

Statement of Philosophy

As a law enforcement organization, the San Antonio Police Department is an essential component in the diverse fabric of the community it serves. In order to manifest this important responsibility, our guiding philosophy is to accomplish a contribution beneficial to the quality of life of each citizen. This commitment is satisfied through three fundamental roles:

- *At the municipal level, the Department serves as a basic element of the governmental structure of the City of San Antonio, conveying a wide variety of public services to each and every citizen;*
- *At the state level, the Department enforces the Criminal Laws of the State of Texas in order to maintain an acceptable level of peace and order within the community; and*
- *Finally, in a national sense, the Department safeguards individual rights and freedoms in the course of preserving the Constitution of the United States of America.*

The essence of the police mission is the effective provision of public assistance at every opportunity, through citizen confidence and involvement, organizational effectiveness and accountability, and individual dedication and commitment.

Achieving an appropriate degree of public confidence and involvement requires a spirit of close interaction with those we serve. To this end, the Department constantly strives to preserve and cultivate an open state of trust and communication with the community, clearly understanding the success of our organization is directly predicated on the quality of this relationship.

Organizational effectiveness and accountability are achieved in the course of a three part process: developing an intimate understanding of the needs of the community; subscribing to a system of effective planning, stringent budgeting, communicating expectations, and coordinating functions; and finally, monitoring and evaluating activities in order to sustain the highest possible degree of adherence to the goals and objectives of the Department.

The members of this Department constitute its most valuable resource. Thus, the promotion of individual dedication and commitment is one of our highest priorities. This goal mandates an internal environment that develops and stimulates a high degree of individual initiative and productivity through personnel development, training, and education. This investment serves to foster good judgment and common sense, the two most important foundations for police work.

The true difference in any organization is made by its members, those who subscribe to a spirit of collective dedication and commitment which is the final and most important ingredient in this entire formula.

WILLIAM P. MCMANUS
CHIEF OF POLICE