



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Police Department Wins NACo Award

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . The Prince William County Police Department received an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its Robbery Suppression Initiative. The NACo Achievement Award is given to recognize county governments on a national level for their achievements in promoting quality, efficiency and responsibility in county government management and administration. The NACo award will be formally presented at the Board of County Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, at 2 p.m.

The Police Department's Robbery Suppression Initiative was developed to combat an increased number of robberies, particularly street robberies where Hispanic victims were targeted, in part, because it was perceived they would be alone and carrying large amounts of cash. As part of this multi-faceted program, members of the Street Crimes Unit engaged in proactive, zero tolerance enforcement in areas identified as prone to these types of crime. By being highly visible, initiating contacts with subjects and adhering to this "zero tolerance" policy, the initiative resulted in many criminal arrests, a reduced number of street robberies, an increased robbery closure rate, and money and weapon seizures.

"We are proud of the success of this program, and look forward to its continued success," said Chief Charlie T. Deane. "In addition to proactive enforcement efforts, an important aspect was the Street Crimes Unit's ability to establish a rapport and level of trust in the community. They were able to educate residents, provide prevention tips, and ultimately gain the confidence of community members which led to an increased number of arrests and investigative information. "

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