

## **Perimeter Patrol**

Under normal patrol conditions, as a member of the Citizens On Patrol you will patrol local and main roadways, parking lots, schools, and parks. During normal conditions you will drive through these areas and not have to stay on the perimeter. In many cases in daylight you will even walk through these areas.

In the evening when it is dark and/or when you encounter a new and unfamiliar location you will perform perimeter patrol tactics to validate that an exit exists and/or to look into an area without entering it. This is not meant to say you should not enter a park parking lot after dark as in most cases it is safe and you will make entry. Perimeter patrol provides a patrol method that you can and should to observe areas that a police officer may do via driving down park sidewalks after dark.

**Purpose:** Perimeter Patrol is a patrol method used by the Citizens On Patrol in order to safely understand the surroundings of a premise check being made without entering the location or to verify the entry and exit points of a location before entering.

Citizens On Patrol are not officers and must utilize safety techniques such as the perimeter check to keep them out of harms way.

While officers are trained to handle situations and are armed should an event warrant such action, Citizens On Patrol are unarmed and are an extra set of eyes and ears for the Des Plaines Police Department. Entry to know areas with an exit path is a normal patrol expectation for Citizens On Patrol; use of parameter patrol is for areas that are unknown and also to validate entry/exit points before making entry.

### **What is a perimeter check?**

#### **A perimeter check is:**

- Checking the outside perimeter of the location by driving around the location, viewing inside, but not entering
- Staying out the outside perimeter and using the alley lights or spot light to illuminate the area and allow you to observe without entering
- Checking to make sure you have an “exit” by viewing the location from a safe distance before entering
- Staying at the entrance and utilizing your eyesight from a distance to look into the location for any unusual activity but not entering
- Driving the perimeter of a dark park and after hours without entering to observe what is going on or other condition. Again, under normal daylight and in most areas you will be and it is safe to enter the park.
- Driving the airport perimeter, looking into driveways or other areas for an activity or event but not going into the driveway or area

**Safety:**

- Perimeter patrol is used to protect your partner and your safety
- Perimeter patrol insures you are aware of your surroundings before entering a location
- Perimeter patrol allows you to observe an area or situation from a safe distance
- Perimeter patrol allows you to observe and report events via cell phone or radio and have an officer investigate while keeping you a safe distance away
- Perimeter patrol allows you to know you have an exit before you enter a location

**Your safety is important** – do not go into an area without knowing you have an exit and that you have observed the area and are fairly sure of your surroundings. Know your location in case you must request an officer or other assistance such as the fire department.

Under normal circumstances you will enter school, park, and business areas and parking lots. Perimeter patrol is for those situations you are uncertain with and until the area becomes familiar and that you know the entry and exits points.