

# West Manchester Township

Police Department  
"Second to None"



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## Peace Orders and Global Position Satellite Monitoring of Abusers

I would like to extend my thanks to this committee for allowing me to spend some time with you today to express my thoughts on this very important piece of proposed legislation.

As a police officer in this Commonwealth since 1975, I think of the many crime victims that I have come to know throughout the years. I think back and envision the many faces of people who emotionally recount the horrific details of what happened to them and wonder how this could occur in this quote "civilized" society in which we live. I begin to think what can we do as a society to restore the wholeness of these individuals to a life as they knew it prior to becoming victimized.

The answer to that frankly, is despite the best efforts of all of the combined components within the criminal justice system, we most likely will fail in that endeavor.

There is definitely a common thread among law enforcement officers as to why they entered our profession in the first place. That thread is simply that they all have a great desire to help people and by doing so, they believe that they can make a difference in the world in which we live. Police officers are also generally "can do" people and believe that in most cases, all problems have a solution.

Keeping this in mind, I think back over the many times whereby a victim was fearful for their wellbeing for good reason, however the actor in question has not yet crossed the threshold whereby a crime has been committed. These folks come to the police desperately seeking help and relief from their fears. It is little solace to them to explain that the actor has not broken any laws and that the police cannot respond to an illegal act which may not ever happen. The usual response is "Does this person have to kill me before you will do something about it."

Having these types of experiences happen time and again over a career begins to have a detrimental affect on most police officers in that they feel they are failing in their desire and duty to help people, they cannot always make a difference in the world, they in some cases become disillusioned and have found not all problems have solutions. These issues have caused many good men and women to leave the ranks of policing.

American policing has evolved from the old standard reactive style of policing whereby officers responded after a crime was committed focusing resources on apprehending the responsible

criminal element to a more efficient and effective proactive style of policing focusing resources on preventing crimes from occurring. Obviously, a proactive approach is the preferred approach today.

As a police administrator, I can place great emphasis on transforming departmental operations into a more proactive approach, realizing it is still necessary to respond in a reactive mode when proactive approaches fail to prevent criminal activity. However, police departments cannot go into this transformation alone. As a legislative body, you can respond to this challenge by enacting legislation such as Peace Orders and Global Position Satellite Monitoring of Abusers.

This legislation is proactive legislation which by its design will deter criminal activity. For every crime prevented by this legislation, we no longer need to hear the horrific details experienced by a crime victim, or worry about how to restore them to wholeness, or hear from a person that they cannot get help until they become a homicide statistic. We no longer will lose good men and women from the police ranks because they cannot fulfill their dreams as to why they became police officers in the first place.

From the perspective of police administration, there are other benefits to this legislation. From a crime prevention standpoint, police services and the costs related to providing police services can be cut. The hours of manpower needed to address these crimes if this legislation does not exist, can be significantly reduced by the enactment of this legislation. These hours could then be used to address other concerns and needs of the public. Needless to say, service reduction for a police department equates to cost reduction, a very important benefit in these economically challenging times.

In policing today, we are very centered on the concept of Community Oriented Policing. The definition of Community Oriented Policing is delivering police services that are customized to the needs of the neighborhoods being served, and an essential component of quality is customer focus. Simply put, listen to the public; understand and respond to their needs with a plan of action. Without a doubt there is a very real need for this legislation and that need has been voiced by many people looking for government to protect them and to help them through very difficult times. As our legislators, you obviously listen to the public and understand. Your plan of action is and should be the enactment of this legislation.

In doing so as a legislative body, you will have done the right thing, at the right time, for the right reasons. No one could ever expect more from you.

I believe that the concept of Community Oriented Policing is not unique to police service, but should be a philosophy adopted by all people working in the public service sector. In that regard I would like to commend Representative DePasquale and all the other sponsors and supporters of this piece of legislation for listening to that segment of society who cannot be served by our current Protection from Abuse Law and by responding to their needs by crafting this important legislation. You have demonstrated that you have adopted the concepts of Community Oriented Policing and applied them to the very important work you do in Harrisburg.

Thank you again for this opportunity