



Prosecutor / Police Relations (healthy symbiosis)

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Relationship?

- Merriam-Webster (online) defines relationship as follows:
 - **The way in which two or more people, groups, countries, etc. talk to, behave toward, and deal with each other.**

Relationship?

- **YES – THIS IS A RELATIONSHIP IN GENERAL WITH MULTIPLE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN IT.**
 - **PROFESSIONAL**
 - **PERSONAL**
 - **COMPLICATED**
 - **SYMBIOTIC**
 - **COOPERATIVE**
 - **SUPPORTIVE**
 - **CONTENTIOUS**
 - **SO HOW TO WE STRUCTURE AND MAINTAIN THIS RELATIONSHIP SO THAT IT BEST SERVES ITS PURPOSES?**



PURPOSES OF THE RELATIONSHIP

- ▶ To work together toward reaching the following goals:
 - ▶ Protect the public
 - ▶ Hold people accountable for their bad choices
 - ▶ Promote justice
 - ▶ Promote trust and faith in the criminal justice system

- ▶ SO, WE HAVE THESE SAME GOALS.
 - ▶ WHAT ARE OUR RESPECTIVE ROLES AND HOW DO WE OPERATE/ BEHAVE AS WE FILL THOSE ROLES TO BEST ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.



UNDERSTAND OUR ROLE AND THE ROLE OF THE POLICE

- ▶ SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

- ▶ WE FILE / DECLINE AND PROSECUTE THE CASES BROUGHT TO USE FROM THE POLICE.

- ▶ BEFORE US ON THE ASSEMBLY LINE OF AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- ▶ IF THEY DON'T DO THEIR PART ON THE LINE – WE CAN'T DO OURS

- ▶ WHAT IF THEY NO LONGER BRING US THE CASES?



UNDERSTAND OUR ROLE AND THE ROLE OF THE POLICE

- ▶ SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

- ▶ THEY INVESTIGATE AND DISCOVER THE EVIDENCE WE NEED TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY / CONSTITUENCY

- ▶ IF WE DON'T FILE OR PROSECUTE THE CASE – THEY END UP WITH USELESS PARTS

- ▶ WHO DOES THE FOLLOW-UP YOU NEED IN COURT –

- ▶ WHO STANDS BEFORE THE COURT - THE JURY – THE COMMUNITY – THE VOTERS – THE VICTIMS?



HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ WE NEED POLICE TO BRING US GOOD PROSECUTABLE CASES AND TRUST US IN OUR ROLE. THIS IS THE PART THAT WE HAVE CONTROL OVER.
- ▶ LEADERSHIP WITHIN BUT NOT OVER THE RELATIONSHIP IS THE KEY.
 - ▶ YOU MUST BE A LEADER – *BUT NOT A BOSS* - IN THIS RELATIONSHIP.
 - ▶ MENTORSHIP



HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY
 - ▶ OPEN OFFICE AND WILLING TO DISCUSS MATTERS
 - ▶ INTEREST IN THE ROLE THEY PLAY AND ITS IMPORTANCE
 - ▶ GO TO THE STATION
 - ▶ RIDE –A – LONG
 - ▶ ASK THEM WHAT THEY WANT FROM YOU!
 - ▶ SHOW CONCERN FOR THEIR OPERATION AND PEOPLE
 - ▶ (HUGE – HUGE – HUGE)



HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY (continued)
 - ▶ WILLINGNESS TO TRAIN ON LEGAL ISSUES
 - ▶ RE-INFORCE ROLES AND NEEDS
 - ▶ WE ARE DIFFERENT PLAYERS BUT WE ARE ON THE SAME TEAM – COMMON GROUND (GOALS)
 - ▶ ARTICULATE A DESIRE TO HAVE A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP

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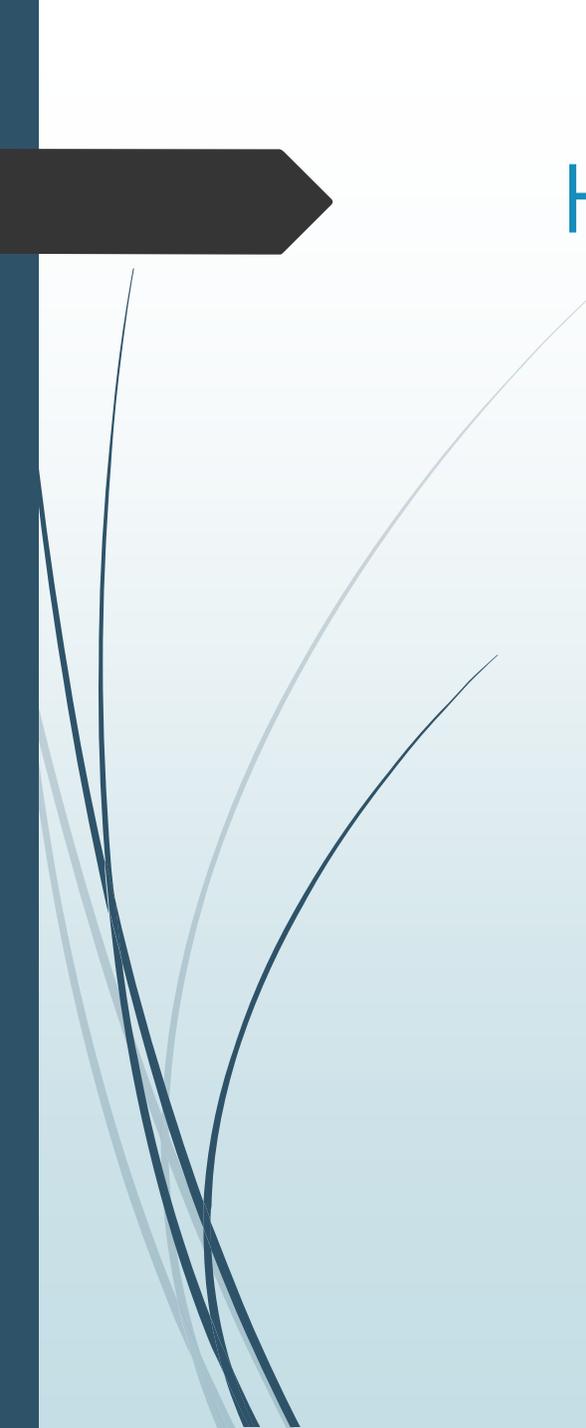
HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ PRACTICAL THINGS TO BE DONE IMMEDIATELY
 - ▶ PROVIDE DIRECT AND CELL PHONE NUMBERS
 - ▶ PROVIDE EMAIL
 - ▶ OFFER POSITIVE FEEDBACK AS TO THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN DONE WELL
 - ▶ RETURN PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS
 - ▶ INVITE THEM TO OBSERVE YOUR OPERATION



HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE FOLLOWING THROUGHOUT:
 - ▶ A STRONG AND CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW GENERALLY
 - ▶ TO KEEP RESPECT – YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU KNOW YOUR JOB AND ROLE
 - ▶ IT IS OKAY TO SAY YOU NEED TO RESEARCH SOMETHING AND GET BACK TO THEM
 - ▶ YOU MUST EXPLAIN THE WHY THE LAW IS THIS OR WHY YOUR INTERPRETATION IS THAT
 - ▶ HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE



HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE FOLLOWING THROUGHOUT:
 - ▶ CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND EXPLANATION FOR YOUR REASONS
 - ▶ DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY – IF NOT – LET’S TALK
 - ▶ GIVE THEM A VOICE (WHAT DO YOU THINK?)
 - ▶ KEEP THEM INVOLVED AND APPRISED (THEY DID A LOT OF WORK ON THIS)
 - ▶ DON’T FEED THE NEGATIVE DISPERSIONS
 - ▶ PROSECUTOR LAZY – JUST PLEA BARGAINS EVERY CASE
 - ▶ PROSECUTOR DOESN’T UNDERSTAND THE LAW
 - ▶ PROSECUTOR SCARED TO GO TO TRIAL



HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE FOLLOWING THROUGHOUT:
 - ▶ YOUR ROLE, AUTHORITY AND DISCRETION
 - ▶ TELL THEM NO AND YOU MUST EXPLAIN IT – THEY WILL RESPECT YOU IF YOU EXPLAIN THE NO
 - ▶ IF THEY FEEL THEY GOT THEIR SAY IN – THAT IS USUALLY ALL ANYONE NEEDS
 - ▶ YOU ARE NOT ABOVE THEM OR BETTER THAN THEM – IT IS JUST THE CASE IS NOW AT YOUR STATION IN THE ASSEMBLY LINE
 - ▶ YOU APPRECIATE THE OFFICER'S POSITION – BUT IT IS YOU THAT MAKES THE DECISION AT THIS POINT
 - ▶ IT IS NOT PERSONAL – BUT IT IS YOU ON THE LINE AT THIS POINT.



HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ POSITIVE RE-INFORCEMENT
 - ▶ WHEN AN OFFICER HAS DONE A GOOD JOB – LET HIM/HER AND OTHERS KNOW ABOUT IT
- ▶ GO THE EXTRA MILE WHEN YOU CAN
 - ▶ HELP WITH GETTING A CASE FILED QUICK / WARRANT REVIEW
 - ▶ PAYS DIVIDENDS
- ▶ RESIST NEGATIVE COMMENTARY – IT IS A KILLER
 - ▶ It will get back



HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE FOLLOWING THROUGHOUT:
 - ▶ LEADERSHIP LISTENING
 - ▶ CLEAR DISTRACTIONS
 - ▶ MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS
 - ▶ SHARE YOUR CONCERNS
 - ▶ COME UP WITH A PLAN FOR MOVING FORWARD
 - ▶ THANK THEM
 - ▶ TIE DECISIONS TO THE SHARED GOALS
 - ▶ TEACH AND MENTOR THE OFFICERS
 - ▶ TEACH A MAN TO FISH – CALL THEM IN AND SHOW THEM WHAT YOU NEED **AND WHY**
 - ▶ EVIDENCE EXAMPLE



HEALTHY SYMBIOSIS

- ▶ ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE FOLLOWING THROUGHOUT:
 - ▶ CONSISTENCY
 - ▶ THE POLICE NEED TO BE GETTING CONSISTENT INFORMATION / FEEDBACK
 - ▶ COMMUNICATE WITHIN THE PROSECUTION OFFICE RE: POLICIES ABOUT FILING OR NEEDS
 - ▶ THEFT EXAMPLE
 - ▶ 4TH AMENDMENT

