviewed by Department leadership and used to refine outreach activities, bicycle deployment, educational topics, and future community-policing priorities.