

**2010 Rocky Pomerance Award Winner
Large Size Agency
Ocala Police Department**

“Drug Market Intervention Program”

The purpose of the Rocky Pomerance in excellence in Policing Award is to recognize excellence in policing and to encourage member law enforcement agencies to share with their peers those programs they have developed to address community problems and have enhanced them in the eyes of their respective communities. In 2007, the Ocala Police Department began studying, and ultimately implanted a strategic problem-solving approach purposed with effectively responding to illegal drug markets Intervention (DMI) Initiative was developed by Professor David Kennedy, of John Jay College, and first implanted by a multi-agency team of local and federal law enforcement officials, neighborhood leaders, social service providers, and local government officials in High Point, North Carolina. The strategy brings together drug dealers, their families, law enforcement and criminal justice officials, service providers and community leaders to eliminate overt community drug markets; arrests and prosecutes violent drug dealers; offers non-violent , first time drug dealers opportunities for education, job training, and other assistance; and establishes clear, predictable and meaningful consequences for those who return to dealing. Although the drug dealers working in the target areas are the focus of a considerable amount of attention during the DMI implementation, the DMI is **not** primarily focused on changing individuals. Rather, it is about changing neighborhoods, transforming communities and advancing community and economic development efforts in cities nationwide through a partnership committed to the same goal – eliminating the open-air drug market. The Ocala Police Department’s problem identification and analysis methodology, through implantation, results, and participation; effective use of resources in addressing a significant community concern; enhancement of communication within the cooperation among law enforcement agencies, and/or other service providers; development of creative and innovative approaches that raise the quality and effectiveness of law enforcement; and successful strategies for enhancing quality of life within the community by implementing initiatives to increase citizen safety and security- will be provided.

For more information on Ocala P.D.’s Drug Market Intervention Program, please contact Chief Sam Williams at swilliams@ocalapd.org.