**The impact of public sector austerity on community policing: a case study of Dorset Police, England, Johannes Oosthuizen, University of North Georgia**

**Abstract**

Community Policing, or Neighborhood Policing, as it’s known cross-Atlantic in England & Wales, has long been seen as a medium to long term solution for dealing with problematic crime and public confidence ever since it’s English introduction by Sir Robert Peel in 1829 as part of the newly formed Metropolitan Police. Fast forward almost 2 centuries and community/neighborhood policing finds itself in a very different place, cannibalized by international austerity policing measures, subjected to significant reductions in public confidence as a result of high-profile media cases and in some instances, an abandonment by the police of the basic principles of community/neighborhood policing in order to support unprecedented public demands on frontline emergency services. This presentation looks at an observational deep dive of the activities of neighborhood police officers in a police force in southern England in 2015 and attempts to discuss the reason for the ‘mission creep’. It will explain what activities dominated their daily activities and the recommendations offered to Chief Officers in order to support evidence-based solutions, designed to encourage the public to continue to trust and be confident in their local police officers and the tasks they are assigned around the prevention and detection of crime, high-visibility patrols and community engagement.