



10-4

A weekly Q&A
with local
law enforcement

Submit your question to news@owatonna.com or 444-3379

Q: How and when is the police department patrolling the neighborhoods?

To provide uniform police patrols throughout the residential areas, the police department has established three police districts within the geographical boundaries of the city. Each patrol district has a team of officers, supervisors and investigator(s) that are responsible for delivering police services to their respective districts. The uniformed officers are required to dedicate a minimum of one-third of their patrol time in these areas.

A fraction of this time is committed to Action Requests which is an effort by the police officers to direct their attention to a specific area or concern. An example of this would be a citizen request for service to address recurring problems that may be associated with traffic enforcement, parties/disturbances, suspicious person(s) or any other observations that law enforcement officers determine is necessary to increase police presence.

Additionally, the geographical policing approach is intended to increase visibility throughout the city and an opportunity for the police to develop partnerships with the people they serve. Most often, the uniformed officers are patrolling the residential areas in marked police cars which provide the officers with the ability to cover more territory and deliver a rapid response in the event of an emergency.

There are times, locations and circumstances when the officers take a proactive approach to investigating, identifying and apprehending offenders. This may include neighborhood meetings, crime alerts, saturation patrols, foot patrols, plain cloths investigations and utilizing vehicles that blend with the general public. Crime prevention and detection is a community wide effort that requires citizens to work jointly with law enforcement officials to enhance public safety and maintain peaceful neighborhoods.

To effectively provide police services to your neighborhood, we ask that residents be vigilant and report suspicious activity to the police immediately so officers can respond and direct resources where they are most needed.

To see the geographical areas of each police districts or to contact a district officer, please visit our website at www.ci.owatonna.mn.us. Or call the non-emergency telephone number at 444-3800.

Patrol Sergeant Jeff Mundale
South District Patrol Supervisor