The neighborhood watch program and the co-production of public safety in Manaus: a criminological and operational analysis.
The network of protected neighbors and co-production of public security in Manaus: criminological and operational analysis

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Summary

This technical-scientific report presents a profound restructuring of the implementation of preventive policing strategies in the Amazonian capital. In this sense, it examines the implementation of the 'Protected Neighbors Network' program based on Law No.
This research draws on Law 13.675/2018 (Brazil, 2018), as well as modern criminological theory on informal social control. Through a critical diagnosis of the inadequacy of the current reactive-repressive policing model in addressing urban violence in Manaus – sustained by criminal factions such as Comando Vermelho (CV) and Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) that dispute territorial control and drug trafficking routes (Brazilian Public Security Forum, 2025; Leitão et al., 2025) and by the poor governmental management of the previous Ronda no Bairro policy (Seffair, 2014) – the research investigates successful models from Santa Catarina, São Paulo, and the Federal District. The study uses bibliographic and documentary methodology, including a comparative analysis of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Finally, the results indicated that the viability of implementing the Network in Manaus depends

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This study examines the IARA method and protection via adaptive security protocols for its members exposed in critically insecure areas. A final evaluation outlines a hybrid implementation model, combining technology, police intelligence, and community engagement to restore public order and a sense of security.

Keywords: Community Policing. Neighborhood Watch. Public Safety. Manaus. Crime Prevention. IARA Method

Abstract

The following technical-scientific report presents a deep restructuring insertion of preventive policing strategies in the Amazonian capital. As such, it examines the deployment of the "Rede de Neighbors Protected" program on the grounds of law no. 13,675 / 2018 likewise modern criminological theory on informal social control. Through a critical diagnosis on the insufficiency of the current reactive-repressive policing model to cope with Manaus' vicious urban violence, sustained by criminal gangs and governmental mismanagement of the previous policy "Ronda no Bairro", the survey investigates successful models from Santa Catarina, São Paulo, and Distrito Federal. The research uses a bibliographic and documentary methodology, including the comparative analysis of standard operating procedures. Ultimately, the survey results deemed the "Rede" implementability in Manaus dependent on the IARA method and adaptive security protocol protection of their associates exposed in critically unsafe areas. Thus, a final evaluation drafting a hybrid model of implementation, combining technology, police intelligence, and community engagement to restore public order and sense of safety.

Keywords: Community Policing. Neighborhood Watch. Public Security. Manaus. Crime Prevention. SARA Model.

INTRODUCTION

Public safety in contemporary Brazil is one of the challenges.

most pressing and complex for state management, consistently ranking among the

Public health is one of the main concerns of the population. However, this scenario is not...

merely a reflection of objective crime rates — homicides, robberies, and crimes.

property-related issues — but also a widespread and corrosive sense of insecurity that alters

Routines empty public spaces and degrade the quality of urban life. In this vein, the

The phenomenon of violence in Brazil has transcended the dimension of a "police problem" to become...

if a crisis of governance and sociability arises, requiring a reinterpretation of the social pacts that

They uphold the democratic order (Adorno; Pasinato, 2019)

Historically, the Brazilian state's response to crime has been guided by...

The "traditional policing" model. This model is characterized by reactivity: the police

It waits for the crime to occur before acting, focusing on a quick response (time to arrival).

(of the vehicle), in overt repression and subsequent investigation. However, the evolution of

Criminology and the analysis of modern social dynamics demonstrate that this approach is...

Insufficient. Because traditional policing focuses on the "incident," ignoring the "causes."

underlying issues" and the chronic problems that lead to the repetition of crimes, acting in a way

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cyclical and not very effective in reducing victimization rates in the long term (Goldstein, 1990).

From this perspective, in Manaus, the capital of Amazonas, this reality takes on different forms.

dramatic. Given that the city, a metropolis nestled in the Amazon rainforest, faces not

not only the urban violence common to large cities, but also the consequences of

violent territorial disputes involving transnational criminal organizations and

local factions that use the region as a strategic route for trafficking narcotics

originating from the Andean countries (Peru and Colombia) via the Solimões and Negro river basins

(Brazilian Forum on Public Security, 2025). The territorial dominance exercised by groups such as

CV and PCC, in addition to remaining regional factions such as Família do Norte (FDN),

It imposes a criminal governance that challenges the state's monopoly on force, establishing

"microstates" where the law of silence prevails and the presence of the State is often

replaced by the violent regulation of trafficking (Sá; Aquino, 2018).

Furthermore, the perception of insecurity is amplified among vulnerable groups —

women, the elderly, and residents of peripheral areas — creating an environment of fear that

It fragments the social fabric and inhibits the healthy use of public spaces. Recent data

They indicate that Manaus has consistently ranked among the capitals with high rates of

Intentional Violent Deaths (IVD), driven by conflicts between factions vying for control.

Controlling drug dens and trafficking routes generates a cascading effect of crimes.

Property-related and interpersonal violence (Leitão et al., 2025). The complexity of the Manaus scenario.

This is exacerbated by the unique urban geography, characterized by creeks and areas of informal settlement.

Difficult access, which demands policing strategies that go beyond patrolling.

conventional motorized vehicle.

In this context, the research problem can be condensed into: Given this scenario,

The central problem of this research emerges: How does the State, through the Military Police of

The Amazonas Military Police (PMAM) can transcend the purely repressive model and engage society.

civil society in the construction of preventive and effective public security, considering the

What are the specificities and risks of the Manaus scenario?

Well, the preliminary answer points to the philosophy of Community Policing,

Specifically through the "Protected Neighbors Network" strategy. However, simply transposing models from

other states does not guarantee success. It is necessary to examine:

1) The validity of the information and data available on the effectiveness of these networks: This is imperative.

to verify if the crime reduction observed in other contexts is replicable in a city.

where armed territorial control by factions is a reality in several neighborhoods and where

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Trust in the police has historically been eroded.

2) The necessary adaptation to operational protocols: The standard "wall plate" model

and open meetings can expose Manaus citizens to lethal risks in red zones (zones

(Domination by factions)? How to mitigate the risks posed by local organized crime without

How can community participation be prevented while ensuring the physical safety of employees?

3) The project's sustainability in light of its history of discontinuation.

Administrative: Manaus has a history of promising security programs, such as

the "Neighborhood Patrol," which were either discontinued or eliminated due to changes in power and

The lack of institutionalization as a state policy is generating skepticism among the population and in

own troops (Seffair, 2014)

The social importance of this research lies in considering the residents of Manaus as a

A tool for progress and protection, thereby restoring confidence in security agencies.

Rebuilding social cohesion in neighborhoods dominated by fear is not just a matter of...

quality of life; it also refers, very directly, to health and the conditions for it.

Economic development in these areas. And how can residents partner with agents?

police officers who, for so long, have been stigmatized by connotations that affect citizens.

against the authorities? The proposal aims to transform the resident from a 'potential victim' into a

'Active agent' of their own security, strengthening community cohesion and collective effectiveness.

(Sampson; Raudenbush; Earls, 1997).

Furthermore, in the legal sphere, this work observes the Federal Constitution of 1988.

(Article 144), which asserts that public security is the duty of the State and a right due

equally to each of us (Brazil, 1988). Secondly, it is based on the Law of the Unified Public Security System

(Law No. 13.675/2018), which makes security everyone's concern.

by sharing responsibility for prevention, as well as coordination between the

police departments and civil society (Brazil, 2018).

Finally, in the academic sphere, this study will fill a gap in the application of

Community policing methodologies in highly complex criminal environments in

Amazon. While there is extensive literature on community policing in the Southern and

Southeast, the application of such concepts in border regions, as well as in controlled areas.

The theory of factionalism in the North has never been researched or properly developed—and little has been established.

Beyond that.

The overall objective is to analyze the feasibility and propose a structured model for

Implementation of the "Protected Neighbors Network" in Manaus. Specific objectives

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They include: 1. Examining the theoretical basis (Criminology and Sociology) that validates the
Community cooperation; 2. Compare the models of Santa Catarina, São Paulo and the Federal District.
Federal to extract best practices; 3. Diagnose the shortcomings of previous programs in
Manaus ("Neighborhood Patrol") and 4. Develop operational guidelines based on the method
IARA for the local reality.

To achieve the proposed objectives, this research adopts an approach
qualitative, applied in nature, and exploratory in purpose. The complexity of the phenomenon of
Violence in Manaus and the need to propose a practical intervention justify this choice.
methodological. The technical procedure used is based on a literature review and
documentary, combined with the method of comparative analysis.

The theoretical framework was constructed based on a review of reference works.
in Criminology and Sociology, focusing on theories of Informal Social Control (Hirschi, 1969;
Jacobs, 2011) and Broken Windows (Wilson; Kelling, 1982), as well as current legislation, notably the
1988 Federal Constitution and the Unified Public Security System Law.
Public (Law No. 13.675/2018).

The collection of secondary data involved the critical appraisal of official documents.
Technical manuals, guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the Police
Military personnel from Santa Catarina (PMSC), São Paulo (PMSP), and the Federal District (PMDF). The choice.
The success of these federative units is due to the national recognition of their practices.
community policing and the existence of consolidated data on its programs
neighborhood.

The examination of the data was conducted in three stages: (i) diagnosis of the model
traditional and previous local experiences, such as the "Neighborhood Patrol" program, using
data from the Integrated Public Security System (SISP/AM) and academic studies on the
(i) security management in Amazonas; (ii) comparative study of the strategies adopted in the states
selected (SC, SP and DF) to identify convergences (use of technology, methodology
(POP) and divergences applicable to the Amazonian context; and (iii) propositional modeling,
adapting the best practices identified to the specific geographical and criminal characteristics of
Manaus, resulting in the proposal of the IARA Method and the risk zoning system.
(Green, Yellow, Red).

2. The Pillars of Preventive Criminology and Social Control

It must be emphasized that the Neighborhood Watch Network proposal is not an invention.

Isolated administrative effort or mere managerial fad; it is the operational materialization of decades.

of studies in the areas of Criminology, Sociology of Crime, and Urban Planning. Thus, to equip the

In order to project scientific robustness and avoid blind empiricism, it is imperative to dissect the theories that

They underpin the effectiveness of community surveillance and informal social control.

2.1 From Traditional Policing to Community Philosophy

The ontological distinction between policing models is the starting point for

to understand the need for change. From this perspective, traditional policing, inherited from

The reformist bureaucratic-professional model of the mid-20th century measures its efficiency almost...

exclusively through quantitative *output metrics:* number of arrests made, quantity

of seized drugs and response time to emergency calls. Furthermore, it operates under

the centralizing logic that the police are the only experts in public safety and the

The community is a passive client, a recipient of services (Goldstein, 1990). However, this

This approach isolates the vehicle from social reality, creating a barrier of distrust and

transforming the police officer into a "stranger" who only intervenes when the conflict has already escalated.

for the crime.

Conversely, Community Policing should not be understood solely as

It's not a specific tactic or project, but rather an organizational philosophy and strategy.

As Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1994) state, this approach is based on

fundamental premise that the police cannot solve complex security problems

contemporary communities alone. Therefore, a symbiotic partnership is required where the community

It acts as the "eyes and ears" of security, providing vital information and exercising...

control over their own territory, while the police act as a catalyst for solutions and

guarantor of rights.

Therefore, the focus shifts from "crime" (the isolated event, the symptom) to the

"problem" (the chronic condition, the root cause that generates the repetition of crimes).

Feature	Traditional Policing	Community Policing (Network of Neighbors)
Main Focus	Law Enforcement and Repression	Problem Solving and Prevention
Performance	Reactive (post-crime)	Proactive (pre-crime)
Relationship with the Community	Distant / Authoritarian	Partnership / Consulting
Metric of Success	Prisons and Crime Rates	Sense of Security and Social Well-being
Flow Information	Vertical (Command -> Police)	Horizontal and Bidirectional (Police <-> Community)

2.2 Environmental Criminology and the Broken Windows Theory

The Neighborhood Watch Network finds strong support in Environmental Criminology and,

Specifically, in the Broken Windows Theory, formulated by

James Q. Wilson and George Kelling in 1982. The theory posits a causal relationship between

Disorder and crime: physical disorder (accumulated garbage, graffiti, broken windows,

poor lighting) and social issues (public drunkenness, vagrancy, petty crimes that go unpunished)

It sends a clear signal to the community and to criminals that "nobody cares" about

that space (Wilson; Kelling, 1982).

This sign of neglect and lack of regulation reduces informal social control over

Residents — who, intimidated, stop occupying the street — and invites criminals to act.

because the perceived risk of capture or intervention is drastically reduced. This creates,

a spiral of urban decay and rising crime.

By implementing a Protected Neighbors Network, the community, in partnership with the

The police reverse this logic. The presence of signs indicating ("Protected Neighborhood"), the

Maintaining the lighting, cleaning the spaces, and, above all, ensuring quick communication.

Among residents, the signals are the opposite: social cohesion and active vigilance. This increases the "perception".

"of risk" for the potential offender, acting as a powerful prevention mechanism.

situational nature of the crime (Clarke, 1997). The rational criminal (from the perspective of Choice Theory).

(Rational) avoids targets where the chance of being seen and reported is high.

2.3 Social Control: Formal vs. Informal

Modern criminology understands crime not only as the violation of a penal type,

but as a failure in the control mechanisms that govern life in society.

1) Formal Social Control: This is the control exercised by official state institutions (Police, Public Prosecutor's

   Office, Judiciary, Penitentiary System). It is characterized by being expensive and slow.

   bureaucratic, stigmatizing and having limited reach (the police cannot be omnipresent in

   every corner at all times) (Gomes; Bianchini, 2013).

2) Informal Social Control: This is exercised by civil society itself through its primary and secondary groups

   (family, school, church, neighborhood, public opinion). It is omnipresent.

   preventive, immediate, and based on the internalization of norms, shame, and

   Mutual surveillance (Hirschi, 1969).

The "Neighborhood Watch" is essentially a revitalization strategy and

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Strengthening informal social control. In large, urbanized metropolises.

Unlike Manaus, which is chaotic, population growth and verticalization have generated...

Anonymity; neighbors share walls, but they don't know each other and therefore don't protect each other.

Therefore, this weakening of community ties (social anomie) facilitates action.

criminal.

The program aims to rebuild these primary bonds of solidarity. When control

Informal practices work (the neighbor who watches the other's house, the shopkeeper who warns about...)

(strange movement), the need for intervention by formal control (police) decreases.

drastically reducing conflicts by reducing the risk of minor conflicts, allowing the State's scarce resources to be used.

focused on serious crimes and combating organized crime.

2.4 Community Panopticism and Natural Surveillance

Michel Foucault's concept of Panopticism (2014), originally a critique of

disciplinary power structures where "one watches over many" (as in the idealized prison by

Bentham), can be reinterpreted in the context of democratic citizen security. In the Network of

Neighbors, this is not about vertical surveillance of the citizen by the State, but rather about a

Horizontal and collaborative surveillance: the natural surveillance advocated by urban planner Jane Jacobs in

his seminal work "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" (2011).

Jacobs introduced the concept of "eyes on *the street.* " For him, the

Public safety on sidewalks and in neighborhoods is not primarily maintained by the police, but by...

an intricate and almost unconscious network of voluntary controls and observation patterns between

The people themselves.

In the Neighborhood Watch network, the feeling of omnipresence of surveillance ("Panopticon")

"Community-based" security creates a deterrent. The criminal avoids operating in an area where he knows anyone...

Suspicious movement will be immediately noticed and reported to the police via encrypted network.

(WhatsApp/Telegram). Unlike Foucault's oppressive panopticon, this model is based on

consent, in voluntary adherence and in collective self-protection, aligning with the defense of

fundamental rights to life, physical integrity, and property.

3. LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK: THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PARTNERSHIP
POLICE-SOCIETY

The implementation of the Neighborhood Watch program is not only theoretically desirable, but

legally grounded and required by contemporary Brazilian law.

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3.1 The Federal Constitution of 1988

Article 144 of the 1988 Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil is the basis for...

National public security: "Public security, a duty of the State, a right and a responsibility."

Of all, it is exercised for the preservation of public order and the safety of persons and of

"patrimony..." (Brazil, 1988).

The expression "responsibility of all" fulfills the hermeneutical key of

The legitimacy of neighborhood watch programs. It removes the citizen from a passive stance,

It positions him as a co-author of security. Programs like the Neighborhood Watch are a

direct operationalization of this provision of the Constitution itself. By participating in the network, the

The citizen is not usurping the police function or exercising police power ("doing justice").

with their own hands), but will exercise their civic duty of vigilance along with other citizens.

and cooperating with the police.

In addition, Article 6 lists security as a Social Right, along with

health, education, and housing. It follows that the State must provide proactive public policies.

...and not only reactive measures to guarantee this integral right, which includes prevention instead of just...

Suppressing and reducing feelings of insecurity through partnerships with the community.

3.2 The Unified Public Security System (Law 13.675/2018)

The SUSP Law represents the most important regulatory framework for policing.

community.

1) **Article 5, Item XII:** Determines the "emphasis on community policing actions, with

focus on problem solving" (Brazil, 2018).

2) **Article 5, Item XIX:** Encourages "programs and projects focused on promoting the culture of

peace, community security, and the integration of security policies with other policies.

social" (Brazil, 2018).

Federal law, therefore, obliges federated entities to migrate from the isolationist model.

for the integrated model. By adopting the Neighborhood Watch Network, PMAM is complying with a guideline.

federal institutional modernization.

3.3 Public Order and Human Rights

The concept of **Public Order,** defined in Decree No. 88.777/1983 (Brazil, 1983),

It involves "harmonious and peaceful coexistence." However, the modern interpretation, in light of...

Human rights demand that public order not be maintained at the cost of suppressing rights.

Community policing is the ideal tool to guarantee this democratic order, as it operates in

conflict mediation and prevention, avoiding the excessive use of lethal force that

This often occurs in traditional repressive policing. The Neighborhood Watch, by preventing

The crime protects both the victim and the potential aggressor (who refrains from committing the crime and

(entering the penal system), promoting the dignity of the human person.

4. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: SUCCESS MODELS AND METHODOLOGIES
APPLIED

To design an effective model for Manaus, a comparative analysis was carried out.

This study examines three successful experiences in Brazil, identifying their strengths and methodologies.

4.1 Santa Catarina: The Science of Policing (POP Method)

The Military Police of Santa Catarina (PMSC) is a national benchmark due to its

technical and methodological approach. The "Neighborhood Watch" program of the PMSC is not a

An informal or voluntarist initiative; it is strictly governed by the Operating Procedure.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) No. 113/PMSC (Santa Catarina, 2012). This document establishes clear guidelines.

for the formation, maintenance and evaluation of neighboring cells, avoiding discontinuity

common to security projects.

The success in Santa Catarina is due to the rigorous application of People-Oriented Policing.

Problem (POP). Unlike incidental policing, which is content to respond to the incident,

The POP requires the police officer to analyze the underlying causes. In municipalities such as Rio Negrinho and

In Lages, the combination of the Network with the POP resulted in crime reductions of up to 50%.

property crimes, such as robberies and burglaries in homes, in monitored areas (PMSC, 2023).

Key Methodology: IARA. The PMSC uses the acronym IARA (adaptation of...).

SARA *model - Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment -* developed by Eck and Spelman

to guide the network's actions:

I - Identification (Scanning): Define the problem precisely (e.g., not just "robberies," but

"Robberies of pedestrians on X Street at 6 PM by motorcyclists").

A - Analysis: Understanding the causes (lack of lighting, vacant lot being used as a

hiding place, easy escape route).

R - Response: Joint action. The City Hall changes the lightbulb, the neighbors keep watch and...

They cut the grass, and the Military Police conduct targeted patrols during peak hours.

A - Assessment: To verify statistically and qualitatively whether crime has decreased.

after the intervention (Brazil, 2009).

The lesson from SC for Manaus is the need for standardization and method. Without a clear SOP, the

The network risks degenerating into a "gossip group" on WhatsApp or into vigilantism.

uncontrolled.

4.2 São Paulo: Neighborhood Solidarity and Social Capital

The "Solidarity Neighborhood Program" (PVS) of the Military Police of São Paulo (PMSP),

Established by State Law No. 16,771 of June 18, 2018 (São Paulo, 2018), it focuses intensely on behavioral change

and the strengthening of social capital. In light of this,

The primary objective is to break the urban isolation typical of large metropolises, where the

Anonymity facilitates criminal activity.

In upscale and middle-class neighborhoods, such as Jardins and Higienópolis, adherence to

The program resulted in significant reductions in crimes of opportunity. Addressing another

The key point of the São Paulo model is the figure of the "Civil Tutor," and given this, the program requires...

that the community organizes itself and elects volunteer leaders (tutors) who act as official liaisons.

with the Company Commander of the Military Police. This decentralizes management, removes the burden.

It gives exclusive administrative authority to the police and empowers civil society, creating leadership.

Positive community engagement that goes beyond security, also acting in urban stewardship.

While the experience in São Paulo teaches that structured civic engagement is vital for

For the program's longevity in Manaus, the role of the "Tutor" must be adapted to ensure...

Their safety against the power of factions, perhaps with a more discreet profile in high-risk areas.

4.3 Federal District: Real-Time Intelligence

The Military Police of the Federal District (PMDF) adapted the concept for the digital age with

the "Protected Neighbors Network" (PNR) project, transforming application groups into

Messages (WhatsApp and Telegram) are being used by police intelligence tools in real time.

The model used in the Federal District stands out for its speed, operational efficiency, and intensive use of technology.

The PMDF (Military Police of the Federal District) regulated the network through internal ordinances and, more recently,

It sought support in District Law No. 6,430/2019, which creates the District Security Council.

Public (Federal District, 2019). Data indicates that between 2019 and 2023, approximately 1,930 arrests were made.

The arrests were made based on complaints and information circulated in the groups.

Network (PMDF, 2024). The DF model demonstrates that the network can be used not only for

prevention (deterrence via signs), but for qualified repression, functioning as a

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A system of "human sensors" spread throughout the federal capital.

A key innovation in the Federal District is the direct integration of WhatsApp groups with...

The vehicle dispatch desks, reducing response time. For Manaus, where traffic

Given that geography makes travel difficult, this digital integration is crucial.

4.4 Comparative Chart and Lessons for Manaus

Aspect	Santa Catarina (PMSC)	São Paulo (PMSP)	District Federal (PMDF)	Lesson for Manaus (PMAM)
Focus	Methodology Scientific (POP/IARA)	Cohesion Social and Prevention	Response Fast and Intelligence	Need for Hybridization (Method) + Intelligence)
Meetings + Data Analysis **Tool**		Plates and Tutors	WhatsApp/ Telegram	Use of apps with geolocation anonymity and
Management	Police Network Manager	Tutor Community	Central Monitoring	Shared Management with Tutor Protection
Result: Root cause resolution		Reduction of theft/robbery	High number of prisons	Focus in disarticulation "Bocas" robbery and prevention

5. DIAGNOSIS OF MANAUS: STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES AND ASYMMETRICAL THREATS

Translating the above models to Manaus requires a brutally thorough diagnosis.

honest about the local reality, because Manaus is not Florianópolis or Brasília; its dynamics

Criminal and geographical factors are unique and pose challenges that, if ignored, will doom any...

project doomed to failure.

5.1 The Legacy and Lessons of "Neighborhood Patrol"

Starting in 2011, Manaus saw the beginning of the "Ronda no Bairro" program, which was

established by Decree No. 31,754/2011, containing visions of community policing and

Sectorization in areas of approximately 2.5 km² (Amazonas, 2011). Initially, the program

It was a remarkable success with crime falling and high approval ratings from the...

Public opinion is boosted thanks to the visibility offered by the new vehicles and equipment.

(Amazonas, 2012). Nevertheless, the program collapsed and was weakened over the years.

subsequent.

Causes of Discontinuity:

1) Political Discontinuity: The program was treated as a "government brand" (marketing).

political) and not as a "state policy". With the change of government and the crisis

Economically, it was discarded in favor of new "brands," without taking advantage of its legacy.

structural and methodological (Seffair, 2014)

2) Lack of Institutionalization: There has not been a profound cultural change in the formation of

police. The troops continued to prioritize repression and confrontation over prevention and...

Community contact. The "community" part only referred to the paint job on the police car, not the police attitude, which

He often viewed community work as a "social service" rather than actual policing.

3) Logistics: The lack of budgetary planning for fleet maintenance and...

Technological equipment (cameras, tablets) made continuous presence in the sectors unfeasible.

He broke his promise of "permanence" made to the community and generated frustration.

4) Lesson: The new Neighborhood Watch program must be protected by state legislation (law

ordinary, not just decree) and focus on changing the troop's culture through education.

continued career development and incentives.

5.2 The "Criminal Factions" Factor and Territorial Control

Unlike Santa Catarina or the upscale neighborhoods of São Paulo, vast areas of

Manaus suffers from the direct influence of criminal factions (CV, PCC, and remnants of

local groups) and regional groups seeking control of the "Solimões Route" and retail trade.

Drugs (Brazilian Public Security Forum, 2025).

In these areas, operationally designated as "Red Zones," the State

They are fighting for a monopoly on force. The factions impose curfews and collect "fees" of

security and enforce the "Law of Silence" with extreme brutality, including practices of dismembering bodies

to sow terror and communicate power (LEITÃO et al., 2025).

In this way, implement a traditional Neighborhood Network (with visible signs).

Having a "Neighborhood Watch" and open meetings at schools in these areas can be irresponsible.

and suicidal. Identifying a house as a "police partner" in a neighborhood dominated by the CV is

To put a target on the resident's forehead. Therefore, the Manaus model cannot be...

Uniform. It must be modular, covert in certain areas, and adaptive to the risk level of each situation.

neighborhood.

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5.3 Geography and Urban Infrastructure

Manaus has a complex urban geography, crisscrossed by hundreds of streams and

"Invasion" areas (irregular settlements) with chaotic urban layout, narrow alleys, and backstreets.

and wooden bridges (stilt houses). This configuration makes motorized patrolling difficult.

traditional (four-wheeled vehicles) and facilitates the escape of criminals who know the terrain.

labyrinthine (Seffair, 2014).

From this perspective, the Neighborhood Watch is even more vital, as residents get to know each other.

Alley geography is better than the police. The qualified information from the resident ("the suspect")

ran to the bridge in alley X that leads to street Y") can guide police raids (including

(by motorcycle or on foot) with surgical precision, avoiding ineffective operations and reducing the

Response time. Geography dictates that human intelligence must compensate for the deficiencies of...

motorized mobility.

6. IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSAL: "NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH" MODEL
"PROTECTED MANAUS"

Based on the theoretical, legal, and comparative framework, a model is proposed.

specific operational procedure for the PMAM (Military Police of Amazonas).

6.1 Modular Implementation Strategy (Traffic Light System)

Recognizing the heterogeneity of security in Manaus, the following classification is proposed.

of neighborhoods or streets into three risk levels, with distinct implementation protocols:

6.1.1 Level 1: Green Zone (Low Risk / Full State Control)

Target audience: Gated communities, middle/upper-class neighborhoods (e.g., Ponta Negra,

Adrianópolis), established commercial centers.

Action (Model "Full"): Ostentatious installation of "Protected Neighborhood" signs in

facades and streets (visual deterrent effect); holding monthly meetings in person,

between police and residents; creation of WhatsApp groups moderated by the tutor and the police officer.

Community-based.

Objective: Prevention of property crimes (burglary/robbery of residences and vehicles) by

A means of visual deterrence and natural surveillance; strengthening the feeling of security and cohesion.

social.

6.1.2 Level 2: Yellow Zone (Medium Risk / Influence Dispute)

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Target audience: Traditional working-class neighborhoods (e.g., Alvorada, Redenção) and areas of

a transition where there is widespread criminality, but not necessarily hegemonic dominance of one [criminal group].

faction.

Action (Hybrid Model): Active communication groups, but without brands.

visually identifiable in individual residences (so as not to "mark" or expose the

inhabitants subject to occasional reprisals). Signs may only be placed on main roads or

public buildings. Meetings held in neutral and safe locations (schools, police barracks, etc.).

churches), with strict access control.

Objective: To build trust, mediate neighborhood conflicts, and gather information.

Regarding suspicious activity (domestic trafficking, receiving stolen goods).

6.1.3 Level 3: Red Zone (High Risk / Faction Control)

Target audience: Areas with known drug dealing spots, established informal settlements, and neighborhoods with high drug use.

Index of Intentional Lethal Violent Crimes (CVLI) (e.g., Jorge Teixeira, Compensa in

certain areas).

Action (Pure Intelligence Model): No license plates; registration of

Collaborators' information is confidential, encrypted, and managed exclusively by the PM's intelligence sector (P-2);

The flow of information is strictly unidirectional (Resident -> Police) through channels.

anonymous and secure (e.g., an app with anonymous geo-referenced reporting); these do not exist.

open meetings or visible WhatsApp groups that can be infiltrated by "spotters" from

traffic.

Objective: Police intelligence focused on operations to retake and enforce laws.

Warrants and dismantling organized crime. Protecting the life of the collaborator is paramount.

absolute priority; he acts as a discreet human source, not as a "watchful neighbor."

ostentatious.

6.2 Adoption of the IARA Method and Protocols

The PMAM (Military Police of Amazonas) must formally adopt the IARA Method as doctrine for its use.

from the Network, especially in the Green and Yellow zones, aligning with the SENASP manuals.

(Brazil, 2009).

1) Training: Providing mandatory instruction to Community Police Officers and Civilian Tutors

about the method, conflict mediation, and basic criminal analysis. The police officer needs to know

Diagnose the problem and don't just "pass the vehicle by".

2) Manualization: Creation of a specific Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the

Network in Manaus, detailing how to form the group, what is allowed to post (prohibition).

(of current events, politics, fake news) and how to respond to emergencies.

3) Screening: The police officer in charge of the group must be trained to distinguish "noise"

(irrelevant neighborhood conflict) of "intelligence information" and dispatching vehicles

only when faced with real demands, optimizing resources and avoiding troop burnout.

6.3 Integration of Technology and Innovation

Technology acts as a force multiplier, addressing the shortage of personnel.

human in a city of continental dimensions.

1) Coordinated Video Surveillance: Encourage residents (Green and Yellow Zones) to

positioning private cameras facing the street and sharing access (via

(cloud/IP) with the Integrated Security Operations Center (CIOPS). This creates a

A low-cost "digital belt" for the State, expanding surveillance capacity without

cost of public infrastructure.

2) "Safe Neighbor" App: Development or acquisition of an official app.

(integrated into the "App 190" or similar) to replace the archaic use of the "whistle". The app must have

a "digital panic button" that, when activated, sends the location via GPS to the

nearest patrol car and alerts registered neighbors simultaneously (in the Zones

Green/Yellow). For the Red Zone, the app should only have the reporting function.

Anonymous media upload (photos/videos) without leaving traces on the user's phone.

3) Data Analysis: Using *Business Intelligence* (BI) software to map the

incidents generated by the Network and identify *hotspots* (crime hotspots), allowing a

Predictive policing and efficient deployment of personnel.

6.4 Sustainability and Participation

To avoid the political "death by starvation" that occurred with "Ronda no Bairro"

:

1) Institutionalization: The program must be established by State Law, guaranteeing its permanence.

and a fixed, dedicated budget, shielding it from changes in government.

2) Police Incentives: Creation of rewards, commendations on service record, or points for promotion.

of police officers who successfully manage networks with a proven track record (reducing crime rates in their area).

The police officer should view the Network as an ally, not as an extra bureaucratic "job".

3) *Feedback :* The "golden rule" of community intelligence: the police should always

provide feedback to the community about the results of the complaints (e.g., "Thanks to

According to information from the Network, the "mouth" on street X was closed). This validates the citizen's effort and

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Maintain confidence in the system.

7. CONCLUSION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

In short, research on the topic leads to the conclusion that the "Network of" Project

"Protected Neighbors" in Manaus is not only feasible, but imperative for the modernization of the city.

Public security in Amazonas. The traditional, reactive, isolated, and purely repressive model.

It is no longer capable of dealing with the contemporary criminal dynamics of a metropolis.

complex and dominated by factions.

The proposal is feasible and highly recommended, provided it is adapted. Verification of

hypothesis and comparison of the results achieved with other experiences (SP, SC, DF)

They clearly demonstrate that community involvement, when well managed, reduces the rates.

crime reduction and improved sense of security. The theoretical basis of Criminology (Control

Social Informal, Broken Windows) and the legal basis (CF/88, SUSP Law) provide solid

legitimacy to this proposal.

However, the research strongly warns that any success in Manaus

It will depend on respecting local conditions. Trying to apply a "standard" neighborhood model is not an option.

Solidarity in areas marked by the belligerent dominance of criminal factions is an invitation to disaster.

and to the death of innocent collaborators. For this reason, the simple importation of external models

Without critical analysis and adaptation (Traffic Light System/Risk Zones), it would be a gross management error.

7.1 Final Recommendations:

1) Controlled Pilot Program: Immediate implementation in two pilot neighborhoods with specific profiles.

   distinct (one in the Green Zone, e.g., Parque 10, and another in the Yellow Zone, e.g., Alvorada) for

   Test the IARA systems, application, and methodology before proceeding with expansion.

   massive.

2) Doctrine and Legislation: Publish the Community Policing Manual of the PMAM (Military Police of Amazonas).

   Updated, incorporating the IARA method and network security protocols. Send

   Draft bill to the Legislative Assembly establishing the program as a State Policy.

3) Technology: Enable the integration of private cameras into the CIOPS, developing

   Simultaneously, an application with specific functionalities for each risk zone.

4) Protection: Establish strict counterintelligence and anonymity protocols in the Zones.

   Red flags are used to protect infiltrated informants, treating them as intelligence assets.

and not as mere volunteers.

Public safety is a collective effort. By transforming each neighbor into a

Partner and each cell phone in a prevention tool, the "Protected Neighbors Network" —

If implemented with technical precision, caution, and intelligence, it has the potential to restore

not only public order, but also the community spirit of the people of Manaus.

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