

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

WILLIAMSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY & PROCEDURE NO. 2.26	ISSUE DATE: 02/10/2022
	REVISION DATE: 03/01/2023
	REVIEW DATE: 03/01/2024

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Intelligence is an activity principally concerned with collecting, processing, and sharing of suspicious incidents and criminal intelligence relating to criminal and homeland security activities with appropriate entities, not always specifically related to a current criminal investigation. It is imperative to ensure the legality and integrity of the collection/handling/ and sharing process. Legal and privacy requirements prohibit collection and sharing of information by law enforcement if it does not meet the criminal activity or potential threat standard.

These areas typically include:

- Organized criminal activities;
- Subversive activities;
- Vice activities;
- Terrorism;
- Civil disorders.

The responsibility for the department's intelligence activities is assigned to the Chief of Police or their designee.

This policy addresses criminal intelligence. For information on terrorism intelligence, see the department policy **7.03 - Homeland Security**.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this department that intelligence gathering efforts shall not interfere with the exercise of constitutionally guaranteed rights and privileges; and that no intelligence information shall be gathered or retained unless it specifically relates to criminal conduct or to activities that present a threat to the community.

III. DEFINITIONS

Criminal Intelligence: Information compiled, analyzed and/or disseminated in an effort to anticipate, prevent, or monitor criminal activity.

Intelligence: For the purpose of this policy, intelligence refers to criminal intelligence unless otherwise noted.

Reasonable Suspicion: Information which establishes sufficient facts to give a trained law enforcement employee a basis to believe that there is a reasonable possibility that an individual or organization is involved in criminal activity.¹

Strategic Intelligence: Information concerning existing patterns or emerging trends of criminal activity designed to assist in criminal apprehension and crime control strategies, for both short- and long-term investigative goals.

Tactical Intelligence: Information regarding a specific criminal event that can be used immediately by operational units to further a criminal investigation, plan tactical operations, and provide for officer safety.

Threshold for criminal intelligence: The threshold for collecting information and producing criminal intelligence shall be the "reasonable suspicion" standard in 28 CFR, Part 23, Section 23.3 c. See "**Reasonable Suspicion**" in these definitions.

1

28CFR Part 23.20(c).

IV. PROCEDURES²

Description of the function

Intelligence gathering activities are important in all agencies, all agencies, regardless of size, must have a criminal intelligence function. The need to develop and share information and criminal intelligence across all levels of government is imperative. Each agency has a stake in the development and exchange of suspicious incidents, information, and criminal intelligence.

Intelligence Supervisor

The Chief of Police, or their designee, shall be the Intelligence Supervisor. The Intelligence Supervisor shall be the intelligence liaison for joint efforts and information exchanges with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

It is the responsibility of the Intelligence Supervisor to:

- Gather and organize intelligence information coming into the department through the use of field interview reports, informants/confidential sources, standard reporting procedures, investigation techniques, risk assessments and other sources.
- Ensure compliance with this policy.
- Evaluate raw data to determine:
 - If the data meets intelligence criteria for processing;
 - If there is any data of immediate value to the department operations;
 - If it should be processed further locally; and
 - If it should be forwarded to another intelligence-analyzing agency.

The Chief of Police shall monitor the data gathering, local analysis and storage processes to ensure that all information receives appropriate disposition and that only appropriate information is retained. The Chief of Police shall be responsible for the security of all such data.

The Chief of Police is responsible for disseminating intelligence information to appropriate department personnel so that investigations may be initiated when appropriate.

2

Recommendation 10 of the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan: Law Enforcement agencies should use the IACP's Criminal Intelligence Model Policy (2003 revision) as a guide when implementing or reviewing the intelligence function in their organizations. This policy is based upon the IACP model policy.

Gathering of Intelligence Information

GATHERING INTELLIGENCE

It is the responsibility of all officers to assist in the gathering of information on organized crime, subversive activities, vice activities, terrorism, and civil disorders.

The department will not knowingly collect intelligence data on any individual or group merely on the basis of:

- The individual's or group's support of unpopular causes;
- The individual's or group's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or political affiliation; or
- The individual's or group's lawful habits and/or predilections.

Information that implicates or suggests implication or complicity of any public official in criminal activity or corruption shall be immediately reported to the Chief of Police or Lieutenant.

REASONABLE SUSPICION THRESHOLD

The threshold for criminal intelligence information shall be reasonable suspicion for at least one of the following criteria:

- Arrest, indictment, or outstanding warrant(s);
- Any individual identified as a perpetrator of a crime by a witness or competent evidence;
- Any individual who threatens violence towards persons or property;
- Any individual who has been or is engaged in or is conspiring to engage in criminal activity;
- Any information that depicts the extent or scope of organized crime activity;
- Any information relating to the identity of a victim, witness, or complainant of organized crime activity;
- Any information relating to organized crime related social, political, business, or professional associations where said information reasonably demonstrates to the Intelligence Records supervisor that a potential for future criminal conduct exists; or
- Any information concerning an individual's criminal activity that provides tactical and/or strategic intelligence.

DATA GATHERING TECHNIQUES

- Field Interview Cards
- Electronic Recording Equipment
- Surveillance Van
- Night Vision Equipment
- GPS tracking system

RETENTION BY INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES

Officers shall not retain official intelligence documentation for personal reference or other purposes but shall submit such reports and information directly to the Chief of Police or Lieutenant.

Processing Intelligence Data

GENERALLY

The information gathered shall be subjected to review and analysis to derive its meaning and value. Information received from any source shall be recorded in **IMC Records; Field Entry Report.**

RECEIVING DATA

Information received from preliminary investigations or reports shall use this assigned field entry number and the Chief of Police/Lieutenant shall be contacted. If a record has not received an incident number, it will be assigned one prior to being submitted to the intelligence function.

REVIEWING RAW DATA

The Chief of Police/Lieutenant shall review intelligence information to ensure that the criminal data collected and maintained is limited to criminal conduct and relates to activities that present a threat to the community.

EVALUATION FOR RELIABILITY

The Chief of Police/Lieutenant shall evaluate all sources of information to determine which of the following applies to the source:

- Completely Reliable. No question as to authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency. Information supplied by a person has proven to be reliable in all instances.
- Usually, Reliable. There may be some doubt as to authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency. However, information previously supplied by that source has generally proven to be reliable in a majority of cases.
- Fairly Reliable. There may be some doubt as to authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency. However, information previously supplied by that source has generally proven to be reliable in a moderate number of cases.
- Unknown Reliability. Information supplied by that source cannot be determined by either judged experience or investigation. There is no way of knowing authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency.
- Not Usually Reliable. There is doubt as to authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency. Information previously supplied by that source has not been reliable, although occasional valid reports had been submitted.

All intelligence reports developed locally will indicate the source of information from which the data were obtained. The source will be evaluated as to its accuracy and validity. Attempts should be made to substantiate the

information through other sources. For information from informants, refer to the department policy **2.02 - Use of Confidential Informants**.

ANALYSIS

- Where possible, the above-described process should be accomplished by trained professional department analysts.
- Data will be analyzed for local criminal intelligence value.
- The information shall also be forwarded to other authorized organizations for analysis, which may include:
 - Massachusetts Fusion Center: 978-451-3700; and
 - New England State Police Intelligence Network (NESPIN): (508) 528-8200.

DISTRIBUTION

- Analytic material (i.e., intelligence) shall be compiled and provided to authorized recipients as soon as possible where meaningful trends, patterns, methods, characteristics or intentions of criminal enterprises or individuals emerge.
- Intelligence received from other organizations will be processed through the intelligence function for distribution to affected personnel.
- Reports and other investigative material and information received by this agency:
 - Shall remain the property of the originating agency but may be retained by this agency.
 - Shall be maintained in confidence, and no access shall be given to another agency except with the consent of the originating agency.
- The person disseminating intelligence information outside of the agency shall record all information disseminated in an intelligence dissemination log.

REQUESTS FOR INTELLIGENCE

GENERALLY

All requests for intelligence information received by the department shall be forwarded to the chief of police or Lieutenant.

VICE AND ORGANIZED CRIME

All requests for information concerning vice and organized crime control investigations received by the department shall be forwarded to the chief of police or designee. They shall be the designated liaison for joint efforts and information exchanges with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Where applicable, all requests for information shall be processed in accordance with the Criminal Offender Records Information Act, M.G.L. c. 6 §§168 to 178B. See department policy **4.07 - Criminal Offender Record Information**.

Intelligence Records

RECORDS FILING

All record files shall include the subject's name, address and an incident or arrest number and shall be so filed as to be retrievable by any of these data fields.

HARD RECORD FILES

Because of the highly sensitive nature of these activities, records concerning active intelligence gathering and intelligence records shall be maintained separately from central records and central investigative records. These records shall be maintained in the police chief's office in a secured file and shall be accessed only by the chief of police, lieutenant, and sergeant(s).

ELECTRONIC FILES

Data processing systems used for these purposes shall be password-protected to limit access to authorized personnel only. Access authorization shall be controlled by the chief of police/lieutenant.

Review and Evaluation of Records

All information retained shall be evaluated as to its continued relevancy and importance at least annually. The Chief of Police/Lieutenant shall ensure such review.

The purpose of this review and audit shall be to determine:

- That no files are being kept which violate the substantive provisions of these procedures;
- That the department is following procedures which ensure that material retained is relevant to the department's mission; and
- That all outdated or irrelevant information is purged from the files. Such destruction shall be conducted under the direction of the Intelligence Records supervisor.

Destruction of Records

All intelligence records shall be destroyed in such a manner as to make them unusable. This includes out of date or incorrect information. Paper records and flexible media (CDs and DVDs) shall be shredded. Hard drives and other hard media shall be cleansed of data or destroyed. For further information, see the department policy **4.21 - Computers and Data Security**.

Training

Training for all personnel is conducted and documented by the Training Coordinator or designee. Training can occur as part of roll call and should emphasize that all personnel, regardless of their jobs, have a role in criminal intelligence and the sharing of information.

