

SHERIFF'S OFFICE TESTS CITIZEN REPORTING SYSTEM

Port Orchard, WA -- In a cooperative effort between county residents and the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Steve Boyer has implemented a trial initiative program for a new "Citizen's Incident Report System." The program began Monday (05/12/2003) and will last for at least 60 days. If successful, the program will be retained and made permanent.

The Citizen's Incident Report (CIR) was created as a means for the general public to report certain incidents, such as lost & found property, theft, vehicle prowling and vandalism, where there is no likelihood of collectable evidence and there are no known suspects. The CIR may also be used to make information known to the Sheriff's Office, of a general or suspicious nature, that a person may feel is important.

"A principal goal of the Sheriff's Office is to curtail the opportunity for criminal activity within our various communities," said Sheriff Boyer. "To this end, patrol deputies physically need to be on the road, patrolling neighborhoods and county rural areas, in order to interdict criminal action. By completing a CIR themselves, when applicable, residents are helping to keep a patrol deputy in the field, on patrol, where they are needed most."

The intended result of the CIR is that patrol deputies will spend less time in the office, typing routine reports, and more time on patrol. It is not intended to reduce personal contact with the public. If a victim requests assistance in completing their own CIR, deputies will assist them or initiate the report themselves.

To receive a CIR form, reporting persons will follow the same procedure as for requesting any law enforcement assistance: telephone 911. They may also walk-in to any KCSO precinct office to file a CIR. The form may be taken home with them to finish and either hand-deliver or mail the CIR to the Sheriff's Office.

"I would like to assure county residents that their self-completed CIR will receive the same processing and attention as a patrol deputy's incident report," added Sheriff Boyer.

The CIR will be sent to the patrol division for supervisory review and for assignment of any follow-up action that may be required. The CIR also will be kept on file in the KCSO records division. As such, should an insurance claim be submitted, an insurance carrier will be able to verify that a law enforcement report has been made.

“I am very enthusiastic about this trial initiative,” said Sheriff Boyer. “A person’s involvement and participation in the CIR process will help to keep this office informed about criminal activity throughout the county. This will allow me to place patrol deputies where they can respond in an expeditious manner, allowing for more effective community policing.”

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