

# Chapter Goals



- Identify key historical events shaping juvenile policing
- Understand key roles of police in responding to juvenile crime
- Know organization and management of police service for juveniles
- Be aware of major court cases influencing police work with juveniles
- Understand key legal aspects of police work
- Describe police use of discretion with juveniles
- Be familiar with major policing strategies to prevent delinquency
- Know pros/cons of different delinquency prevention policing strategies

# Case Profile: Rico's Story



## Rico grew up in Harlem

- One of 12 children raised by his mom
- Father heavily involved in criminal behavior
- Attended large urban school plagued with violence
- School employed police to create safer environment
- Involved in fight at school during freshman year
- Police discretion kept Rico out of juvenile system
- Rico successfully completed school and is now a professor at a community college

# History of Juvenile Policing



- Specialized police services for juveniles is recent phenomenon
- Historical development of police organizations
  - Pledge system
  - Watch system
  - Bobbies
  - Sheriff
- Historical development of working with juveniles
  - Delinquency control squads
  - Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
  - Juvenile police officer

# Police and Juvenile Offenders



- Primary responsibility is protection of public
- Community policing emphasizes partnerships with community to address crime
- Juvenile officers operate as a specialist or a member of a special unit
- Role conflicts exist for police dealing with juveniles
  - Primary duty of law enforcement vs. desire to rehabilitate youth
  - Best interests of child v discretion
  - Use of juveniles as informants
  - True role of juvenile officer exists somewhere between law enforcer and social worker

# Police and Violent Juvenile Crime



- Violent crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and kidnapping
- Police experimenting with various methods of controlling violent juvenile crime
  - Directed patrols of hot spots
  - Proactive arrests of serious offenders
  - Problem oriented policing
- Improving community connections is essential to combating violent juvenile crime

# Police and the Rule of Law



- Arrest of juveniles:
  - Requires probable cause
  - Differs from adults in broad authority for police to take juveniles into custody
  - *In loco parentis* serves as basis for taking juveniles into custody
- Search and seizure:
  - Juveniles have some rights as adults
  - See Concept Summary 12.1 for warrantless searches
- Custodial interrogation
  - Miranda rights apply to children taken into custody
  - Waiver of rights by juveniles very controversial issue
  - Waiver can occur without parents or attorneys present

# Discretionary Justice



- Juveniles enjoy nearly identical procedural protections as adults
  - Police have broader discretion in dealing with juveniles
- Factors affecting police discretion with juveniles
  - Norms of the community
  - Policies of the department
  - Customs of the department
  - Level of procedural justice
  - Situational factors
    - traits of offenders
    - level of hostility
    - attitude of juvenile
    - contriteness
    - type/seriousness of offense, etc.

# Bias and Police Discretion



- Do police allow bias to affect arrest decisions with juveniles?
  - Racial bias shown to be present in system, especially for African American youth
  - Chivalry hypothesis suggests gender bias in favor of young girls is present in the system
  - Policies of some departments result in bias
    - Stereotype of lower class neighborhoods often result in biased police discretion and actions



# Police Work and Delinquency Prevention



- Police have taken the lead in these efforts
- Various forms of prevention exist:
  - Aggressive law enforcement
    - Saturation patrols, targeting gang members, arresting gang members for any violations
  - Police in schools
    - School resource officers, GREAT, DARE, Community Outreach through Police in Schools
  - Community policing
    - Several initiatives focused on reducing gun violence by serious juvenile offenders
  - Problem-oriented policing
    - Involves systematic analysis and response to problems underlying criminal behavior

# Future of Juvenile Policing



- Many challenges exist in addressing juvenile offenders:
  - Witness intimidation
  - Racial bias
  - Poor relations with communities
- Future strategies include:
  - Use of “soft” technologies such as IT systems
  - Use of “hard” technologies such as tasers, stun guns, and other alternative weapons

# Conclusion



- Identify key historical events shaping juvenile policing
- Understand key roles of police in responding to juvenile crime
- Know organization and management of police service for juveniles
- Be aware of major court cases influencing police work with juveniles
- Understand key legal aspects of police work
- Describe police use of discretion with juveniles
- Be familiar with major policing strategies to prevent delinquency
- Know pros/cons of different delinquency prevention policing strategies

# Key Terms



- Pledge System
- Watch System
- Community Policing
- Juvenile Officers
- Role Conflicts
- Informant
- Problem-Oriented Policing
- Arrest
- Probable Cause
- Search and Seizure
- Custodial Interrogation
- *Miranda* Warning
- Discretion
- Procedural Justice



The End

*Chapter 12*

Police Work with Juveniles