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## **Community Policing Enactment in Crime Prevention at South Jakarta**

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### **Abstract**

Community policing a proactive crime prevention strategy, faces unique challenges in apartment-based urban environments like South Jakarta's Kalibata City Apartment complex. These communities are characterized by higher levels of individualism and lower social cohesion, making it difficult to establish effective community-police partnerships. The study, involving 360 randomly selected residents, found that the social fabric of apartment communities lacks the integration necessary for successful community-policing partnerships. The study also highlighted the socio-spatial characteristics of apartment complexes, such as high population density and vertical living arrangements, which significantly shape the feasibility and outcomes of community policing initiatives. This research contributes to the broader discourse on urban policing by identifying key gaps in existing practices and emphasizing the need for context-sensitive approaches.

[Polisi komunitas sebagai strategi pencegahan kejahatan yang proaktif, menghadapi tantangan unik di lingkungan perkotaan berbasis apartemen seperti kompleks Apartemen Kalibata City di Jakarta Selatan. Komunitas-komunitas ini ditandai oleh tingkat individualisme yang lebih tinggi dan kohesi sosial yang lebih rendah, sehingga sulit untuk membangun kemitraan komunitas-polisi yang efektif. Studi ini melibatkan 360 penduduk yang dipilih secara acak, menemukan bahwa jaringan sosial di komunitas apartemen kurang memiliki integrasi yang diperlukan untuk kemitraan kepolisian-komunitas yang sukses. Studi ini juga menyoroti karakteristik sosial-spasial dari kompleks apartemen, seperti kepadatan penduduk yang tinggi dan pengaturan tempat tinggal vertikal, yang secara signifikan membentuk kelayakan dan hasil dari inisiatif kepolisian komunitas. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada diskursus yang lebih luas tentang kepolisian perkotaan dengan mengidentifikasi kesenjangan utama dalam praktik yang ada dan menekankan perlunya pendekatan yang sensitif terhadap konteks.]

**Keywords:** community policing; community-police partnerships; social cohesion; citizenship; crime prevention

## Introduction

Community policing is not merely a compromise or policing strategy but a governance model rooted in active community participation, particularly within restorative justice frameworks, proactive crime prevention, and good governance. Politically, it advances democratic ideals by promoting active citizenship and enhancing legitimacy through inclusive decision-making and accountability. Socially, it emphasizes the importance of community solidarity and trust in building resilience against crime while recognizing that fragmented, transient, or individualistic urban communities such as those in apartment complexes require tailored strategies to foster collective efficacy. Administratively, community policing demands institutional transformation, including decentralization, frontline empowerment, inter-agency cooperation, and the adoption of transparency and responsiveness in policing operations. Its success lies in harmonizing these political, social, and administrative dimensions to ensure that the police and community collaborate effectively in co-producing public safety and addressing local concerns.<sup>1</sup>

From a political perspective, community policing is closely tied to promoting active citizenship and strengthening democratic governance. It reflects a shift from traditional top-down policing models toward more participatory approaches, encouraging citizens to become directly involved in shaping public safety agendas and community priorities. This perspective aligns with broader efforts to legitimize democratic institutions by enhancing civic engagement and ensuring that policing practices are responsive to local needs and values. Active participation is viewed not only as a democratic right but as a mechanism to improve accountability, transparency, and public trust in law enforcement.<sup>2</sup> In this context, community policing

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<sup>1</sup> Zaghoul F. and Partridge J., "Enabling Policing to Be Better: Lessons from Two Case Studies in Police Collaboration," *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 16, no. 4 (2022): 777–93, <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/paac018>.

<sup>2</sup> Irvita M. and Asriani A., "Transparency and Accountability in the Justice System: Building Public Trust and Justice: The Role of Public Trust in Fair Law Enforcement," *Priviet Social Sciences Journal* 5, no. 4 (2025): 26–40, <https://doi.org/10.55942/pssj.v5i4.367>.

becomes a platform through which the government fosters political inclusion, reinforces the rule of law, and bridges the gap between state institutions and civil society. Integrating the community into the decision-making process aims to create a sense of shared responsibility for public order, strengthening the social contract between the police and the people they serve.<sup>3</sup>

From an administrative perspective, community policing requires significant institutional transformation, particularly within the traditionally rigid and hierarchical structures of police organizations. Policing institutions are often characterized as semi-closed bureaucratic systems, resistant to change, and driven by top-down command structures, which can impede efforts to build genuine partnerships with the community. Effective implementation of community policing necessitates reconfiguring administrative processes to promote decentralization, flexibility, and responsiveness to local contexts. It includes embedding principles of good governance, such as transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making, into routine police operations.

Furthermore, the administrative dimension of community policing emphasizes the need for ongoing reform in police governance, aligning institutional practices with broader restorative justice principles and ensuring that police services are reactive and proactive in addressing the underlying social conditions that contribute to crime. These reforms aim to align policing more closely with the needs and expectations of citizens, making community engagement a core component of organizational performance rather than a peripheral strategy.<sup>4</sup>

Community policing is influenced by citizenship, civil renewal, governance, restorative justice, and community policing concepts. These concepts should be explored individually and in the

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<sup>3</sup> Taylor, M. (2011). *Public policy in the community*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

<sup>4</sup> Jan Terpstra, "Community Policing in Practice: Ambitions and Realization," *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 4, no. 1 (2010): 64–72, <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/pap029>.

context of community policing, which is crucial for achieving a more comprehensive view.<sup>5</sup>

Research conducted by Colin Stanley found that the effectiveness of community policing depends on using community policing components, such as conflict resolution and problem-solving, and the involvement of police officers in specific areas. Implementation of community policing in apartment aims to expand community policing components. In summary, community policing is a multifaceted approach focusing on active participation, good governance, and community-based decision-making. Achieving its full potential requires a balance between political, social, and administrative perspectives.

The study focuses on the Kalibata City Jakarta apartment, highlighting the area's unique and crowded environment and high crime rates. According to Kompas,<sup>6</sup> the area has experienced a rise in crime, especially among children, and a rise in crime among adults. Detik News<sup>7</sup> reported a laundry crisis and a global pandemic in 2023. Ayo Jakarta.com<sup>8</sup> reported a rise in crime among the elderly, migrant workers, and the emergence of prostitutes.

The study highlights the "research gap" in understanding the role of community units in crime prevention in the apartment area. The study focuses on the socio-economic characteristics of the community, focusing on the facilities and services provided by the

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<sup>5</sup> Cynthia Lum and Christopher S Koper, "Evidence-Based Policing," *The Oxford Handbook of Evidence-Based Crime and Justice Policy*, 2024, 245–64.

<sup>6</sup> Baharudin Al Farizi and Tri Susanto Setiawan, "Model Novi Amelia Tewas Bunuh Diri Dari Lantai 8 Apartemen Kalibata City," KOMPAS, 2022. <https://www.kompas.com/hype/read/2022/02/16/173719566/model-novi-amelia-tewas-bunuh-diri-dari-lantai-8-apartemen-kalibata-city>. (accessed by 25 May 2025)

<sup>7</sup> Rumondang Naibaho, "Ini Penyebab Tabung Setrika Uap Meledak Di Apartemen Kalibata City," detikNews, 2023, <https://news.detik.com/berita/d-6784893/ini-penyebab-tabung-setrika-uap-meledak-di-apartemen-kalibata-city#:~:text=Tabung setrika uap milik salah satu pengusaha laundry,mengatakan insiden tersebut terjadi karena faktor human error.> (accessed May 25, 2025)

<sup>8</sup> Cindra May Ningrum, "Angka Kriminalitas Di 6 Kota Wilayah DKI Jakarta, Jumlah Kejahatan Ada Yang Mencapai 9.083 Kejadian, Kota Mana?," n.d., <https://www.ayojakarta.com/metropolitan/7613804111/angka-kriminalitas-di-6-kota-wilayah-dki-jakarta-jumlah-kejahatan-ada-yang-mencapai-9083-kejadian-kota-mana>. (accessed May 25, 2025)

police. The research also examines the influence of stakeholder engagement, resource allocation, community trust, and police trust on community engagement. The study also examines the relationship between community engagement, social police social capital, police work environment, and police personality in implementing community engagement.

## Methods

This study employs a mixed-methods research design, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the research problem. Mixed methods are particularly valuable when the strengths of one approach can offset the limitations of the other. Quantitative methods in this study are used primarily for descriptive analysis, collecting numerical data to identify patterns, frequencies, and general trends within the apartment community related to perceptions of crime, trust in law enforcement, and participation in community policing initiatives. Meanwhile, qualitative methods explore the underlying meanings, attitudes, and contextual factors that shape these quantitative findings. This dual strategy allows the researcher to measure and describe social phenomena to gain insights into key stakeholders' subjective experiences and interpretations, such as residents, police officers, and apartment managers.

At the conceptual level, the use of mixed methods<sup>9</sup> is grounded in the pragmatic research paradigm, which emphasizes the utility and applicability of research methods based on their ability to answer complex questions effectively. Rather than aligning exclusively with positivist or constructivist worldviews, the pragmatic paradigm acknowledges the value of objective measurement and interpretive understanding. This epistemological stance supports integrating numerical data and narrative information

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<sup>9</sup> Dawadi S, Shrestha S, and Giri R.A., "Mixed-Methods Research: A Discussion on Its Types, Challenges, and Criticisms.," *Journal of Practical Studies in Education* 2, no. (2) (2021): 25–36, <https://doi.org/10.46809/jpse.v2i2.20>.

to understand reality fully. In this study, qualitative data<sup>10</sup> not only enrich the interpretation of quantitative results but also help explain unexpected findings or emerging patterns that may not be immediately evident through statistical analysis alone. Through this integrated design, the research aspires to produce more robust conclusions and actionable recommendations for improving the implementation of community policing in apartment-based urban settings, where social cohesion and participation differ significantly from traditional neighbourhood environments.

## **Results**

### **Community Perceptions of Crime and the Evolution of Modern Policing Strategies**

Public fear of crime is a multidimensional issue influenced by several personal and social variables. Individuals respond to this fear in various ways; some attempt to avoid criminal environments, others invest in self-protection measures, while a segment minimizes potential victimization by not possessing valuable or attractive targets. The intensity of fear a person experiences is not uniform; somewhat, it is shaped by factors such as gender, age, prior victimization, residential location, and ethnic background, all of which significantly influence one's perception and response to crime.<sup>11</sup>

The implications of fear of crime extend into practical policing strategies. One commonly adopted tactic is maintaining a strong and visible police presence. Although effective in signalling authority, frequent police operations can have both reassuring and adverse effects on public sentiment. In contrast, public education

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<sup>10</sup> Epoka B. E, "Literature Review of Qualitative Data with Natural Language Processing," *Journal of Robotics Spectrum* 1 (2023): 056–065, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

<sup>11</sup> Kuen K. et al., "Examining Impacts of Street Characteristics on Residents' Fear of Crime: Evidence from a Longitudinal Study of Crime Hot Spots," *Journal of Criminal Justice* 82 (2022): 101984, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2022.101984>.

initiatives present a cost-effective method for addressing the fear of crime. These programs aim to inform citizens about actual crime risks versus perceived threats, reducing anxiety and promoting rational decision-making. Another prominent initiative is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which seeks to deter criminal behaviour through strategic urban planning and environmental modification. It includes improving street lighting, fostering natural surveillance, and designing public spaces to discourage criminal activity.<sup>12</sup>

Contemporary policing has undergone a significant paradigm shift, emphasizing democratic values, community involvement, and responsiveness to local needs. This modern orientation, encapsulated in the concept of community policing, prioritizes cooperation between law enforcement and citizens to address security issues proactively. Community policing is both an organizational philosophy and an operational strategy, enabling police officers and community members to collaborate in identifying and resolving problems related to crime and public disorder.<sup>13</sup>

Central to this model is the belief that communities can contribute meaningfully to public safety. Active participation in identifying local issues, sharing information, and formulating joint responses reinforces the legitimacy of policing practice. Furthermore, this approach moves beyond the reactive crime control model, encouraging law enforcement and citizens to innovate and explore broader environmental and social factors contributing to public insecurity.

Community policing is not merely a theoretical construct but a practical framework that requires collaboration across public and private institutions. It calls for systemic integration where community actors, local governments, and law enforcement agencies co-produce security. This integrative role highlights the operational versatility of community policing and its relevance in contemporary society.

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<sup>12</sup> Timothy Crowe and Lawrence J Fennelly, *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design*, 2nd ed. (Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2020).

<sup>13</sup> Schaffer E. B., *Community Policing* (Routledge, 2023).



Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux, pioneers in the community policing paradigm, delineated ten foundational principles guiding police-community relations today. These principles underscore decentralization, accountability, service orientation, and community partnership, affirming that sustainable public safety can only be achieved through collective ownership and participation.<sup>14</sup>

### **Enhancing Victim Support through Responsive Policing and Procedural Justice**

As a 24-hour institution, the police serve as the first point of contact for victims of crime, placing them in a pivotal role in shaping the initial response and the overall trajectory of victim recovery. The quality and sensitivity of this first interaction can significantly influence a victim's willingness to cooperate, their psychological well-being, and their perception of justice. In this regard, police training must go beyond legal and procedural competencies to include victim-centred education, emphasizing empathy, trauma awareness, and communication skills and recognizing victims as individuals with emotional, physical, and psychological needs rather than merely as sources of evidence a foundational principle of modern victimology and procedural justice.<sup>15</sup>

Immediate access to emergency health services is critical for addressing the acute physical and psychological trauma experienced by victims. Timely medical intervention not only treats visible injuries but also mitigates long-term complications such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression. Law enforcement officers, therefore, must be equipped to assess urgent medical needs and ensure prompt referrals or accompaniment to appropriate healthcare facilities. This responsiveness demonstrates institutional care and concern, reinforcing trust and promoting early recovery. Ensuring the victim's safety and physical well-being is a matter of public health and a procedural obligation supporting law

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<sup>14</sup> Robert C Trojanowicz and Bonnie Bucqueroux, *Community Policing: How to Get Started* (Cincinnati: Anderson Publishing, 2019).

<sup>15</sup> Wemmers Jo-Anne M, *Restoring Justice for Victims of Crime: A New Perspective on Desirable Outcomes* (Amsterdam: Kugler Publications, 2012).

enforcement's legitimacy.<sup>16</sup>

Sustained communication between the police and victims is essential in fostering a sense of inclusion, dignity, and procedural fairness. Effective practices include designating a liaison officer to provide consistent updates, proactively informing victims about procedural steps, and offering regular check-ins regarding their well-being. Personalized contact reassures victims that their case is taken seriously and helps counter the feelings of isolation or helplessness that often follow victimization. Moreover, accessible communication channels empower victims to seek clarification and voice concerns, promoting transparency and mutual respect.<sup>17</sup>

Criminal investigations generally proceed through several stages: initial response and evidence collection, suspect identification, arrest (if applicable), prosecution, and trial. During this often prolonged process, victims may experience heightened anxiety, uncertainty, and frustration due to the lack of information or perceived delays. Providing periodic updates on the progress of the investigation can help manage expectations, reduce stress, and reinforce the victim's trust in the justice system. Simple measures such as notifying victims of key procedural developments, court dates, or decisions regarding suspects can significantly improve satisfaction with police services and institutional legitimacy.<sup>18</sup>

Holistic recovery requires a range of support services tailored to the diverse needs of victims. These may include access to psychological counselling, legal aid, financial compensation or emergency funds, housing support, and victim advocacy services. Such services are critical in helping victims rebuild their lives and regain control. Institutional collaboration between police agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) or community-based victim assistance centres can promptly ensure that victims are referred to the appropriate resources. Establishing victim service units within police departments, staffed by trained personnel, can

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<sup>16</sup> Judith Lewis Herman, *Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence--from Domestic Abuse to Political Terror* (Hachette UK, 2015).

<sup>17</sup> Herman.

<sup>18</sup> Newburn Tim, *Criminology*, 3rd ed (London: Routledge, 2017).

serve as a central point for coordination and service delivery.<sup>19</sup>

While prioritizing victim care is essential, it must be balanced with the legal rights of the accused, including the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial, and protection against undue prejudice. Confidentiality and privacy protections serve as key mechanisms in maintaining this balance. Victim-sensitive policies must safeguard victims from secondary victimization, particularly in the pre-trial and trial processes, while ensuring that the integrity of evidence and the due process rights of suspects are not compromised. This balance is critical in upholding the justice system's legitimacy and ensuring that both parties are treated with fairness and dignity.<sup>20</sup>

A responsive and victim-centred policing model is vital for enhancing trust, cooperation, and recovery in the aftermath of crime. Through timely medical intervention, consistent communication, comprehensive support services, and ethical and legal safeguards, law enforcement can effectively fulfil its duty to protect and empower victims. Institutionalizing these practices aligns with international justice and human rights standards and contributes to more equitable and effective criminal justice outcomes.

### **Socio-demographic Characteristics and Crime Perception**

In contemporary policing, the primary measure of success has shifted from traditional metrics such as arrest rates and case closures to more progressive indicators like crime prevention and reduction. This paradigm shift underscores the importance of proactive policing, a strategic approach that addresses the root causes of criminal behaviour before offences occur. The rationale behind this approach is twofold. First, incarceration imposes significant financial and social burdens on society, including the costs of imprisonment, the disruption of family structures, and long-term barriers to reintegration for former inmates. Second, the fear of crime, even in the absence of actual victimization, has been shown to have a pervasive and detrimental effect on public well-being. It erodes

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<sup>19</sup> Office for Victims of Crime, "Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services" (Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice, 2013).

<sup>20</sup> Office for Victims of Crime.

community trust, diminishes public participation in civic life, and ultimately degrades the quality of life within society.

To counter these challenges, a fundamental transformation in policing philosophy is required, one that moves away from reactive enforcement toward community-centred strategies<sup>21</sup>. Community policing, in this context, offers a holistic framework that emphasizes collaborative partnerships between law enforcement and the public, problem-oriented policing, and the mobilization of community resources. Through sustained engagement and shared responsibility, community policing fosters an environment where citizens actively identify, prioritize, and resolve local safety concerns. This model not only strengthens public trust in law enforcement but also enhances the collective capacity of communities to prevent crime, mitigate risks, and promote social resilience.<sup>22</sup>

The characteristics of the research location are essential to delineate the distinctiveness of the area, community, and environment (locus) in a Community Policing study, particularly within the context of an apartment complex. This area demonstrates unique features that differentiate it from other settings where Community Policing has been implemented. The historical trajectory of economic development and population growth, particularly in urban centres, has driven significant urbanization as individuals migrate to cities for employment. This trend has consequently increased the demand for housing.

As a major metropolitan city, Jakarta continues to experience consistent population growth annually.<sup>23</sup> This demographic expansion inevitably creates a heightened demand for residential spaces and supporting facilities. In urban environments like Jakarta, housing needs are multifaceted, encompassing a range of options such as landed houses, rental properties, flats, and, notably, apartments.

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<sup>21</sup> Nass S. J. et al., *Community-Centered and Community-Engaged Care*, ed. Ending Unequal Treatment (Strategies to Achieve Equitable Health Care and Optimal Health for All, 2024).

<sup>22</sup> Lum and Koper, "Evidence-Based Policing."

<sup>23</sup> Amir S. et al., *City Profile: Jakarta*, 2022.

Apartments represent a more practical and spatially efficient form of urban housing, particularly given the scarcity of land. They offer the capacity to accommodate many residents while providing shared access to various facilities. The development of apartment housing in Jakarta has progressed rapidly, catering to diverse socio-economic strata, ranging from high-end luxury residences to mid-range and lower-cost units. The quality and comprehensiveness of building amenities, environmental conditions, security infrastructure, pricing structures, prestige, and proximity to essential transport networks distinguish these variations in apartment classes.

Kalibata City Apartment represents one of the largest residential apartment complexes in the South Jakarta region, occupying an expansive land area of approximately 12.5 hectares. The complex comprises 18 high-rise residential buildings, each accommodating around 800 individual apartment units. It is supported by integrated commercial facilities, including a shopping centre, to serve the needs of its residents.

Administratively and functionally, the Kalibata City complex is subdivided into three main sections: Kalibata City Residence, Kalibata City Regency, and Kalibata City Green Palace. Within the Kalibata City Residence section, each residential tower is designated with specific names, such as Tower A (Acacia), Tower B (Borneo), Tower C (Cendana), Tower D (Damar), Tower E (Ebony), Tower F (Flamboyant), Tower G (Gaharu), Tower H (Hebras), Tower J (Jasmine), Tower K (Kemuning), Tower L (Lotus), Tower M (Mawar), Tower N (Nusa Indah), Tower P (Palem), Tower R (Rafflesia), Tower S (Sakura), Tower T (Tulip), and Tower V (Viola). These designations reflect a thematic approach to naming that may enhance the sense of identity and community within the residential environment. The respondents in this study were distributed across all 18 apartment towers within the Kalibata City complex, with a total sample size of 360 individuals. The highest concentration of respondents was found in the Borneo Tower, comprising 44 participants, while the Tulip Tower accounted for the smallest number of respondents, with only five individuals.

In the context of vertical urban housing, such as apartment complexes, understanding the socio-demographic profile of residents

is crucial for effectively implementing community-based policing strategies. A recent study in the Kalibata City apartment complex reveals that 50.8% of residents ( $n = 360$ ) are employed as private sector employees. The majority (78%) report monthly incomes ranging from IDR 4 to 12 million, with educational backgrounds predominantly at the undergraduate (53.1%) and high school (25.8%) levels. Notably, approximately 65% of the population consists of renters, suggesting that many apartment units are owned solely as investment properties rather than for owner occupancy. This residency pattern may contribute to lower social attachment and community engagement levels.

From the perspective of crime perception, residents identify prostitution (reported by 179 individuals), drug-related offences (84), and theft (64) as the most prevalent factual crimes within the apartment complex. These perceptions are significant because they shape residents' sense of security and willingness to participate in crime prevention initiatives. The prominence of such issues underscores the urgency of integrating crime perception data into the design of Community Policing programs.

In particular, implementing Community Policing in lower middle-class apartment types, such as those found in Kalibata City, must be adapted to the socio-spatial realities of urban apartment life. Traditional face-to-face models of community engagement<sup>24</sup>, which may be effective in more cohesive neighbourhood settings, face practical limitations in high-density and socially fragmented apartment environments. Therefore, it is imperative to develop a technology-based active communication forum<sup>25</sup> that facilitates collaboration among residents, property managers, local communities, and the police. This forum would enable the formation of responsive, inclusive, and sustainable mechanisms for crime

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<sup>24</sup> Taylor M., Johnston K. A., and Ryan B., "A Community Engagement Approach to Natural Hazard Communication," in *The Handbook of Crisis Communication*, 2022, 327–42, <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119678953.ch22>.

<sup>25</sup> Zamiri M. and Esmaeili A., "Methods and Technologies for Supporting Knowledge Sharing within Learning Communities: A Systematic Literature Review," *Administrative Sciences* 14, no. (1) (2024): 17, <https://doi.org/10.3390/admsci14010017>.

reporting, information dissemination, and participatory problem-solving, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of Community Policing in urban vertical settlements.<sup>26</sup>

**Table 1. Sociodemographic Profile, Crime Perception, and Community Policing Implications in Kalibata City Apartment**

Number	Category	Details
1	Employment Status	50.8% work as private sector employees (n = 360)
2	Monthly Income	78% earn between IDR 4 – 12 million
3	Educational Background	53.1% hold a bachelor's degree; 25.8% completed high school
4	Occupancy Status	65% are renters; majority of owners view units as investment properties
5	Factual Crime Perception	- Prostitution: 179 residents - Drug-related offenses: 84 - Theft: 64
6	Community Engagement Challenge	High proportion of renters; low resident cohesion and investment
7	Implications for Community Policing	Traditional face-to-face engagement is ineffective in this setting

<sup>26</sup> Rodriguez J., “Carceral Connections: The Role of Policing in the Management of Public Housing in New York City,” *Urban Studies* 61, no. (3) (2024): 513–30, <https://doi.org/10.1177/004209802311837>.

8	Suggested Strategy	Develop a technology-based communication forum to involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Residents</li><li>- Apartment management</li><li>- Local community</li><li>- Police</li></ul>
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**Discussion**

This study draws on numerous fundamental theoretical frameworks to address its main challenges and research objectives, particularly the phenomenon of community policing as a strategic approach to crime prevention. The major theoretical foundation is based on Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux's (1998) notion of "community policing", as well as the broader subject of crime prevention, which is informed by the works of Nick Tilley (2005) and Shaw & Travers (2007). These theoretical approaches help to frame the understanding of how community policing works as both a philosophy and a practical practice for tackling contemporary security concerns in urban contexts.

In this context, community policing is an integral component of a broader human rights-based approach to policing, which emphasizes proactive engagement between law enforcement agencies and the community, fostering collaboration and mutual trust to prevent and respond to criminal activities effectively. By establishing a cooperative relationship with residents, the police are better positioned to understand their communities' specific needs and concerns, particularly vulnerable populations often disproportionately affected by crime. This collaborative dynamic ensures that policing efforts are more efficient, targeted, and aligned with human dignity, equality, and justice principles.

This reciprocal relationship enables the community to take a proactive role in holding law enforcement accountable. Through networks of oversight and contribution, citizens can guarantee that police conduct meets professional standards and is transparent, fair, and respectful of fundamental human rights. In this perspective, law



enforcement's legitimacy is maintained not by a sense of obligation but through neighbourhood backing and trust.

Law enforcement is essentially humanistic—concerned with interpersonal relationships, communication, and the ethical regulation of social interactions. Policing is ultimately about serving and protecting individuals, upholding their rights, and responding to their safety standards inclusively and reasonably. This human-centred approach suggests that law enforcement officers should be protected, valued, and incorporated into their communities. A community that welcomes and supports police personnel is critical for long-term crime prevention and public safety.

Consequently, successful law enforcement cannot be accomplished in isolation from the community. Community involvement is not negotiable; it is vital for the success of any policing method. Community policing arose as both a principle and an operational method for responding to modern law enforcement agencies' adapting realities and difficulties. It fosters decentralization, problem resolution, and collaboration to enhance public safety in democratic and participatory access.

The research literature demonstrates that community policing complies with and affirms broader notions of democratic government and good public administration. It outlines a framework whereby the police might operate primarily as law enforcers and promoters of civic trust and social cohesion. Chapter 13 of the Community Policing manual emphasizes this idea, emphasizing that community policing is more than just a policing strategy; it is also a vehicle for defending democratic values and human rights norms in the context of public safety. Community policing provides a revolutionary law enforcement model by highlighting cooperation, commitment, and responsiveness, responsive to the rights, needs, and ambitions of the people it intends to serve.

Community policing is a program that aims to build trust between the community and the police. It involves establishing trust with the police organization, ensuring that the community trusts the police. This trust is crucial for the police to serve the community and maintain their trust. The program focuses on various aspects of community policing, such as maintaining trust in the police,

preventing corruption in police operations, ensuring police effectiveness, and addressing complaints within the police system. Understanding community policing is essential for effective community policing.

From a political perspective,<sup>27</sup> due to the observed decline in formal political engagement, the emphasis on community participation, or active citizenship, has increasingly become a matter of concern. Notably, there has been a significant reduction in voter turnout in elections across several countries. This trend raises important questions regarding the legitimacy of democratic institutions. To preserve public confidence in decision-making processes, it is essential to prioritize comprehensive policy reforms to enhance community participation, particularly in governance and public service delivery. Building citizen trust in the democratic system is crucial to this effort.

Another perspective, adopting a liberal approach that emphasizes individual egoism, can inadvertently ease the path of criminal activities. Increased crime often necessitates a more substantial police presence on the streets, leading to a more repressive judicial response. This situation results in a significant number of individuals being incarcerated, contributing to overcrowding in correctional facilities. Nevertheless, a repressive criminal justice system has proven ineffective in addressing the underlying issues of crime in society. Therefore, reforming the criminal justice framework is both strategic and essential. One proposed solution is integrating community participation through "community policing." This approach advocates for fostering a sense of community among citizens, encouraging individuals to collaborate towards shared objectives that benefit the community. The "communitarian approach" presents a promising alternative to traditional liberal perspectives in establishing a restorative justice system.

Contextually, multiple interrelated factors justify adopting *community policing* as an operational and strategic approach in

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<sup>27</sup> Wawan Edi Kuswandoro, *Kebijakan Publik Perspektif Politik: Advokasi Civil Society Dan Kepartaian* (Universitas Brawijaya Press, 2024).

modern law enforcement.<sup>28</sup> These factors reflect internal challenges within police institutions and external pressures from the public and broader governance systems. The following points elaborate on the key contextual drivers behind the implementation of community policing:

### **The Democratic Imperative and Public Accountability**

One of the fundamental motivations for shifting toward community policing is the growing emphasis on what is often referred to as the *democratic imperative*. In democratic societies, citizens increasingly demand that public institutions, including the police, operate in ways that are transparent, accountable, and responsive to community needs. A top-down, enforcement-centered approach characterizes traditional models of policing,<sup>29</sup> are often viewed as insufficient for meeting the expectations of a diverse and informed populace. As a result, law enforcement agencies are being called upon to adopt a more service-oriented, participatory, and professional ethos. Community policing, with its focus on building partnerships and engaging local stakeholders, aligns well with these democratic ideals by ensuring that police actions are compelling and legitimate in the eyes of the public. It also responds to the call for a more "customer-oriented" approach in public service, where the community is not merely a passive recipient of policing but an active participant in shaping safety outcomes.

### **The Gap Between Public Expectations and Police Capabilities**

Another key rationale for adopting community policing is the evident mismatch between public expectations and what the police are realistically<sup>30</sup> able to deliver through conventional methods.

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<sup>28</sup> Headley A. M. and Kalesnikaite V., "Exploring the Limits of Collaboration and the Fragility of Its Outcomes: The Case of Community Policing," *Public Administration Review* 85, no. 2 (2025): 326–48, <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13836>.

<sup>29</sup> Barao L. and Farrell C., *Wethersfield Police Department Organizational Climate Study*, 2022.

<sup>30</sup> Stephenson A., "Police as Cop Show Viewers," *Crime, Media, Culture* 18, no. (2) (2022): 265–81, <https://doi.org/10.1177/17416590211005520>.

Community members often hold unrealistic views about the capabilities of the police, expecting them to solve all crime-related problems quickly and effectively, regardless of resource constraints or the complexity of underlying social issues. This gap in perception creates challenges for police legitimacy and performance assessment. Community policing offers a framework for narrowing this gap through improved communication, transparency, and community education. By involving residents<sup>31</sup> in problem-solving and setting shared goals, the police can manage expectations more effectively and cultivate mutual understanding about their roles, responsibilities, and limitations.

### **Limitations of Traditional Policing Models**

There is a substantial body of empirical evidence demonstrating the shortcomings of traditional, reactive policing strategies<sup>32</sup> in addressing persistent and complex crime problems. While conventional policing may be effective in responding to incidents and enforcing laws, it often falls short in delivering long-term solutions to issues such as community disorder, recurring criminal behaviour, and underlying social tensions. These limitations suggest a more preventive and holistic approach that addresses the root causes of crime and leverages local knowledge and resources. Community policing shifts the focus from short-term enforcement to long-term problem-solving, encouraging police officers to collaborate with other stakeholders such as local governments, civil society organizations, and residents.<sup>33</sup>

### **The Community as a Source of Intelligence and Partnership**

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<sup>31</sup> Chang S. and Smith M. K., “Residents’ Quality of Life in Smart Cities: A Systematic Literature Review,” *Land* 12, no. (4) (2023): 876, <https://doi.org/10.3390/land12040876>.

<sup>32</sup> Dahl J. Y. et al., “Old, New, Borrowed and Blue—Shifts in Modern Policing,” *The British Journal of Criminology* 62, no. (4) (2022): 931–74, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azab085>.

<sup>33</sup> Diphoorn T. and van Stapele N., “What Is Community Policing?: Divergent Agendas, Practices, and Experiences of Transforming the Police in Kenya,” *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 15, no. (1) (2021): 399–411, <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/paaa004>.

Another critical justification for community policing lies in the recognition that *crime occurs within communities*<sup>34</sup>, and therefore, the community itself is a vital source of intelligence, information, and even evidence. Residents are often the first to observe unusual activities, patterns of disorder, or potential threats, making them indispensable partners in crime prevention and resolution. When trust and cooperation between the police and the public are strong, the flow of relevant information becomes more effective, enhancing the overall quality of police work. Conversely, poor relations between the police and the community—characterized by fear, mistrust, or antagonism—can significantly hinder investigations, reduce public cooperation, and undermine efforts to maintain order. Community policing seeks to reverse this dynamic by building enduring relationships based on trust, mutual respect and shared responsibility for public safety.<sup>35</sup>

### **Resource Constraints and the Need for Sustainable Policing**

The final contextual driver for community policing relates to the increasing pressure on police institutions caused by limited resources<sup>36</sup>, whether financial, human, or technological. In many jurisdictions, police forces face shrinking budgets, personnel shortages, and the rising cost of law enforcement operations. These constraints make it increasingly difficult for police to address all community problems through traditional means. There is compelling evidence suggesting that without strong community support and strategic partnerships, police efforts will remain constrained and less effective. Community policing addresses this concern by

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<sup>34</sup> Minkova L. G., “The Fifth International Crime: Reflections on the Definition of ‘Ecocide,’” *Journal of Genocide Research* 25, no. (1) (2023): 62–83, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14623528.2021.1964688>.

<sup>35</sup> Awoyemi O. et al., “A Community-Policing Innovation Model to Build Sustainable Trust and Effectively Reduce Crime in Urban Areas,” *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Growth Evaluation* 6, no. (1) (2025): 848–853.

<sup>36</sup> Butler A., Zakimi N., and Greer A., “Total Systems Failure: Police Officers’ Perspectives on the Impacts of the Justice, Health, and Social Service Systems on People Who Use Drugs,” *Harm Reduction Journal* 19, no. (1) (2022): 48, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-022-00629-1>.

decentralizing responsibility and mobilizing community assets to complement formal policing efforts<sup>37</sup>. By sharing the burden of safety and prevention with the community, the police can extend their reach, enhance their legitimacy, and improve operational sustainability.

Implementing community policing is not merely a policy shift but a strategic response to a complex set of contemporary challenges facing law enforcement. These include the demand for democratic accountability, the need to bridge expectation gaps, the limitations of reactive policing, the value of community intelligence, and the imperative to manage limited resources more effectively. As such, community policing emerges as a viable and forward-looking model that promotes collaborative governance, respects human rights, and fosters safer, more cohesive communities.

## Conclusion

The sociological characteristics of apartment communities differ significantly from those typically found in residential neighbourhoods and rural villages, which have traditionally been the primary focus of "Community Policing" programs. These conventional target areas are often characterized by more cohesive and integrated social structures (integrated communities), underpinned by strong kinship ties, collective norms, and well-established communal interactions that foster stable and orderly social life. In contrast, apartment communities tend to exhibit a more individualistic orientation, marked by fragmented or disintegrated social interactions<sup>38</sup> (disintegrated communities), high residential turnover, and a heterogeneous urban population, often comprising individuals from diverse national and cultural backgrounds. These conditions lead to relatively weaker community bonds and lower levels of social cohesion.

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<sup>37</sup> Boller-Piol A. A. et al., "Strengthening Community Mobilization Program: Its Implication on Building Police-Community Relations," *International Journal of Multidisciplinary: Applied Business and Education Research* 5, no. (5) (2024): 1662–92, <https://doi.org/10.11594/ijmaber.05.05.17>.

<sup>38</sup> Varga S., *Scaffolded Minds: Integration and Disintegration* (MIT Press, 2025).

Given this divergence in community dynamics, the effectiveness of implementing community policing, whose core principles emphasize partnership-building and problem-solving, faces considerable challenges within apartment complexes. Traditional Community Policing strategies, which often rely on face-to-face engagement and sustained interpersonal relationships, may prove less effective in transient and socially fragmented environments. Therefore, there is a pressing need to adapt these approaches by integrating Smart Policing strategies, which leverage technology, data analytics, and innovative community engagement methods. Such adaptations can enhance community participation and optimize efforts in addressing crime and public order issues within apartment settings.

From a regulatory standpoint, the Chief of Police Regulation Number 1 of 2021 concerning Community Policing does not yet provide specific provisions for apartment communities as distinct targets of Community Policing interventions. This omission suggests a policy design gap, especially in contemporary urban societies where the structure and nature of community life diverge from those found in traditional settings. As urbanization intensifies and vertical housing becomes increasingly prevalent, future Community Policing policies must evolve to accommodate the unique characteristics of apartment-based communities, thereby ensuring inclusivity, relevance, and efficacy in modern urban crime prevention and community engagement frameworks.

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