



Intelligent Policing Initiative (IPI)

**A Public Safety Modernization Framework Supporting Project 35,
Lean Government, and Responsible Fiscal Stewardship**

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Executive Summary

The City of Cape Coral continues to experience sustained population growth and increasing demand for public safety services. As traffic volumes rise, residential and commercial development expands, and large-scale community events become more frequent, the Cape Coral Police Department (CCPD) must ensure it is equipped with modern tools and operational capabilities to protect the community effectively.

At the same time, economic uncertainty, including fluctuations in property values and potential changes to municipal revenue structures, requires public safety agencies to operate efficiently while making strategic investments that strengthen long-term operational readiness.

The Intelligent Policing Initiative (IPI) is CCPD's department-wide modernization framework designed to enhance public safety through improved situational awareness, integrated digital evidence management, proactive traffic safety strategies, and disciplined technology governance. National guidance on emerging public safety technologies emphasizes that such tools should be implemented through clear policies, privacy safeguards, and ongoing performance evaluation rather than as stand-alone purchases (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2013; International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2013; Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

The primary purpose of the IPI is to enhance public safety by improving officer effectiveness, strengthening investigative capabilities, increasing real-time intelligence sharing, and enabling data-driven deployment of personnel and resources. This initiative supports the department's long-term growth strategy under Project 35 and aligns with the City's Six Sigma, Kaizen, and Lean Government principles focused on continuous improvement and responsible stewardship of public resources (Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

A significant portion of the projects described in this framework are eligible for support through school-zone speed enforcement revenues, which state law restricts to public safety initiatives. These components of the Intelligent Policing Initiative are specifically selected because they improve roadway safety, enhance investigative capabilities, and strengthen emergency response, thereby supporting both the statutory requirements governing those funds and the City's broader public safety objectives. Florida's school-zone speed-enforcement statute directs the municipality's share to administration of the program and other public safety initiatives and requires annual reporting on public safety impacts and expenditures.

The initiatives described in this document are representative examples of modernization efforts and include but are not limited to those outlined herein. Funding may be derived from multiple lawful sources, including traffic safety program revenues, asset forfeiture funds, grants, and future budget appropriations, consistent with national recommendations that local agencies leverage diversified funding streams to support technology and roadway safety investments (Right on Crime, 2025; U.S. Department of Transportation, 2024, 2025a).

Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

To become the premier law enforcement agency in Florida.

Mission

Partnering with our community to attain the highest level of safety for all.

Values

Operating with professionalism and compassion that fosters public trust.

The Intelligent Policing Initiative supports this vision by ensuring modernization efforts directly improve CCPD's ability to protect the community while maintaining transparency, accountability, operational security, and fiscal responsibility. These priorities align with established technology policy frameworks that stress public engagement, privacy, accountability, and sound governance in law enforcement technology decisions (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2013; International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2013).

Strategic Context

Modern policing increasingly requires the ability to gather, analyze, and share information in real time. Historically, law enforcement agencies relied on fragmented technology systems that limited situational awareness and slowed operational decision-making (Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

The Intelligent Policing Initiative seeks to reduce information silos by integrating field technologies, analytical tools, digital evidence platforms, communications systems, and command resources into a unified operational environment. This approach enables officers not only to receive actionable intelligence but also to generate real-time information that enhances the department's overall operational awareness, reflecting national trends toward integrated public safety ecosystems (Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

By improving information flow and coordination, CCPD can enhance public safety outcomes while maximizing the effectiveness of existing personnel and reinforcing a culture of continuous improvement (Police Executive Research Forum, 2018; Right on Crime, 2025).

Consistent with operational security, cybersecurity best practices, and prudent information governance, this framework is intentionally written in capability-based terms and does not identify specific software platforms, manufacturers, or system vendors. Florida law imposes cybersecurity duties on municipalities and includes protections for certain network and system-identifying information in state cyber-incident reporting contexts.

Real-Time Situational Awareness and Field Intelligence

A central objective of the Intelligent Policing Initiative is to provide officers, analysts, supervisors, and command staff with timely and accurate operational intelligence.

In-Car Video, Mobile ALPR, and Officer Safety Systems

The department is expanding deployment of in-car video systems equipped with mobile automated license plate recognition capability. These tools assist officers in identifying stolen vehicles, locating wanted persons, enhancing roadway safety, and documenting evidence during enforcement and investigative activities, consistent with broader law enforcement practice in leveraging mobile video and vehicle-identification technologies to support officer safety and investigative outcomes (Right on Crime, 2025).

Fixed Camera and ALPR Network Integration

The department maintains a network of fixed public-safety cameras and automated license plate recognition resources positioned at strategic locations throughout the city. These systems provide investigative and situational-awareness value by helping identify suspect vehicles, corroborate investigative leads, and establish incident timelines.

Under the Intelligent Policing Initiative, CCPD is not seeking expansion for expansion's sake. Rather, the department will focus on improving the lawful and technically feasible integration of existing camera and sensor resources into broader operational workflows so that investigators, analysts, and command staff can view authorized feeds and alerts in a more unified operational picture. This approach improves situational awareness during critical incidents, major investigations, special events, and traffic safety operations.

Drone Program Expansion

Unmanned aerial systems provide enhanced situational awareness during critical incidents, disaster response operations, crash investigations, search missions, and tactical operations. Aerial intelligence allows officers to assess hazards before committing personnel to potentially dangerous environments, reflecting emerging best practices for tactical and disaster-response deployments (Police Executive Research Forum, 2018; Right on Crime, 2025).

Mobile Command Vehicle Replacement

The department has ordered a modern mobile command vehicle to replace the existing unit acquired in 2003. The new platform will function as a fully mobile command center capable of supporting integrated field communications, live video monitoring, incident coordination, and operational decision-making during major incidents, natural disasters, and large public events (Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

Connectivity Enhancements

Patrol vehicles and key operational assets are being upgraded with resilient, high-speed connectivity to ensure reliable access to mission-critical systems in the field. This approach is

consistent with national efforts to provide dependable broadband and data access for first responders (Police Executive Research Forum, 2018; Right on Crime, 2025).

Integrated Digital Evidence and Advanced Analytics Environment

As part of the Intelligent Policing Initiative, CCPD is transitioning toward a more unified digital public safety environment centered on interoperable systems that support field operations, emergency communications, digital evidence management, investigative analysis, and supervisory review. Leading public safety agencies increasingly seek integrated platforms that connect multiple operational functions into a more cohesive environment (Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 2018; Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

Artificial Intelligence-Assisted Workflows

The department is evaluating and implementing artificial intelligence-assisted tools designed to support investigative analysis, report-preparation efficiency, transcription, searchability, and supervisory review. These capabilities are intended to reduce administrative burden and allow officers to spend more time on proactive policing and community engagement, in line with emerging guidance that AI in public safety should augment professional judgment rather than replace it (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2013; Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

Next-Generation Emergency Communications

Modern emergency communications technology can improve situational awareness by enabling the real-time sharing of caller-provided multimedia, location data, translation support, and other contextual information. These capabilities can improve dispatcher decision-making and officer readiness during rapidly evolving incidents.

Modern Records and Evidence Systems

The department will continue modernizing records, evidence, and case-management workflows to improve investigative efficiency, reduce duplication, enhance system interoperability, and better align operational processes with current policing demands. This work will be phased and evaluated carefully, consistent with best practices that treat records and dispatch transitions as high-impact projects requiring careful planning, testing, and governance (Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 2018).

Real-Time Intelligence and Analytics Center Capability

The Intelligent Policing Initiative envisions a more robust real-time operational capability in which authorized video feeds, sensor inputs, alerts, and officer-generated intelligence can be viewed and assessed in a coordinated environment. This will improve the ability of analysts and command staff to monitor conditions during critical incidents and provide timely intelligence support to field units.

Professional Standards and Compliance Systems

To enhance accountability and efficiency in internal review processes, CCPD will continue modernizing its professional standards and compliance tools to support better case management, policy review, trend analysis, and data-informed training initiatives.

Fixed-Camera Infrastructure Modernization

The department will continue a phased modernization of legacy fixed-camera infrastructure in key areas of the city. This approach allows CCPD to improve capability over time while managing fiscal impact and maintaining continuity of operations.

Traffic Safety Intelligence and Proactive Deployment

Traffic safety is a fundamental public safety responsibility. Serious crashes and aggressive driving behaviors present significant risk to the community.

CCPD is evaluating advanced traffic analytics capabilities designed to support intelligence-driven deployment of traffic enforcement and roadway safety resources. These tools can help identify high-risk corridors, emerging crash patterns, and areas requiring targeted enforcement or engineering collaboration, consistent with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All emphasis on data-driven local safety action plans (U.S. Department of Transportation, 2024, 2025a, 2025b).

By leveraging data-driven insights, the department aims to transition toward proactive crash-reduction strategies that improve roadway safety and reduce serious injuries and fatalities, in alignment with national Safe System approaches to roadway safety (U.S. Department of Transportation, 2024, 2025a, 2025b).

Where appropriate, school-zone speed enforcement revenues may be used to support these traffic safety technologies, provided CCPD documents a clear public-safety nexus, measurable objectives, and anticipated outcomes. Florida law limits those revenues to administration of the school-zone speed-detection program and other public safety initiatives, with annual reporting on expenditures and public safety results.

Foundational Systems Modernization

Reliable core information systems are essential to effective policing. Operational experience with recent technology implementations has reinforced the importance of selecting mature, fully functional systems capable of supporting real-world policing demands (Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 2018; Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

CCPD will continue evaluating next-generation dispatch, records, evidence, and analytical technologies to ensure long-term operational reliability, improved integration, and enhanced officer effectiveness. This approach is consistent with federal and professional guidance that agencies establish clear requirements, performance metrics, governance structures, and implementation plans for technology projects before and after deployment (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2013; International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2013; Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 2018).

Technology Governance Principles

To ensure responsible modernization, CCPD applies structured governance principles when evaluating technology investments. These principles reflect national frameworks advising agencies to define clear use cases, safeguard privacy, ensure transparency, protect data, and regularly evaluate technology performance (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2013; International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2013; Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

CCPD's technology governance emphasizes:

- Public safety impact and measurable operational outcomes
- Operational reliability under real-world conditions
- Workflow efficiency and reduction of administrative burden
- System interoperability across platforms and partners
- Data integrity, security, and privacy protections
- Scalability and future-readiness of core systems
- Fiscal responsibility and lifecycle cost awareness
- Continuous performance evaluation and improvement
- Operational security and minimization of unnecessary disclosure of sensitive system details

These principles help ensure modernization efforts remain aligned with the department's mission and the City's commitment to responsible stewardship of public resources. They also align with Florida's broader cybersecurity framework for municipalities, which requires adoption of cybersecurity standards and incident-reporting practices for local governments.

For any projects supported with school-zone speed enforcement revenues, CCPD will document the public safety objectives, anticipated outcomes, and performance measures to demonstrate compliance with statutory requirements governing the use of those funds.

Statutory Use of School-Zone Speed Enforcement Revenues

The City's school-zone speed enforcement revenues are restricted by statute for use on public safety initiatives. To ensure compliance, transparency, and defensibility, CCPD applies a simple test when identifying eligible projects: the investment must have a clear, direct, and measurable connection to improved public safety, with particular emphasis on traffic safety, crash reduction, emergency response, or front-line operational readiness. Florida's statute supports use of the municipality's share for administration of the school-zone speed-detection program and other public safety initiatives, while also requiring annual reporting of expenditures and results.

Within the Intelligent Policing Initiative, such revenues may appropriately support:

- Traffic safety intelligence tools that support crash reduction and targeted enforcement
- Field technologies that enhance officer and public safety during traffic stops and roadway incidents
- Real-time situational-awareness capabilities that improve response to crashes, large events, and roadway emergencies
- Mobile and fixed public-safety technologies with a documented nexus to roadway safety or emergency response

This approach ensures those funds are not used for general administrative overhead, but are instead invested in tangible, front-line public safety improvements aligned with both statutory requirements and community expectations.

Conclusion

The Intelligent Policing Initiative represents CCPD's commitment to strengthening public safety through thoughtful modernization, disciplined technology adoption, and improved operational coordination. By integrating advanced capabilities, improving information sharing, and applying structured governance practices, the department is positioning itself to meet the challenges of a growing city while maintaining public trust (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2013; Police Executive Research Forum, 2018).

The ultimate objective of the Intelligent Policing Initiative is clear:

To enhance public safety and ensure the Cape Coral Police Department remains prepared to protect the community today and in the future.

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