

2006 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
Program Application Narrative
For
Albemarle County of Virginia

Supporting More Community Policing

In keeping with the Justice Assistance Grant Program's intentions for prevention and control of crime, Albemarle County plans to use these funds to support overtime activities for community policing projects. These activities and projects might not occur without this funding. Budgeting and funding for the Police Department is quite restricted, as it is for the County Government generally. Overtime is closely monitored. In addition, staffing is short due to difficulties in finding good quality candidates and the competition for them among employers. The police force in Albemarle County is currently down over 5%. One of the effects of this shortage has been to limit the staffing within the Community Services Unit of the Community Support Division to 2 officers. Effectively implementing many of their problem solving projects requires more officers. Some projects are understaffed and some potential projects are not done. The County has been using the former Local Law Enforcement Block Grants and the previous Justice Assistance Grant to provide the following community support projects and activities in the past.

- Operation Safe Holiday with increased patrol, assistance and enforcement in shopping malls and high traffic areas from Thanksgiving to New Years;
- Shop-with-a-Cop which has Officers, in collaboration with local merchants, having a meal and toy shopping with needy youngsters before Christmas;
- The BOO House on Halloween that is constructed and staffed by Police personnel to thrill and sweeten the kids in a safe environment;
- Several ongoing Neighborhood Coalitions including a trailer park, 3 "Section 8" housing subdivisions, and a community of rural poverty, that bring together residents, community and government services, police, property managers and owners to improve the quality of life in these neighborhoods;
- Cultural Bridges Program to work with and educate both the police and the local Latino population about crime, crime prevention, laws and regulations, and community services;
- National Night-Out with groups of Police personnel visiting several Neighborhood Watch get-togethers with equipment and K9 demonstrations along with educational literature;
- Bike Patrol activities in neighborhoods and shopping malls, at the County Fair, at Foxfield Horse Races, at parks and on walking paths, at parades and festivals, and doing bicycle rodeos;
- The SUD (Stop Underage Drinking) Campaign to increase education and enforcement among the 18 until 21 age group;
- Community Supervision Program for monitoring people on restricted probation or parole;
- Working with apartment managers to provide training towards developing a neighborhood safety certification program with annual inspections;
- Operating DUI and traffic safety checkpoints to improve the safety on the roads; and
- Organizing and participating in numerous community events providing safety and prevention information and referrals along with equipment displays and demonstrations.

Many or most of these will be diminished or ended without supportive external funding such as this grant program.