“Hot spots” policing is highly effective, and many police leaders use the term to describe their policing strategy. This is not surprising in that a substantial amount of crime is produced in a few small areas (i.e., streets segments or blocks). In some cases, as much as 50% of calls for service or incidents of crime can be found in less than 5% of places (e.g., blocks) (Weisburd, D., 2015). However, while hot spots policing may positively impact crime, police leaders should consider using the “Koper Curve” Principle to maximize crime reduction and increase community satisfaction and legitimacy. The Koper Curve, emanating from the Minneapolis Hot Spots Policing experiment and tested in Sacramento, suggests that random 10-15 minute patrols at least every two hours in hot spots optimized deterrence.

When combined with situational and problem-oriented policing strategies implemented by patrol officers and other units or officers, hot spots policing using the Koper Curve Principle can enhance policing effectiveness, thereby substantially reducing crime not only in hot spots, but possibly the jurisdiction overall. Law enforcement leaders should remember it is also important for patrol and community policing units to engage the community using problem-solving approaches to eliminate conditions that may facilitate crime, including vacant properties, poor lighting, nuisance and public order offenses, and debris and graffiti.

The Police Foundation is the oldest nationally-known, non-profit, non-partisan, and non-membership-driven organization dedicated to improving America’s most noble profession – policing. The Police Foundation has been on the cutting edge of police innovation for 45 years since it was established by the Ford Foundation as a result of the President’s Commission on the Challenge of Crime in a Free Society.