



Ft. Pierce Police Department

News Release

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Fort Pierce Police herald success of sporadic juvenile curfew sweeps

Nearly 500 youth visited during special operations

Next Operation: Thursday, January 25, 2007

Time: 6:00 p.m. to midnight

FORT PIERCE – A record number of juveniles are complying with their court-ordered curfews, according to department statistics.

The department has been conducting periodic juvenile curfew sweeps with the Department of Juvenile Justice since July 2006. Since that time nearly 500 youth within the City of Fort Pierce have received visits.

“When we started in July, we found that only 32% of the visited youth were actually at home and abiding by their court-ordered curfew/home detention,” said Detective Daniela Dreizehnter. “During our last sweep in December, that number increased to 53% of youth being in compliance.”

Sweeps are conducted by 4-5 teams, each consisting of two Fort Pierce Police Officers and one Juvenile Probation Officer. The teams initially discovered that youth were not giving their probation officers proper addresses, accounting for about 12%, Detective Dreizehnter said.

“Youth who have outright violated curfew/home detention has gone from 29% in July to 21% in December,” she said.

According to Detective Dreizehnter, the sweeps serve several purposes:

For one, it gives the Juvenile Probation Officers an opportunity to follow up with their probationers and visit them at their homes, under the security of law enforcement. Parents and probationers often have questions, which are addressed at that time.

It gives parents a “back-up” so that their kids know it’s not just the parents giving them a hard time about being home. Parents have responded very positive to the sweeps, with very few exceptions.

It also lets the probationers know, that curfews/home detentions are not just some idle punishment, but that non-compliance can actually get the youth into more trouble. On the contrary, compliance may lead to earlier release from probation.

Further, it allows road patrol officers an opportunity to get familiar with the delinquent youth in their area of responsibility, so that they can check on youth at any given time.

And lastly, it affords DJJ and Law Enforcement an opportunity to serve Take Into Custody Orders to youth who have violated their probation.