

CIRCULAR



Title
Clergy Response Teams

Circular Number
CIR-03-16

Effective Date
December 3, 2003

Distribution
A

Related to
GO-OPS-204.06 (Victim/Witness Services)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The purpose of this Circular is to introduce members of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to the responsibilities and functions of the Clergy Response Team (CRT). The CRT is an initiative developed by the Metropolitan Police Department and the East of the River Clergy Police-Community Partnership. The East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership consists of a compilation of local and community faith-based organizations formed three years ago to serve the needs of residents who live East of the River, that have been, or are at risk of being, involved in the criminal justice system.

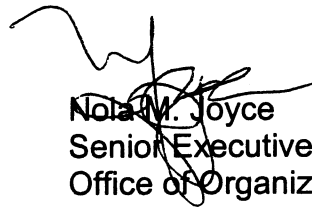
The CRT is a one-year pilot project primarily targeting the Sixth and Seventh Police Districts. The purpose of the CRT is to support and expand Metropolitan Police Department efforts to reduce violence, improve community-police relations and heal the damaging effects of violent crime in neighborhoods within the District of Columbia. The CRT will respond to violent incidents and assist in the development of strategies to reduce crime, provide better access for at-risk citizens to police services and other District government agency services, assist residents in obtaining anti-crime/safety resources, and promote and support community safety and anti-violence efforts in the Sixth and Seventh Police Districts. The CRT will also provide on-scene services, such as crisis intervention counseling and emotional support, and follow-up social services to victims, witnesses, and survivors of violent crimes.

The CRT consists of six response teams with two to five members per team. When requested by a member of the Violent Crimes Branch (VCB), including the Family Liaison Specialist (FLS) Unit,¹ or the MPD Liaison at the Regional Operations Command-East (ROC-East), CRT members will respond to scenes of serious assaults and homicides to facilitate the needs of victims, survivors and witnesses of those incidents. FLS Unit members will coordinate the notification and follow-up of homicide cases to the CRT. VCU, FLS, or ROC-East will, via telephone, notify CRT members of the critical incident within the first hour of the incident, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours of the incident. Within seven (7) days of responding to a homicide scene, the CRT will provide the FLS Unit with a summary of services provided at the scene and any follow-up assistance being offered to survivors of homicide victims and witnesses.

¹ The Family Liaison Specialist Unit has been established within the Homicide Division of the Violent Crimes Branch, Office of Superintendent of Detectives to provide consistent and meaningful support to survivors of homicide victims throughout the investigative process. FLS Unit members offer a range of services to survivors, including crisis intervention, emotional support, advocacy information, and referrals to other agencies and District resources that provide more specialized services.

CRT members will wear MPD issued identification cards (Attachment A) to ensure clear visibility to the public. CRT uniforms will consist of blue and white short sleeve polo style shirts and blue and white windbreaker jackets that will display the CRT logo. The CRT logo displays an emblem of a blue badge with a cross inside (Attachment 2).

The CRT Operations Office is located at 4105 First Street, S.E. Members who have questions or require more information regarding Clergy Response Teams can contact Lieutenant Gerry Scott, Regional Operations Command- East on 202-645-5333, or D'Sheka Winters, CRT Program Director, on 202-373-5767.



Nola M. Joyce
Senior Executive Director
Office of Organizational Development

Attachment

NMJ:MAR:mcw

**METROPOLITAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Civilian Employee



**POSITION/TITLE
CLERGY RESP. TEAM**

**D'SHEKA S.
WINTERS**


CHIEF OF POLICE

District of Columbia

CRT IDENTIFICATION CARD

ATTACHMENT 1



CRT LOGO

ATTACHMENT 2