



## A Comparative Analysis of the Institutionalization of Citizen Participation in Public-Private Mechanisms for Ensuring Public Safety: Regional Approaches and Their Adaptability within the Decentralized System of Law and Order in the United States

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### ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the analysis of public-private partnerships in ensuring public safety in the United States, with an emphasis on the comparative study of models of civic participation. The author explores various approaches to involving citizens in law enforcement, considering their evolution and effectiveness in the context of a decentralized U.S. government system. The article provides a comparative analysis of models of civic participation, taking into account the characteristics of different regions, with an emphasis on their organizational characteristics, training, powers and contribution to ensuring public order. The work highlights the importance of flexibility and adaptability in approaches to organizing volunteer activities in law enforcement agencies.

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### Introduction

In the conditions of modern reality, when security threats are becoming increasingly complex and diverse, the need to involve citizens and civil society institutions in the process of ensuring public safety is increasing. Active participation of the population and public organizations in ensuring law and order is becoming the most important element of state policy aimed at developing social partnership between law enforcement agencies and society.

Many developed countries recognize the significant potential of civic engagement in preventing and combating crime and delinquency. The United States of America, as a leading liberal democracy, has a wealth of experience in engaging citizens in ensuring public order that can serve as an example for other countries.

This paper will analyze the U.S. experience in engaging citizens in public safety and law enforcement and offer recommendations for its possible application. Volunteerism is deeply rooted in U.S. culture, where a significant number of citizens take pride in participating in unpaid community service, including work in government agencies, fire departments, social institutions, and other areas of public importance.

Volunteering in the United States is perceived as a form of public service, and many see auxiliary police service as a way to help their loved ones, neighbors, and create a safer environment for their families. Depending on their level of training and competence, volunteers may be involved in a variety of roles, from

administrative tasks to duties similar to those of full-time police officers, with the corresponding authority and responsibility.

The law enforcement context in the United States allows for citizen involvement based on a variety of factors, including state laws, local jurisdiction, and historical context. The modern citizen involvement system for public safety reflects the state's policy of promoting safety and security in society. This system clearly demonstrates the state's commitment to creating conditions in which every citizen can contribute to maintaining public order and safety.

### **Comparative analysis of models**

The law enforcement context in the United States allows for citizen involvement based on a variety of factors, including state laws, local jurisdiction, and historical context. The modern system of citizen involvement in public safety reflects the state's policy of strengthening security and stability in society. This system demonstrates the state's commitment to creating conditions in which every citizen can contribute to maintaining public order and safety.

Although citizens have been involved in public safety in the United States since the early 20th century, the legislative framework was created in 1941 as part of the federal law on the creation of the US Civil Defense Corps (Order No. 8757, United States Citizen Service Corps)<sup>1</sup>, and later in more detail in the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950.<sup>2</sup>

Volunteering is especially important in US policing. Some estimates suggest that 30% of all public safety organizations in the United States use volunteers.<sup>3</sup>

Volunteer police officers are generally welcomed and valued within the police service, especially within the community policing philosophy. Throughout the United States, community policing programs are part of local police, sheriff's offices, or police agencies.

There are more than 18,000 such organizations in total, and each of them has its own internal policies, local ordinances, as well as laws and regulations that govern their work.<sup>4</sup> This decentralization is partly determined by the size of police departments, which range from ten to ten thousand full-time officers.<sup>5</sup> How each of these police departments implements its model of cooperation with citizens and their involvement in security activities.

Although the number of volunteer officers in the United States is poorly documented, recent studies have shown that there are up to 58,500 volunteer police officers and volunteer deputy sheriffs in the United States, with another 19,000 reserve and auxiliary police officers. In the United States, there are more than 77,500 volunteer police officers in total.

Experts estimate that volunteer police officers make up about 12 percent of the 635,781 professional police officers in city and county police departments. Other estimates put the number of volunteers at 20 percent of the 404,000<sup>6</sup> police officers, with volunteers dedicating an average of nine hours a week to their role. It has been estimated that 30% of all public safety organizations in the United States use volunteers. These figures indicate that volunteer police are an important part of the police organization in the United States.

Because of the significant decentralization of law enforcement, jurisdiction, and politics in the United States, it is virtually impossible to create a standard definition of volunteer police in the United States. In the southern

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<sup>1</sup>Establishing the Office of Civilian Defense in the Office for Emergency Management of the Executive Office of the President, Federal Register page and date: 6 FR 2517, May 22, 1941 //The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) // <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/1941.html#8757>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.nj.gov/njoem/laws-directives/federal-statutes.shtml>

<sup>3</sup>JLBrudney, JEKellough, Volunteers in state government: Involvement, management, and benefits // Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, vol. 29(1), 2000, pp. 111–130.

<sup>4</sup>MAGreenberg, MA Auxiliary police: The citizen's approach to public safety. Westport Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1984.

<sup>5</sup>A. Dobrin, Volunteer Police: History, Benefits, Costs, and Current Descriptions. Security Journal. 2015. doi:10.1057/sj.2015.18

<sup>6</sup>R.Wolf, C.B.Jones. Volunteer Police, Choosing to Serve. Exploring, Comparing, and Assessing Volunteer Policing in the United States and the United Kingdom. 2018, // p. 11.

and western United States, these volunteers often have some police training and some police powers. In the northern and eastern United States, it is much more common to find volunteer police officers with no police powers, very little training, and powers to act only as the "eyes and ears" of the police. In one state, a volunteer auxiliary police officer may be defined as a volunteer with partial or full law enforcement powers, while in another state, the same status may be used to define a volunteer with no police powers.

Most jurisdictions in the United States allow volunteers with appropriate training to carry firearms, but arming volunteer police is not widespread throughout the United States.

To understand the contrast The use of volunteers to ensure public safety can be improved by conducting a comparative analysis of the models used by various large and well-known American law enforcement agencies.

DepartmentThe NYPD has maintained the NYPD Auxiliary Police Program since 1951, following the passage of the Defense Emergency Act 1951 784/51.<sup>7</sup> Originally created to assist in civil defense and disaster response, these duties have expanded to include uniformed patrol and crime prevention under the direction of the NYPD.

New York City Police Department Auxiliary Police Officers must be: at least 17 years of age,

have adequate health,

good moral qualities,

a valid New York State driver's license or New York State identification card,

pass a preliminary check,

adhere to a zero tolerance policy towards drugs,

speak, read and write in English,

be a U.S. citizen or have authorization to work in the United States, and be a permanent legal resident of one of the five boroughs of New York City or one of the six surrounding counties (Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, or Putnam) and work in New York City<sup>8</sup>.

Auxiliary candidatesPolice officers undergo a 16-week, 50-hour preparatory course, during which the candidate receives instruction in New York State criminal and criminal procedure law, special means and self-defense tactics, CPR and first aid, patrol techniques, police procedures, traffic control, and other related topics. At the end of the training, a written and physical exam is administered.<sup>9</sup>

After completing the training courses, an auxiliary police officer may be assigned to:

patrolling residential complexes and commercial areas;

patrolling transit areas (entrances and metro stations);

maintain public order at public events (parades, festivals, street fairs and other events);

patrolling religious institutions (houses of worship);

providing assistance in carrying out crime prevention activities;

implementation of traffic control at the sites of road accidents and fires<sup>10</sup>.

In this case, to carry out this activity, an auxiliary police officer is more likely to will only be assigned to the neighborhood where he or she resides. Auxiliary Police officers patrol on foot, in vehicles, or on bicycles and have no powers of arrest or law enforcement, are not armed with firearms, and may only report and observe unlawful activity to the NYPD dispatcher. They are tasked solely to act as additional "eyes and ears" for the NYPD, serving as a visual deterrent to criminal activity.

Except In addition, court decisions have held that New York State Auxiliary Police officers cannot be used as substitutes for police officers or assigned to positions that pose a risk. According to local regulations and instructions, New York Auxiliary Police officers cannot patrol independently, cannot act as essential staff, and do not have the power to arrest. These auxiliary officers are equipped with batons, handcuffs, and radios.

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<sup>7</sup>Defense Emergency Act 1951 784/51 // 2006 New York Code // US Codes and Statutes // US Law Justia // <https://law.justia.com/codes/new-york/2006/defense-emergency-act-1951-784.51>

<sup>8</sup>The Official Website of the City of New York // <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-01412>

<sup>9</sup>The New York City Police Department (NYPD) // <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/careers/human-resources-info/auxiliary-police.page>

<sup>10</sup>The New York City Police Department (NYPD) // <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/careers/human-resources-info/auxiliary-police.page>

Even Given these restrictions, volunteer program staff New York Police Department, the number of which is more than 4,500 people. Volunteer officers of the New York Police Department wear uniforms almost identical to those worn by city police.<sup>11</sup>, patrol the streets and other public places, annually volunteering over a million hours and are a key component in improving public safety and security, being a visual deterrent to crime.

Another model operates in Los Angeles, California. There, about 650 volunteers - Reserve Corps - have the same duties, functions and powers as full-time officers, including the power of arrest.<sup>12</sup>.

California has a relatively complex system with police volunteer classifications. Level 3 reserves can perform a limited number of duties, Level 2 reserves can perform general police duties but must be supervised by a Level 1 reserve or a full-time officer. Level 1 officers can work independently, performing police duties in the same way as full-time officers.<sup>13</sup>.

SpareThe Los Angeles Police Department is a police corps under the supervision of the Los Angeles Police Department. The LAPD program accepts candidates who are at least 21 years of age and older and who undergo the same background check, selection, and training procedures. The specific certification level and designation options depend on the number of hours of training.

To be accepted into the Police Reserve Corps, a candidate must be in good physical and mental health with no disabilities.

Must have a valid California Class C driver's license.

Must have no history of criminal offences or improper personal conduct that would affect suitability for police service.

Must have a US high school diploma or GED equivalent<sup>14</sup>.

The City of Los Angeles requires that a reserve officer candidate have legal authorization to work in the United States in accordance with federal law.

Officers LAPD "Level III" reserve officers undergo 144 hours of training over 11 months, may be armed, and are assigned administrative duties only.

Reserve officers Level I and II receive additional training. Reserve officers Level II receive approximately 189 hours of professional training, and Level I receive approximately 394 hours of professional training.<sup>15</sup>.

Classes are held at the Ahmanson Recruit Training Center.<sup>16</sup>Los Angeles Police Department, Elysian Park Academy<sup>17</sup>in Los Angeles and/or at the Edward M. Davis Training Facility<sup>18</sup>.

Volunteer police officers may have the same or very similar uniforms as their staff agency counterparts, or they may have uniforms that are intentionally different from others.

Officers"Level II" and "Level I" reserve officers are armed, perform the same patrol duties as full-time LAPD officers and work with them on a regular basis, and are certified California police officers authorized to make arrests and engage in routine police activities. The LAPD Reserve Corps currently consists of more than 950 reserve officers in addition to the 9,500 full-time LAPD officers.<sup>19</sup>.

Florida State Police Volunteer Police are divided into two categories: auxiliary police, which have less powers than full-time police officers and must be supervised or in contact with a fully certified officer.

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<sup>11</sup>Auxiliary Police Role Stirs Debate - The New York Times December 27, 1976, P. 1 //

<https://www.nytimes.com/1976/12/27/archives/auxiliary-police-role-stirs-debate-role-of-the-auxiliary-police-in.html>

<sup>12</sup>Wolf, R., Albrecht, J., & Dobrin, A. Reserve Policing in the United States: Citizens Volunteering for Public Service. The Police Chief. 2015. 82(10), pp. 38-47

<sup>13</sup>Wolf, R., Pepper, I. & Dobrin, A. An exploratory international comparison of professional confidence in volunteer policing. The Police Journal: Theories, Practice, and Principles. Advance online publication. 2016.

<sup>14</sup>General Educational Development (GED) is an exam that consists of a set of tests in four subjects, passing which confirms that the examinee has academic skills at the level of a U.S. or Canadian high school. The exam is an alternative to the U.S. high school diploma.

<sup>15</sup><https://laprf.org/become-a-reserve/requirements/>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.joinlapd.com/academy-training>

<sup>17</sup><https://lapraac.org/>

<sup>18</sup><https://clui.org/projects/emergency-state/ed-davis-training-facility>

<sup>19</sup>Los Angeles Police Department Reserve Police Officer Program website:

[http://www.lapdonline.org/get\\_informed/content\\_basic\\_view/542](http://www.lapdonline.org/get_informed/content_basic_view/542) accessed June 24, 2015



In Florida, there are two categories of "volunteer police" - "auxiliary" officers and part-time volunteer police officers.<sup>20</sup> Auxiliary officers are individuals who have completed basic courses at the police academy.<sup>21</sup>, (firearms training, defensive tactics, patrolling techniques, criminal investigations, first aid basics, emergency vehicle operation training). Auxiliaries must complete more than 319 hours of training.<sup>22</sup> In addition, all volunteers must undergo a certain level of on-the-job ("field") training.

Part-time employees are required to receive the same training as full-time employees (at least 770 hours) and must pass a state final assessment.<sup>23</sup>

It should be noted, however, that Florida has stricter requirements for candidates to join certain auxiliary law enforcement units. For example, to participate in the Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary volunteer program<sup>24</sup>(FHP) The candidate must be at least 21 years of age, have a high school diploma or one year of post-high school work experience or thirty semester hours of college or university experience, and a driver's license. Two years of active duty military or law enforcement service are also required for admission to the program, and can't have with conviction for drunk driving will be<sup>25</sup>. In addition, it is required undergo a background check, physical and drug testing, polygraph test, psychological and medical examination<sup>26</sup>At the same time, conditions regarding appearance, tattoos, vision, height and weight are discussed separately for candidates.

For example, it is specifically stated that tattoos on the neck, hands, wrists and fingers are grounds for disqualification. Any visual impairment that interferes with the performance of the basic functions of the auxiliary FHP entails disqualification of the candidate. In addition, the candidate cannot be a member of any other auxiliary police organization, should not work in an official position related to the involvement of towing companies, as a private detective or the owner of a private detective agency. Such activity of the candidate may be considered a conflict of interest and be grounds for disqualification<sup>27</sup>.

FHP volunteers are required to complete 364 hours of training at the Florida Highway Patrol Academy.<sup>28</sup> These training areas include: criminal law, traffic laws, search and seizure procedures, witness testimony process, accident investigation, report writing, first aid, firearms training, self-defense, emergency driving.

The Florida Highway Patrol covers all training costs and provides all necessary equipment and uniforms used by an auxiliary state trooper.

## Classification

To understand the system of organizing volunteer activities in the United States, it is necessary to take into account the peculiarities of the state structure of the country itself. The state system of governance, including the bodies responsible for public safety, is characterized by a high degree of decentralization, which allows federal and local jurisdictions to develop and apply their own laws, regulations, as well as rules and instructions governing the involvement of citizens in ensuring public activities. In total, there are more than 18,000<sup>29</sup> police departments and organizations, each of which has its own internal policies and local regulations that govern their work.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>20</sup>Mayorov VI, Wolf R. Citizen participation in policing: volunteer police in the United States and voluntary national teams in Russia. Problems of law No. 5 (59) 2016. RR-101-107

<sup>21</sup><https://police.fsu.edu/organization/crime-prevention-outreach/citizens-police-academy>

<sup>22</sup><https://fhpauxiliary.com/index.php?page=training>

<sup>23</sup>Mayorov VI, Wolf R. Citizen participation in policing: volunteer police in the United States and voluntary national teams in Russia. Problems of law No. 5 (59) 2016. RR-101-107

<sup>24</sup><https://www.flhsmv.gov/florida-highway-patrol/patrol-support/>

<sup>25</sup><https://fhpauxiliary.com/index.php?page=requirements#>

<sup>26</sup><https://fhpauxiliary.com/index.php?page=requirements>

<sup>27</sup><https://fhpauxiliary.com/index.php?page=requirements#>

<sup>28</sup><https://beatrooper.com/about-the-academy/training-academy/>

<sup>29</sup>A. Dobrin, R. Wolf, IK Pepper, SW Fallik, Volunteer Police: What Predicts Confidence in Training? Criminal Justice Policy Review 30(3), 2017

<sup>30</sup>VI Mayorov, R. Wolf R, Citizen participation in policing: volunteer police in the United States and voluntary national teams in Russia. Problems of law No. 5 (59)/2016. pp. 101-107

Although volunteer police officers can be divided into two groups: those with police powers and those without, they play different roles in police services. They are often referred to as "reserve officers," "auxiliary officers," "volunteer police," and "auxiliary police," but even these terms are used differently across the country. These categories represent volunteers who participate in police work, but there are significant differences in their functions, powers, and organizational aspects that vary from state to state and city to city.

These volunteers may be fully sworn and certified; have limited certification or law enforcement powers; or, in some cases, have no state or local certification but have law enforcement powers granted by a law enforcement agency, usually an elected sheriff. In many cases, volunteer police officers wear the same or very similar uniforms<sup>31</sup>, as their regular colleagues, and in almost all cases are armed in the same way as regular police officers.

An analysis of government data shows that volunteer police are more diverse in terms of the state, county, municipality, and demographic makeup of the communities they serve than police agencies.

Citizens who volunteer in police systems can be divided into three categories: individuals considering a career in the police force in full-time positions; retired police officers; and individuals who have not served in the police force and do not plan to do so in the future.

The first category is citizens considering career advancement in police departments. They choose volunteering in law enforcement as an opportunity to gain the training and experience needed to apply for full-time positions as police officers, deputy sheriffs, or other law enforcement positions.

Volunteer training involves many hours of training to gain the experience needed to serve as full-time police officers.<sup>32</sup> At the same time, by serving as a volunteer, citizens can better understand the essence of the work of police institutions, the work system, the distribution of activities and the internal procedure of the police department, which increases their chances in the future when applying for a job.<sup>33</sup>

The second category of citizens actively participating in volunteer programs are retired police officers who consider this activity as one of the ways to preserve police culture and the opportunity to maintain social ties in the police community, in which they have been for many years, to apply professional experience, knowledge and skills.

This group of voluntary law enforcement officers retire full-time<sup>34</sup> and continue to give their time to the organizations they once worked for as employees. Some of these former full-time officers have served their entire careers, with some holding high positions within the department. These volunteers are willing to sacrifice their time to serve the community or to avoid losing their police certification if they fail to meet the appropriate standards. This group is an anomaly in American volunteer policing and is not often found in other countries where volunteer policing is used.<sup>35</sup>

Attraction "retirees" to work is one of the priority areas of activity for most police leaders. The logic of the leaders is extremely simple and consists in the fact that the retirement of a regular employee who has become an agency specialist leads to a decrease in organizational capabilities and a loss of institutional knowledge. An interesting solution to this problem is to involve many of these retired experts as volunteers.

In Texas, Florida and many other states, volunteering as a police officer allows retirees to maintain their state law enforcement certification.

For example, The Florida Highway Patrol's volunteer programs have simplified screening and training procedures for retired police officers. The New York City Police Department also initiated the Retiree

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<sup>31</sup>Elizabeth C. Bartels Volunteer Police in the United States Programs, Challenges, and Legal Aspects, 2014. P.28

<sup>32</sup>R. Wolf, S.Holmes, C.Jones, Utilization and satisfaction of volunteer law enforcement officers in the office of the American sheriff: An exploratory national study // Police Practice and Research: An International Journal. 2016. 17(5), pp. 448-462

<sup>33</sup>R. Wolf, J. Albrecht, A. Dobrin, Reserve Policing in the United States: Citizens Volunteering for Public Service. The Police Chief. 2015. 82(10), pp. 38-47

<sup>34</sup>R. Wolf, S.Holmes, C.Jones, Utilization and satisfaction of volunteer law enforcement officers in the office of the American sheriff: An exploratory national study, Not 'just a reserve. Sheriff 63, no. 3 (2011)

<sup>35</sup>I. Pepper, R. Wolf, Volunteering to serve: An international comparison of volunteer police officers in a UK North East Police Force and a US Florida Sheriff's Office, Police Journal: Theories, Practice, and Principles, (2015).

Mobilization Plan (RMP) in 2005.<sup>36</sup> to maximize the organization's efforts to respond to critical incidents and large-scale emergencies with experienced and trained first responders. RMP volunteers receive routine training but are only deployed in emergency situations. The NYPD Personnel Bureau maintains a database listing the expertise and specialization of each RMP member, and in the event of a call, the NYPD Incident Commander will determine on-scene which assignment will best enhance the effectiveness of that particular mission. Currently, the NYPD RMP program is attended by over 10,000 retired NYPD officers who do not have police powers, receive no financial compensation, and participate to maintain the professional ethos of law enforcement.

Former police officers who have chosen the role of "volunteer police" can also be used as detectives, crime scene investigators, law enforcement officers, traffic police<sup>37</sup> and other areas of law enforcement activities that require specific training.

There is also a third category of voluntary citizens. These are citizens who have never served in the police, never did not hold any full-time positions in law enforcement agencies and has no intention of doing so. They often work in other fields (doctors, lawyers, business owners, mechanics, teachers, university professors, airline pilots, etc.<sup>38</sup>

In terms of skills, knowledge and ability to perform individual tasks, they can work in a police role, but they will never apply for full-time law enforcement positions. Volunteers from this group believe that performing this role satisfies their need to serve their community by helping others, experiencing new things and interacting with people.

Although the number of volunteers working in police agencies is estimated to be as high as 200,000, with the number of volunteers serving as reservists or auxiliary police officers estimated to be considerably smaller. However, studies of volunteer police officers in America have shown that they are a fairly homogeneous population. American law enforcement volunteers are more likely to be white, male, college-educated, and nearly half may be over 40 years old.<sup>39</sup>

Undoubtedly, it is difficult to conclude which of these departments can be considered better quality, since the functions of their units are different, but it is obvious that dedicated citizens - police volunteers, regardless of jurisdiction, make a significant contribution to ensuring public safety.

Differences in the use of volunteers can also be found in their functions. Many agencies try to use the expertise of their volunteers in performing specific police functions. Analysis of data provided by police departments and various volunteer programs allowed us to identify the main areas of activity for police volunteers:

Administrative: police bulletin work, answering phones, front desk work, taking photographs and entering information into various databases. Filing, typing, copying and other office work. Conducting inventory and assistance in storing equipment.

Animal Control: Assist in the care of impounded animals, care of mounted patrol horses, K9 unit dog handlers.

Public events: worked at information kiosks at public safety posts, controlling people and regulating traffic during the organization and holding of mass events, including football matches, parades and various festivals.

Emergency assistance: participation in groups providing assistance during emergencies and natural disasters (hurricanes, tornadoes, fires). Setting up barricades in case of special events or dangerous spills.

Fingerprinting: Taking fingerprints from individuals who have not committed a crime, such as children, job applicants, and firearms registrants.

Home visits: visiting elderly or disabled people to ensure their safety and well-being.

<sup>36</sup>NYPD Mobilization plan for retired cops [https://www.nycop.com/Fall\\_2006/InterstateHighwaySystemforSale/NYPD\\_Mobilization\\_Plan\\_for\\_Ret/body\\_nypd\\_mobilization\\_plan\\_for\\_ret.html](https://www.nycop.com/Fall_2006/InterstateHighwaySystemforSale/NYPD_Mobilization_Plan_for_Ret/body_nypd_mobilization_plan_for_ret.html)

<sup>37</sup>R. Wolf, J. Albrecht, A. Dobrin, Reserve Policing in the United States: Citizens Volunteering for Public Service. The Police Chief. 2015. 82(10), pp. 38-47

<sup>38</sup>R. Wolf, S. Holmes, C. Jones, Utilization and satisfaction of volunteer law enforcement officers in the office of the American sheriff: An exploratory national study // Police Practice and Research: An International Journal. 2016. 17(5), pp. 448-462

<sup>39</sup>SM Hilal, DP Olsen, Police reserve officers: Essential in today's economy and an opportunity to increase diversity in the law enforcement profession. <https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/police-reserve-officers-essential-in-todays-economy-and-an-opportunity-to-increase-diversity-in-the-law-enforcement-profession/>

**Translators:** providing translation assistance for the police.

**Investigations:** Assistance in the investigation of missing persons and other unsolved cases. In some departments, volunteers may serve in specialized drug enforcement units.

**Patrol:** One of the most common roles, community patrol members primarily reported incidents to police and did not directly intervene in incidents. In some jurisdictions, volunteers were also assigned to conduct targeted patrols for specific types of offenses, such as reporting graffiti. Volunteers may patrol on foot, in a vehicle, or on horseback.

**Public Relations:** Assistance in conducting tours of various public places that require some precaution, such as subway stations. Also, assistance in conducting campaigns to improve public safety.

**Safety checks:** Checking homes that are temporarily or permanently unoccupied. Some volunteers are specifically trained to check the safety of homes and businesses.

**Security guards:** escorting citizens in the interests of public safety. For example, escorting children to and from school, providing escorts for school and college students on excursions and campuses.

**Transportation:** Performing maintenance work on the police vehicle fleet. Acting as messengers for police departments, delivering documents and other materials. In some sheriff's departments, volunteers assist with transporting (escorting) prisoners, delivering intoxicated persons.

**Traffic Management:** Use to manage traffic at crime scenes, accident scenes, major events and checkpoints, and to enforce parking regulations. Report incidents or issue tickets for parking violations in disabled parking spaces and fire lanes. Use radar to detect speeders.

**Victims:** recruited as crisis counselors primarily for victims of domestic violence and also for the elderly.

**Youth Services:** Working with at-risk youth through police-sponsored programs such as the Police Athletic League (PAL)<sup>40</sup>.

Volunteers performing these functions receive varying training, powers, and responsibilities depending on the geographic location in which they are deployed, state and local laws or federal regulations, and the duties for which they are responsible.

## **Conclusion**

There is no single, unified approach to organizing volunteer policing in the United States, and patterns of cooperation with citizens vary significantly across the country. In the South and West, volunteers often have some level of training and at least some police powers. In contrast, in the North and East, volunteers with relatively little training and no police powers are more common. In one state, the term "auxiliary police" may refer to a volunteer with partial or full police powers, while in another, the same status may refer to a volunteer with no powers at all.

A thorough understanding of these aspects, the correct use of models, as well as the continuous improvement and integration of modern technologies can significantly improve the effectiveness of measures to ensure public order and safety.

The U.S. experience in engaging citizens in public safety and public order is a valuable example for other countries. It is important that states seeking to implement such initiatives consider both the positive aspects and the existing problems and challenges, working to overcome them to achieve maximum results. Engaging citizens in public safety and public order can significantly improve the level of safety and well-being of society, as demonstrated by the successful experience of the United States.

Thus, it can be concluded that the United States has an effectively developed mechanism for supporting and developing volunteer activities. The experience of foreign countries, adapted to local conditions, can be useful for attracting, training and supporting volunteers. The introduction of such programs can contribute to increasing civic activity and developing a culture of volunteerism in various sectors.

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