

UDC 343.14:351.745.7:343.974
DOI: 10.56215/naia-herald/1.2025.21

Conceptual foundations and practical aspects of community police officer's participation in combating crime

Mykhailo Hribov*

Doctor of Law, Professor
National Academy of Internal Affairs
03035, 1 Solomianska Sq., Kyiv, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0000-0000-0000-0000>

Andrii Vozniuk

Doctor of Law, Professor
National Academy of Internal Affairs
03035, 1 Solomianska Sq., Kyiv, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3352-5626>

Dmytro Zdoryk

Adjunct
Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs
61080, 27 Lev Landau Ave., Kharkiv, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0009-0009-1335-678X>

■ **Abstract.** The activity of a community police officer takes place in conditions of almost inextricable physical presence on community's territory and constant contacts with local residents. This gives the officers significant opportunities for prompt detection and prevention of criminal offences. However, due to the lack of powers, these opportunities cannot always be fulfilled. The purpose of this study was to establish the feasibility of empowering a community police officer with the powers of proactive detection of criminal offences, and to determine the list and content of these powers. To fulfil this purpose, the study employed general scientific (inductive, deductive, analysis, synthesis, analogy, generalisation, modelling) and special (comparative legal, systemic-structural, and logical-legal analysis) methods. The study examined the legal grounds for detection, investigation, and solving of criminal torts, prevention of their commission by law enforcement officers, and application of administrative and criminal liability measures to them. The findings obtained were verified using the method of expert assessments. By summarising the practices of other countries, the study formulated the concept (ideology) of the institution of community police officer by defining the purpose of their functioning; tasks; subjects and principles. Successful implementation of this concept requires not only granting the necessary powers to a community police officer, but also high-quality personnel and logistical support for such entities. Conceptually, it is vital to empower them to secretly engage local residents in confidential cooperation in combating criminal offences (detection, suppression, disclosure, investigation, prevention), as well as to conduct observation, interviews, and home visits in certain cases. The practical value of this study lies in the possibility of using its findings to improve the regulations governing the work of the police in combating crime in terms of regulating the powers of a community police officer

■ **Keywords:** law enforcement officer; interaction; detection; investigation; prevention; public; criminal analysis

■ **Suggested Citation:**

Hribov, M., Vozniuk, A., & Zdoryk, D. (2025). Conceptual foundations and practical aspects of community police officer's participation in combating crime. *Scientific Journal of the National Academy of Internal Affairs*, 30(1), 21-33. doi: 10.56215/naia-herald/1.2025.21.

■ *Corresponding author

■ Received: 03.01.2025; Revised: 23.02.2025; Accepted: 25.03.2025



Copyright © The Author(s). This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

■ Introduction

One of the principal tasks of every democratic, law-based social state is to protect individuals and society from criminal attacks. In most countries of the world, this task is entrusted to law enforcement agencies that are authorised to prevent, detect, stop, and investigate crimes. A prominent place among these bodies is occupied by the police, since it is they who fight criminal offences that are most sensitive to the average citizen. These are crimes against life and health, property, sexual inviolability, labour and political rights, etc. The police guard public order and public safety, and fight drug-related crimes and criminal traffic offences.

Countries have varying structural organisations and specialisations of the police. However, in most countries, there is an institution of officials who perform police functions in concrete localities in close cooperation with local communities. Various titles are used to describe an official of this institution: "District Police Inspector", "Community Police Officer", "Community Support Officer", "Neighbourhood Police Officer", "Neighbourhood Officer", "Local Police Officer", "Beat Officer". The list of their powers varies from country to country. But what is common is that these police officers are the primary link in the fight against crime. They are considered as being on the first line (front line) of defence of a particular person and the entire community from illegal encroachments and simultaneously as representatives of this community who use police knowledge, skills, and abilities to solve social problems. However, various factors, including a lack of specific powers, prevent them from fully and comprehensively exercising their ability to combat crime in the territory they serve. Among such powers are those that are usually considered to be the exclusive competence of detectives, investigators, and special operational units.

The issue of community policing is the subject of many studies. The academic activity in this area is driven, on the one hand, by the significance and effectiveness of this institution, and on the other hand, by the numerous problems that arise in its functioning. M. Hecker (2023) reviewed the scientific literature in this area. The researcher noted that many studies of procedural justice were conducted internationally, showing its positive influence on the willingness of citizens to cooperate with the police. Therewith, the reduction of crime and ongoing efforts to improve the professionalism and effectiveness of the police seem to be a secondary factor. At the same time, based on empirical data collected in Germany, M. Hecker (2023) concluded that trust in police effectiveness depends on subjective assessments of personal safety of each individual. Victimisation and fear of crime undermine trust in the police. Trust in

the police, confidence in the fairness of its actions, depends on personal experience of communication with its representatives. At the same time, increasing the density of police presence on the ground can increase confidence in the police's ability to prevent and respond to crime.

E. Skyba (2023) covered the modern philosophical foundations of community police officers. The researcher emphasised that the efforts of such officers should primarily be focused on preventing offences rather than responding to crimes that were already committed. The researcher emphasised the significance of close interaction between police officers and local residents, and the relevance of their support in shaping and strengthening their legal awareness. At the same time, the researcher ignored the issues of the powers of a community police officer, specifically, in terms of their reactive activities. As for the interaction of such an officer with community representatives, the philosophical issues of involving them in confidential cooperation stay unexplored. R.A. Serbyn & S.I. Shevchenko (2022) covered the issues of content and means of improving the legal regulation of the activities of this category of police officers. The researchers considered the principal activities of community police officers to be administrative and supervisory work and organisation of interaction with other subjects of public order. This position leaves room for discussion on the powers of community police officers to detect and solve crimes.

I.I. Ishchenko (2024) covered the specific features of the police officer's activity in the territorial community from the standpoint of the concept of "community policing" – with the definition and analysis of their powers in the field of preventive activities. The researcher ignored the issue of powers in other areas of crime prevention. E.A. Tyts & O.G. Strelchenko (2023) addressed the issue of the administrative legal status of a community police officer. The researchers concluded that the principal tasks of a community police officer should include interaction with the authorities, local self-government, and community representatives (in terms of public order protection), preventive registration of relevant categories of persons, cooperation with the patrol police, study of the determinants of offences, as well as implementation of measures to prevent road accidents and detection of other offences by patrolling the service area. It is debatable whether researchers attribute to the tasks of this category of police officers their interaction with certain subjects, keeping certain records, and certain activities, patrolling. Interaction, records, and activities can only be considered as tools for performing certain tasks and are not an end in themselves. It is also questionable whether the community police officer's toolkit for detecting

offences is limited to patrolling. Practice shows that they have wider opportunities.

O.A. Gutsulyak (2022) performed a comparative analysis of the formation and use of policing institutions within the community policing model in the UK, Poland, Finland, the Czech Republic, and Ukraine. While generally positively assessing the practices of these countries, the researcher questioned the expediency of simultaneously vesting community police officers with several functions, including both preventive and reactive ones, specifically, inquiries in proceedings on criminal offences. The opinion that this issue is controversial deserves support and necessitates further research. Furthermore, the researcher did not address the question of whether community police officers should be given the function of detecting and suppressing latent crimes. N.V. Vitvitska (2022) also studied the international practices of the functioning of the institution of police officers who perform their functions within a certain territory in close interaction with the population. The researcher examined the organisation of such institutions in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States, and the United Kingdom. This study was mainly descriptive and did not assess the advantages and disadvantages of the list of powers assigned to community police officers by the legislation of the respective countries.

Thus, in theory and practice, there is a series of unresolved issues related to the powers of a community police officer in terms of combating criminal offences. The purpose of the present study was to establish the expediency of vesting police officers with the powers of proactive detection of criminal offences and to determine the list and content of these powers.

■ Materials and Methods

The study employed official data of governments and police agencies of different countries of the world, as well as certain regulations governing the work of their law enforcement agencies and establishing the procedure for detecting, solving, and investigating

offences, preventing their commission, and bringing perpetrators to administrative and criminal liability. Based on the analysis of these materials, in each case, the study investigated the basic principles and concrete features of the activities of ordinary officers who perform the functions of ensuring public safety, protecting public order, and combating crime within a particular territorial community (at the forefront of combating offences) – in close cooperation with the local population.

By generalising approaches to the functioning of the institution of community police officers in different countries (and their individual regions), the study formulated a concept (ideology) of this institution which generally reflects the world experience – by defining the purpose, tasks, subjects, their actions, and the methods and means used in this regard. By analysing the regulations and practices of their application (using the example of Ukraine), the study determined whether the powers of a community police officer are consistent with the above concept and the real capabilities of such an officer to detect criminal offences.

To verify the findings, the method of expert evaluation was used. A total of 200 community police officers from multiple regions of Ukraine were interviewed. In preparing for the survey, the purpose was to interview this number of police officers to ensure that the findings would be highly representative. Each respondent was given the opportunity to stay anonymous, and the ways and guarantees of doing so were explained. All participants were informed about the goals and objectives of the survey, as well as how the information obtained would be used and the risks that may arise in this regard. The survey followed ethical standards for working with people. The study was conducted according to the rules of the Helsinki Declaration¹ and the European Commission's (2021) guidelines on ethics and data protection. The author's questionnaire, presented in Table 1, was used for the survey. For each of the questions, several answer options were offered. Still, the questions were left open by offering respondents to provide their own answer.

Table 1. List of questions contained in the author's questionnaire

No.	Question
1.	Have you ever used the services of persons on a confidential basis to carry out your crime-fighting duties?
2.	Do you consider this tool to be effective in performing the tasks of a community police officer?
3.	Is it widespread practice for a community police officer to receive information from local residents on a confidential basis about the facts of preparation and commission of criminal offences and/or persons who prepare and commit them, specifically, regarding:
3.1	▪ drug offences?
3.2	▪ illegal possession of weapons, ammunition, explosives, or other dangerous materials, substances, and items?
3.3	▪ theft?
3.4	▪ domestic (psychological and economic) violence?

¹ Declaration of Helsinki – Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Participants. (2024, October). Retrieved from <https://www.wma.net/what-we-do/medical-ethics/declaration-of-helsinki/>.

Table 1. Continued

No.	Question
3.5	▪ vehicle theft?
3.6	▪ other criminal offences?
4.	Have you ever obtained information necessary for combating crime by interviewing individuals with the purpose of concealing the true purpose of communication?
5.	Have you ever managed to obtain information necessary for combating crime through covert surveillance in public places?
6.	Have you ever visited the homes of individual local residents under false pretences (to conduct a search) to carry out crime prevention tasks?
7.	Have there been any cases when persons confidentially engaged by you for cooperation performed your tasks of collecting information necessary for combating crime by:
7.1	▪ Covert (with concealment of the purpose and ultimate recipient of the information) survey of local residents
7.1.1	Was this practice successful?
7.2	▪ Surveillance in publicly accessible places
7.2.1	Was this practice successful?
7.3	▪ Conducting a covert search in a person's home or other property to detect property obtained by criminal means, signs of drug offences, wanted persons, etc.
7.3.1	Was this practice successful?
7.4	▪ Introduction to small social groups that may create problems in ensuring law and order in the community through their actions
7.4.1	Was this practice successful?

Source: developed by the authors of this study

The survey was launched in November 2024 and lasted two months. The surveyed police officers lived and worked in the city of Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Volyn, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, and Khmelnytskyi regions of Ukraine. The police officers were interviewed in writing in a mixed format (in-person and online). Police officers who were attending retraining and advanced training courses at Kharkiv University of Internal Affairs were interviewed in person (141 people). Another 59 police officers were interviewed by sending them questionnaires via the Internet (by prior agreement). 19 of the police officers who were interviewed in person agreed to be interviewed (subject to anonymity). During these interviews, the respondents provided explanations for their answers and illustrated them with examples of their personal practice. The findings were considered in the context of the conclusions of researchers from multiple countries regarding the nature and scope of powers of local police officers, the problems of legality and fairness of their actions in the eyes of the community, in cases when they exceed their rights to combat crime.

■ Results

Introduction and development of community policing in different countries. Over the past decades, governments of democratic developed countries have paid considerable attention to the institution of community police officers. A study of their experience shows that this institution is based on the idea of entrusting the safety of residents of a particular village, town, or district, their protection from illegal encroachments and prevention of offences to police officers who constantly serve the area, work in close cooperation with the population and self-government bodies, and involve the public in ensuring law and order. For instance, the Canadian

city of Toronto has a Neighbourhood Community Officer Programme. According to this programme, police officers rely on partnerships with local residents and community organisations to carry out their functions combating crime, public order, and community safety. Officers reside in their service area for at least four years, which enables them to make effective use of available police resources, reduce crime and the fear of crime, and prevent antisocial behaviour by individuals and groups based on an understanding of the region's socio-geographical, economic, and historical characteristics (Toronto Police Service, 2025). Research conducted by S. Mehmi *et al.* (2021) has shown the success of this programme.

In the Belgian capital of Brussels, the Neighbourhood Officer institution, which makes provision for the assignment of a police officer to a specific area of the city, has been successfully operating. The purpose of their activity is to ensure security and to consolidate with the local population in combating crime. In most cases, it is the Neighbourhood Officer who is the link between the police and citizens, playing a crucial role in preventing offences, including crime. The tasks of such police officers include ensuring public safety and public order in the neighbourhood; controlling migration processes; resolving conflicts between neighbours and promoting social harmony; informing local residents about various administrative legal aspects that fall within their competence, as well as about any security problems that may arise (What is the role..., 2024). A feature of the Brussels approach that distinguishes it from other analogous programmes is that the police officer is to check a person's identity documents and place of registration to establish whether the officially declared place of residence corresponds to the factual address (migration control). This practice is quite normal and useful.

The modern concept of the New York City police is based on the Neighbourhood Policing programme. This is a systemic strategy for combating crime based on constructive interaction between local police officers and community members. Neighbourhood Policing greatly expands interaction with the community, contributing to the growth of crime prevention. Officers act as liaisons between the police and the community and are key crime fighters and problem solvers in the sector. They get to know the residents and their problems by talking to community members, neighbourhood leaders and clergy, and by visiting schools. In doing so, the officers conduct criminal analysis of the situation and use creative methods and adaptive skills. The sergeants add a new dimension to the NYPD's crime-fighting capabilities. They function as a complement to local detective units, responding quickly to small incidents and carefully documenting traces and evidence that may have been missed under previous approaches (The New York..., 2025). Police officers of the New York City Neighbourhood Policing programme are distinguished by a fairly wide range of powers, covering both preventive (patrolling, traffic control, detecting offences) and reactive (stopping offences, detaining offenders, imposing penalties, collecting factual data on crimes). Moreover, for two decades, the Los Angeles Police Department has been experimenting with a unique model of community-oriented policing called the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The programme places a dedicated team of CSP officers in selected residential buildings and neighbourhoods to interact with residents to better understand and ultimately address the root causes of crime (Muchow, 2023).

In the UK, there is an institution of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and special constables. The former has most of the police powers. The latter are volunteers who have the same powers as the police (Home Office, 2025). PCSOs work directly in communities, engaging local residents in policing and crime prevention tasks. In case event of a critical incident, the role of PCSOs is to ensure that the police can interact with the community, including by establishing a two-way flow of information. This is essential for investigating and managing community tensions. PCSOs are often key intelligence gatherers in the local community. Apart from the skills required of PCSOs, police constables have investigative powers and skills that they can use to proactively, fairly, and equitably address problems in their area (College of Policing, 2025).

Poland's Community Policing strategy also envisages close cooperation between the police and

local residents in preventing various offences and improving the quality of life by eliminating the fear of crime. This approach mobilises the community to work together with the police to ensure public safety and combat crime. In Finland, this strategy is an integral part of police work aimed at reducing crime and preventing public order violations (Vitvitska, 2022). This allows maintaining a positive public image and a prominent level of trust in the police.

Ideology (concept) of the institution of community police officer and legal regulation of their powers. Each country has its specific features of practical implementation of the approach to organising community policing. However, the doctrinal concept of community policing is unchanged because it is dictated by the content and logic of conscious human activity. Thus, an analysis of the approaches of governments of different countries to the formation of the content of community policing shows that the core of this content is the purpose. The purpose is followed by concrete tasks reflecting the successive steps to fulfil the purpose. To complete the tasks, certain actions, measures, and means are required. The implementation of these actions, measures, and means is the responsibility of actors with the relevant competences and competencies.

An analysis of information from official websites and regulations of Belgium, the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, the United States, Finland, the Czech Republic¹, and France² that regulate and cover the activities of central and regional police units (Police Community Support Officers..., n.d.; Official portal of the German..., n.d.; What is the role of the..., 2024), suggests that the purpose of the institution of a community police officer is to maintain law and order in a particular community, ensuring the safety of all its members. Fulfilment of this purpose is ensured by performing such interrelated tasks as crime prevention, detection of offences, and response to offences (About the police..., n.d.; Crime prevention in villages..., 2024; New York City Police..., 2025).

To fulfil each of these tasks, the law and regulations impose a duty on the community police officer to perform certain actions and authorise them to carry out certain activities and use certain means. Therefore, the powers of a community police officer should be derived from their tasks. In other words, the rights and obligations of such an officer should be formulated in such a way that, based on them, they can effectively perform the tasks. This requires a correct and precise formulation of the tasks.

However, the developers of regulations often include certain principles (guiding ideas) of their

¹ Law of the Czech National Council No. 553/1991 "On Municipal Police". Retrieved from <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/1991-553#p11>.

² Internal Security Code of France. (2012, May). Retrieved from <https://www.police-nationale.interieur.gouv.fr/>.

activities and certain tools of police work in the list of tasks of community police officers. For instance, the Instruction on the Organisation of Activities of District Police Officers and Community Police Officers, approved on 28.07.2017 by Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine No. 650¹ (Instruction), factually includes this category of police officers among the tasks:

- the fundamental basis of this institution (constructive interaction and partnership of a local officer with community residents, public authorities, representatives of local self-government, enterprises and NGOs, including with formations established according to the law for the protection of public order, as well as with patrol police response teams) (paragraphs 1, 2, Item 1, Section 2 of the Instruction);

- one of the instrumental means of preventing offences (ensuring preventive registration of the categories of persons defined by law in respect of whom individual prevention of offences should be carried out) (paragraphs 4, 5, Item 1, Section 2 of the Instruction);

- the obligation of all state authorities and local self-government bodies (“to perform tasks aimed at observing human rights and freedoms, as well as the interests of society and the state”) (paragraph 3, Item 1, Section 2 of the Instruction);

- a separate component of the algorithm of actions of a police officer in case of receiving information about criminal offences (notification of the district police officer on duty) (paragraph 6, Item 1, Section 2 of the Instruction);

- the authority to organise the work of subordinates (“organisation and control of the assistant’s activities”) (paragraph 7, Item 1, Section 2 of the Instruction);

- the duty of professional development (“maintaining professional level through training in the system of in-service training and self-training”) (paragraph 8, Item 1, Section 2 of the Instruction).

None of these items can be classified as tasks. Incorrect task setting leads to misunderstanding by the performer. Thus, interaction with the public cannot be a task, an end in itself. It is a method, a tool. Likewise, “performing tasks aimed at observing human rights and freedoms” cannot be a task, etc. The only correctly formulated task in this list is the pre-trial investigation of criminal offences in the form of an inquiry by a community police officer (paragraph 8, Item 1, Section 2 of the Instruction). However, this is a special case of responding to offences (criminal misdemeanours) that has not been implemented in practice.

The factual tasks of community police officers (those stemming from the concept of “community policing”) are formulated in paragraph 2 of Section 2 of the Instruction entitled “Duties and main activities of a district police officer and a community police officer”². This clause states that these entities in the socio-geographical area entrusted to them should properly carry out: prevention of offences, detection of offences, suppression of offences, response to offences. However, duties, unlike tasks, should be formulated in greater detail and specifically (for a clear understanding of the list and content of actions that constitute the content of their daily work). Instead, the developers of the Instruction create additional uncertainty. Specifically, they defined “implementation of preventive measures aimed at preventing the commission of criminal and other offences” as the first duty of a community police officer. However, neither the list nor the content of these measures is defined in the instruction. The same applies to “measures to eliminate the causes and conditions for the commission of criminal and/or administrative offences”; “measures aimed at eliminating threats to the life and health of individuals and public safety”; “measures to prevent and combat domestic violence and abuse”, etc.

Some of the powers necessary for a community police officer to perform their tasks are specified in Paragraph 3 of Section 2 of the Instruction³. These include the rights to check identity documents, interview persons with their consent, apply police coercion measures, detain suspects, impose certain administrative penalties, monitor compliance with restrictions imposed by court or law on certain categories of persons, check compliance with the rules for handling hunting weapons and special means of self-defence; control the legality of vehicle operation on the street and road network, on the territory of the police station, and in the

Powers that community police officers lack.

The ideology (concept) of the institution of community policing, the nature of its activities, and the focus on close interaction with the population contribute to the emergence of a series of opportunities for combating crime that have been overlooked by researchers and legislators. These opportunities arise quite naturally and are effectively used by community police officers in practice. However, due to the lack of *de jure* legal regulation, they are illegal and can lead to delegitimation of the police in the eyes of the community if exposed. These are covert methods of work that are usually considered the prerogative of detectives, operational units, and investigators.

¹ Instruction on the Organisation of Activities of District Police Officers and Community Police Officers. (2022, May). Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1041-17#Text>.

² Ibidem, 2022.

³ Ibidem, 2022.

For example, there are no regulations that would allow a community police officer to engage individuals in confidential cooperation and use their voluntary help on a non-public basis. However, 157 surveyed community police officers (78.5%) use this tool, and 188 out of 200 (94.0%) consider this approach effective, as people are often afraid to openly expose the criminal activities of those who live in the same house, street, district, or village as them. At the same time, to stop the socially dangerous activities of their neighbours, ensure their personal safety and the safety of the community, and contribute to law enforcement, they may willingly share information with a trusted community police officer on a confidential basis (covertly). They would never share such information with an unfamiliar (little known) detective or investigator.

It is widespread practice to proactively report to a community police officer, based on confidentiality, information about the preparation and commission of criminal offences, and the persons who prepare and commit them. This was confirmed by the interviewed community police officers who regularly receive information from such persons: on drug-related crimes – 149 (74.5%); on illegal possession of weapons, ammunition, and explosive devices or other dangerous materials and substances – 140 (70.0%); on thefts – 132 (66.0%); on domestic (psychological and economic) violence – 87 (43.5%); on vehicle thefts – 43 (21.5%).

As for reports of preparation and commission of certain other criminal offences and/or their perpetrators, the figures are lower due to differences in the structure of crime depending on the region and area where the community police officer works. Such criminal offences include organising the illegal transfer of persons across the state border, smuggling, poaching, illegal logging, illegal mining, electricity theft, etc. Such confidential reports usually come from people with whom a trusting relationship was established and an agreement reached to collect information necessary for community policing. These may include both ordinary citizens and persons on preventive registers; janitors, utility workers, sellers or owners of small shops, cafes, hairdressers, and other service workers.

In addition to using the services of confidants, community police officers themselves resort to covert methods of gathering information. Thus, 98 (49.0%) of the respondents have successful experience of covert surveillance in publicly accessible places. These are mostly ambushes to catch thieves, poachers, vandals, etc. Some of the police officers used special technical means for surveillance, and some deliberately created conditions favourable to committing crimes. One of the interviewees reported that when thefts of bicycles became more frequent in the

community, they deliberately left their bike in a public place and watched it from a nearby civilian car. As a result, a man who had previously committed five similar criminal offences was detained. His accomplice was also detained later.

Among the police officers surveyed, 101 (50.5%) had successful experience of obtaining the necessary information by interviewing individuals, concealing the true purpose of the communication. This mostly took place either in the form of conversations on everyday topics or under the guise of interviews as part of other cases (real or fictitious). 72 (36.0%) of the interviewed officers indicated that they had to visit the homes of individual local residents under false pretences to verify the presence (absence) of certain signs of criminal activity, property obtained through criminal means or wanted persons.

The above-mentioned covert measures can be carried out by community police officers both personally and with the help of confidants, as persons unofficially engaged by a community police officer as covert informants can not only provide the necessary information proactively, but also perform targeted tasks of covertly collecting data on certain individuals and events. Under various pretexts, they interview those local residents who are likely to have information about the preparation and commission of criminal offences but are not guaranteed to share it with the police. This approach is successfully used by 117 (58.5%) of the interviewed community police officers.

Persons with whom a trusting relationship has been established on a voluntary basis may also perform other tasks of such officers. These include, among others:

- surveillance in publicly accessible places (in cases where the personal presence of a community police officer will not stop criminal activity, but will only contribute to deepening and improving its secrecy) (this practice was used by 93 (46.5%) of respondents, 40.5% consider it useful);
- conducting covert searches in a person's home or other property to detect property obtained by criminal means, signs of drug-related crimes, or wanted persons (39.5% of respondents used this practice, 33.0% considered it useful);
- introduction to small social groups that may cause problems in ensuring law and order in the community (this practice was used by 27.0% of respondents, all of whom consider it successful).

One of the interviewees reported that when the theft of metal fences at the local cemetery became more frequent, they, with the help of a group of minors (teenagers) whom they had engaged on a confidential basis, established visual surveillance of the place. The very next day, they received information that enabled them to identify, detain, and subsequently prosecute the perpetrators of the crimes. The illegality of these methods entails problems with the

organisation of work, funding, and security of confidential assistants to community police officers. Thus, the illegitimacy of such assistants makes it impossible for the state to allocate funds for their material incentives, provide them with personal protective equipment and warnings of danger.

Thus, the concept (ideology) of the institution of community police officer is comprised of the following: the purpose of existence (sustainable law and order in a particular community and safety of its residents); tasks (prevention of offences, their detection, and response to them); subjects (highly qualified professional police officers who are members of the community, act on its behalf in terms of performing these tasks and are vested by the state with all the necessary powers for this); their actions to perform the tasks (measures of prevention and detection of offences, as well as response to them, as provided for by law); principles (focus on the needs and problems of the community, constructive interaction with the population, legality, justice, respect for human rights and freedoms).

For the successful implementation and effective functioning of this concept, it is necessary to create an adequate human and material and technical base, as well as to give the community police officer all the necessary powers. These powers should include covert work, to the extent that it is natural for such an officer. First of all, it is the right to covertly engage local residents in confidential cooperation to provide them with information necessary for the prevention of criminal offences, detection, suppression, and investigation of crimes and criminal offences. Furthermore, a community police officer should be given the right to conduct covert surveillance of publicly accessible places (including using special technical means for surveillance); interview persons with their consent (concealing the true purpose of the interview); visit the homes of local residents with their consent (under false pretences) for the purpose of inspection. It would be logical to allow a community police officer to engage in these activities those community residents who are already in a confidential relationship with them.

Information obtained through covert means can be effectively used by a community police officer in conjunction with information from open sources to conduct criminal analysis. At the most basic level, criminal analysis can be conducted by the officer personally using graphical diagrams and other visualisation tools. If appropriate software is available, the effectiveness of criminal analysis by a community police officer will be much higher. Therefore, criminal analysis, among other things, should be attributed to the powers of a community police officer.

The above arguments in favour of statutory regulation of empowerment of community police officers

by granting them the right to use certain covert methods of work require scientific discussion. The findings presented in this section are mainly based on the study of Ukrainian practice and a survey of Ukrainian community police officers. These findings need to be considered in the context of studies conducted in other countries on the content and scope of local police powers, and the legitimacy of their actions in the eyes of the community, specifically, in the case of exceeding their powers.

■ Discussion

In modern criminological science, much attention is paid to the relationship between trust in the police, the balance of fear of the police and crime with procedural justice, the effectiveness and efficiency of police work, and the density of their presence in the territory they serve (frequency of patrols, availability of police stations, accessibility of community police officers). For the most part, these studies do not address the scope and content of local police powers to detect, solve, and investigate crimes (but always touch on these issues). For example, J. Yesberg *et al.* (2023), based on the findings of their research on the London police, concluded that fairness in police actions is perhaps the main factor in building trust in the police. The trust of local residents in the police contributes to their more active involvement in interacting with local officers, which leads to an increase in their joint effectiveness in public order and crime reduction.

M.S. Mangai *et al.* (2023) investigate the work of community police officers in Johannesburg. They came to the unequivocal conclusion that trust is crucial in managing the exchange of crime prevention information. Local police officers will be unable to meet future crime challenges if a trust deficit persists. Yet such a deficit continues to exist in Johannesburg, despite the various methods and tools used by community police officers to engage local residents in crime prevention. Notably, the lack of trust of local residents makes it impossible for community policing officers to effectively use covert methods of work based on confidential cooperation with citizens, even if they have the legal authority to use these methods.

J. Ryland & B.D. Scher (2024) emphasised that in the United Kingdom, ordinary local officers of the London Metropolitan Police are forced to exceed their powers to detect, solve, and investigate drug crimes, which is a violation of the law and contrary to the principle of procedural justice. Such actions, due to the negative attitude of the public towards drug abuse, are positively perceived by the public and contribute to the growth of police authority and trust in the police.

Therefore, in cases where police overstepping their authority leads to effective crime prevention and is positively perceived by the community, it is

advisable to consider the issue of legislative expansion of these limits. Such an extension would turn socially useful (but unlawful) police actions into fully legitimate ones that are fully in line with the principle of procedural justice. This statement should also be extrapolated to the powers of community police officers, who should be allowed to use certain covert methods of work, including confidential cooperation and surveillance in publicly accessible places.

When studying the effects on trust in the police of local residents' assessment of fairness in the work of police officers, it should be borne in mind that such an assessment is formed under the influence of many factors. Admittedly, these include the factor of subjective experience, which was pointed out by M. Hecker (2023). However, it is not the only one. Not all residents of a particular territorial community have experience of interacting with police officers, based on which they can form an unequivocal opinion about the fairness of their actions. Instead, everyone has access to media and social media. These means of disseminating information, opinions, assessments, and views are available to everyone and can shape and manipulate public opinion.

The results of modern scientific research suggest that the way information is presented in the media can directly affect the formation of public opinion. Thus, F. Jaber (2025) investigated the influence on the formation of pro-Palestinian protests in 2024 through the forms of news presentation by such media as *The Guardian* and *USA Today*. The researcher concluded that media framing plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and priorities, especially in the context of global and political issues. J. Schlessinger *et al.* (2025) exposed the facts of direct influence on public opinion by state-controlled media. S.M. del Pozo *et al.* (2025) established a link between the news sources used by people and their political beliefs. E. Marttila & A. Koivula (2025) investigated the impact of the media on public moral attitudes towards unvaccinated people. They concluded that the way the news is presented and the nature of the information in the news play a powerful role in shaping public opinion during health crises.

Often, external and internal enemies of a particular state use the media to destabilise the situation in the country by discrediting law enforcement agencies and provoking mass unrest to further change its political course (Shynkar, 2023). The task of each state is to prevent this from happening, and, moreover, to use the media to build trust in the police and promote cooperation with them, specifically with community police officers.

Media support of the police by the state is an essential factor in preventing the police from curtailing their proactive activities in certain areas due to elevated risks to the life and health of police officers.

R.D. Heinzeroth (2024) called such processes “Depolicing in historically marginalised communities”. Media support of community police officers by the state should be combined with the provision of all necessary powers, proper logistical and technological support. In the modern world, such an officer should be provided with innovative technologies. According to S. Egbert & E. Esposito (2024), the use of the latest advances in digital technology by local police allows for the successful use of precision policing methods in crime prevention without leading to gradual alienation from the community. For example, one of these technologies is police applications for face recognition. According to T.L. Johnson *et al.* (2024), such applications contribute to reducing serious crime without contributing to excessive policing or racial disparities in arrests for violent criminal offences. For a community police officer to make effective use of modern digital technologies, they should be provided with their personal automated office, including a vehicle-based office, as noted by C. Soares (2024). The options of such an office should include, among other things, software that will enable criminal analysis at the level necessary for the community police officer to perform crime prevention functions.

Researchers of local police activity have focused on differences in the conditions, organisation, and effectiveness of ensuring public order and combating offences in rural communities and cities. Thus, K. Eman *et al.* (2024), using the example of the Pomurje region in Slovenia, found that police activity depends on geographical criteria, specifically, urbanisation of the environment. The work of police in cities is often highly specialised compared to work in rural areas. Based on the findings of the study, the researchers concluded that about two-thirds of the urban population does not know the police officer assigned to their neighbourhood. As a result, cooperation between residents and the police in urban areas is worse than in rural areas and community policing in rural areas is worse than in urban areas. The same situation is typical for Ukraine.

Other conclusions were reached by K. Mulrooney *et al.* (2024), who studied the specific features of interaction and relations between the police and rural communities in England and Wales, Australia and France. The researchers noted that residents of these communities do not expect high quality and efficiency of police services, which is caused by a combination of socio-geographical, organisational, and personnel factors. These include a lack of staff and resources to serve rural communities located in large areas with difficult terrain, their remoteness from centres of concentration, and police officers' lack of understanding of local traditions and culture. All this makes interaction with the population in matters of law enforcement and crime prevention much more

challenging. At the same time, only to a certain extent can spatial problems be solved through technology-mediated communication. A. Millie *et al.* (2023) stated that in recent years in England there has been a steady trend towards the closure of local police stations due to austerity, inadequate logistics (specifically, unrepaired emergency premises), on the one hand, and, on the other hand, due to the lack of proper interaction and poor relations between the police and the community, whose representatives do not see the point in the existence of a local police station.

Thus, in some countries, the work of a local police officer in a rural community contributes to better interaction with the population, while in others it leads to poor communication and low levels of trust in the police and is gradually being phased out. Clearly, this depends to a large extent on the problems of ideological, media, financial, logistical, organisational, and personnel support for the institution of community police officers. These issues should be addressed at the national level, as they are an essential element of domestic policy and a component of the law enforcement function of the state. Their solution, among other things, should be based on the specific features of police work depending on the socio-geographical characteristics of the territory occupied by the community.

In this aspect, the issues of state regulation of the powers of a community police officer, which should be broader in rural areas, are also significant. In areas remote from the centres of concentration of management, such an officer constantly faces situations where they must act as a patrol officer, detective, investigator, operative, etc. Considering the lack of resources, this necessitates the use of a decentralised approach to rural policing, which was covered by O. Rantatalo *et al.* (2021).

In this regard, the institution of a community police officer should not rely on the state alone. A significant aspect of its work is its cooperation with local self-government bodies. As fairly noted by A. Zakharchenko *et al.* (2024), constructive interaction between local governments and the police is essential for maintaining law and order and ensuring community safety. Such interaction is one of the key principles of police work in modern conditions and a guarantee of mutual understanding and trust between the police and the public. The researchers aptly emphasise the lack of attention of researchers and practitioners to the issues of legal regulation of police interaction with local self-government bodies. They believe that the interaction of territorial police units with these bodies should be subject to detailed regulation.

In this regard, it is worth noting that excessive centralisation in the legal regulation of interaction between community police officers and local

self-government bodies is inappropriate, as such regulation cannot accommodate the socio-geographical, cultural (subcultural), historical, and economic characteristics of each region. Furthermore, centralised legal regulation of these relations cannot factor in the attitude of residents of a particular territorial community to certain aspects of these relations.

Local self-government bodies are elected directly by the community and are empowered to make decisions and act on its behalf. They can also give more powers to local police officers and facilitate their work by using legal, organisational, economic, and logistical means. At the legislative level, the most significant general issues of interaction between the police and local self-government bodies are subject to regulation.

Personnel issues are of great significance for the proper functioning of the institution of community police officers. This applies not only to recruitment and training. R. Signori *et al.* (2023) fairly pointed out that a considerable problem in the functioning of the institution of community police officers is the periodic replacement of local officers. Such replacements can be caused by both certain organisational and purely personal factors. They often result in the police losing trust with community members and local authorities, losing contacts and relationships that have been built over the years. Newly appointed officers must start from nothing. They need a long time to study and understand the local socio-geographical, economic, and historical features, and to establish interaction with the community. The researchers have developed a special procedure for the transfer of powers, knowledge, skills, and contacts between the officers who are to replace each other. This issue is of particular relevance in the context of interaction between a community police officer and persons who provide information and support on a confidential basis. Such persons are likely (specifically, for reasons of their personal safety) not to assist the newly appointed officer, as they trusted only the police officer with whom they had worked for a long time. Therefore, to build a relationship of trust with useful informants and informal assistants, a transition period is required when the replacement officers work together.

■ Conclusions

The study found that the institution of a community police officer has become widespread in many countries and is an effective mechanism for ensuring public safety and combating crime. An analysis of international practices showed that the success of this institution depends primarily on a clearly defined goal, which is to ensure the safety of citizens through the constant presence and active interaction of the police with the population. The tasks of such officers

in different countries are comparable and mainly include prevention, prompt detection, and suppression of criminal offences.

At the same time, the analysis of regulations and practice of their application in Ukraine revealed certain contradictions and gaps that prevent the complete fulfilment of the potential of community police officers. Specifically, a survey of 200 police officers from different regions of Ukraine showed that most of them (78.5%) actively use covert methods of work, including confidential involvement of local residents in cooperation in combating criminal offences. 94.0% of respondents consider this approach to be effective, as it enables them to obtain information that citizens are not ready to provide officially, due to fear of possible consequences or for personal reasons. The use of covert methods by the police, such as covert surveillance, covert interviews, or unofficial visits to citizens' homes, has also proven to be effective. About half of the police officers surveyed have positive experience with such methods, although these actions are not formally provided for in the current legislation, which creates potential risks to the legitimacy of the police.

Thus, to fully utilise the potential of a community police officer, there is a need to ensure legal clarity in defining the tasks and scope of their powers. Of particular significance is the legitimisation of the already widespread and effective practices of covert activities of officers within territorial communities.

At the same time, it is crucial to ensure an adequate level of logistical and personnel support, which will help to increase public trust in the police and the effectiveness of its interaction with the public in combating crime. Furthermore, media support is an important component of ensuring the effective functioning of the institution of community police officers. The creation of a positive image of community police officers by the media and opinion leaders will help to intensify their interaction with local residents, their active involvement in both open assistance in combating crime and covert cooperation. Further research in this area should focus on improving the legal regulation of community police officers in Ukraine, specifically, on defining clear boundaries of their powers, legitimising effective covert methods of work, and improving mechanisms of interaction with the public.

■ Acknowledgements

The authors of this study would like to express special gratitude to the Defence Forces of Ukraine for the opportunity to conduct this research. The authors would also like to acknowledge the community police officers who, despite their busy schedules and heavy workloads, found the opportunity to take part in the survey and interviews.

■ Conflict of Interest

None.

■ References

- [1] About the police: Police headquarters and stations standardisation program. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://info.policja.pl/inf/organizacja/program-standaryzacji/84112,Program-Standaryzacji-Komend-i-Komisariatow-Policji.html>.
- [2] College of Policing. (n.d.). *Neighbourhood policing career pathway*. Retrieved from <https://www.college.police.uk/career-learning/career-development/career-pathways/neighbourhood-policing>.
- [3] Crime prevention in villages, schools and increasingly online. (2024). Retrieved from <https://poliisi.fi/en/-/crime-prevention-in-villages-schools-and-increasingly-online>.
- [4] Del Pozo, S.M., Pinto, S., Serafino, M., Moss, F., Cicchini, T., Makse, H.A., & Balenzuela, P. (2025). Evaluating the relationship between news source sharing and political beliefs. *Scientific Reports*, 15(1), article number 516. doi: 10.1038/s41598-024-84110-y.
- [5] Egbert, S., & Esposito, E. (2024). Algorithmic crime prevention: From abstract police to precision policing. *Policing and Society*, 34(6), 521-534. doi: 10.1080/10439463.2024.2326516.
- [6] Eman, K., Ivančić, D., & Bagari, D. (2024). Intertwined rural and urban policing in the local communities of the Pomurje region in Slovenia. *Policing: An International Journal*, 47(3), 482-494. doi: 10.1108/PIJPSM-11-2023-0157.
- [7] European Commission. (2021). *Ethics and data protection*. Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ethics-and-data-protection_en.pdf.
- [8] Gutsulyak, O.A. (2022). On the formation of the institute of "Community Police Officer" in Ukraine. *Current Issues of Domestic Jurisprudence*, 5, 101-106. doi: 10.32782/39221361.
- [9] Hecker, M. (2023). Social disadvantage and trust in German police: Empirical evidence on procedural justice theory and context effects on perceived fairness in urban neighbourhoods. *The Police Journal*, 97(3), 473-490. doi: 10.1177/0032258X231186946.
- [10] Heinzeroth, R.D. (2024). Depolicing in historically marginalised communities: A neighbourhood-level analysis. *Policing and Society*. doi: 10.1080/10439463.2024.2428725.

- [11] Ishchenko, I.I. (2024). Preventive activities of the national police in a territorial united community. *Legal Scientific Electronic Journal*, 1, 828-830. doi: [10.32782/2524-0374/2024-1/199](https://doi.org/10.32782/2524-0374/2024-1/199).
- [12] Jaber, F. (2025). Framing pro-Palestine protests: A comparative analysis of news coverage by The Guardian and USA Today. *Studies in Media and Communication*, 13(1), 72-82. doi: [10.11114/smc.v13i1.7245](https://doi.org/10.11114/smc.v13i1.7245).
- [13] Johnson, T.L., Johnson, N.N., Topalli, V., McCurdy, D., & Wallace, A. (2024). Police facial recognition applications and violent crime control in U.S. cities. *Cities*, 155, article number 105472. doi: [10.1016/j.cities.2024.105472](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2024.105472).
- [14] Mangai, M.S., Pillay, A.C., Masiya, T., & Lubinga, S. (2023). The police and citizens as co-producers of crime prevention in Johannesburg. *Administrative Sciences*, 13(6), article number 138. doi: [10.3390/admsci13060138](https://doi.org/10.3390/admsci13060138).
- [15] Marttila, E., & Koivula, A. (2025). Framing, emotions, and morality: Understanding media influence on moral attitudes towards the unvaccinated during COVID-19. *The Social Science Journal*. doi: [10.1080/03623319.2024.2441897](https://doi.org/10.1080/03623319.2024.2441897).
- [16] Mehmi, S., Blauer, R., & De Gannes, K. (2021). Building trust in modern day policing: A neighbourhood community officer evaluation. *Journal of Community Safety and Well-Being*, 6(1), 6-10. doi: [10.35502/jcswb.186](https://doi.org/10.35502/jcswb.186).
- [17] Millie, A., Ralph, L., Rowe, M., & Jones, M. (2023). Police station meaning, closure and (in)visibility. *Policing and Society*, 34(5), 403-416. doi: [10.1080/10439463.2023.2293004](https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2023.2293004).
- [18] Muchow, A.N. (2023). Community-oriented policing and violent crime: Evidence from the Los Angeles Community Safety Partnership. *Police Quarterly*, 26(4), 545-572. doi: [10.1177/10986111231162353](https://doi.org/10.1177/10986111231162353).
- [19] Mulrooney, K., Bullock, K., Mouhanna, C., & Harkness, A. (2024). Police relationships and engagement with rural citizens: Perspectives of front-line police in the United Kingdom, Australia, and France. *Policing: An International Journal*, 47(3), 340-352. doi: [10.1108/PIJPSM-12-2023-0173](https://doi.org/10.1108/PIJPSM-12-2023-0173).
- [20] New York City Police Department. (2025). Retrieved from <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/bureaus/patrol/neighborhood-coordination-officers.page>.
- [21] Official portal of the German police. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.polizei.de/Polizei/DE/Home/home_node.html.
- [22] Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and special constables. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/police-community-support-officers-what-they-are>.
- [23] Rantatalo, O., Lindberg, O., & Hällgren, M. (2021). Criminal investigation in rural areas: How police detectives manage remoteness and resource scarcity. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 15(2), 1352-1366. doi: [10.1093/police/paaa023](https://doi.org/10.1093/police/paaa023).
- [24] Ryland, J., & Scher, B.D. (2024). Following the evidence-base or exacerbating harms? An autoethnography of a London metropolitan police officer. *Journal of Criminological Research, Policy and Practice*. doi: [10.1108/JCRPP-01-2024-0002](https://doi.org/10.1108/JCRPP-01-2024-0002).
- [25] Schlessinger, J., Bennet, R., Coakwell, J., Smith, S., & Kao, E. (2025). Exposing the obscured influence of state-controlled media via causal inference of quotation propagation. *Scientific Reports*, 15, article number 1110. doi: [10.1038/s41598-024-78586-x](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-78586-x).
- [26] Serbyn, R.A., & Shevchenko, S.I. (2022). Policing activities of police officers and community police officers. *Legal Electronic Scientific Journal*, 7, 508-510. doi: [10.32782/2524-0374/2022-7/122](https://doi.org/10.32782/2524-0374/2022-7/122).
- [27] Shynkar, T. (2023). Restriction of the right to information in the interests of national security: The problem of justification. *Social and Legal Studies*, 6(1), 56-62. doi: [10.32518/sals1.2023.56](https://doi.org/10.32518/sals1.2023.56).
- [28] Signori, R., Heinrich, D.P., Wootton, A.B., & Davey, C.L. (2023). Relational continuity in community policing: Insights from a human-centred design perspective. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 17, article number paad038. doi: [10.1093/police/paad038](https://doi.org/10.1093/police/paad038).
- [29] Skyba, E. (2023). Philosophical foundations of a new approach to the work of community police officers. *Scientific Bulletin of the Dnipropetrovsk State University of Internal Affairs*, 3, 85-92. doi: [10.31733/2078-3566-2023-3-85-92](https://doi.org/10.31733/2078-3566-2023-3-85-92).
- [30] Soares, C. (2024). Automated offices in police vehicles: Understanding new connections between street-level and screen-level work. In S. Giest & I. Roberge (Eds.), *The Routledge international handbook of public administration and digital governance*. London: Routledge. doi: [10.4324/9781003458081-17](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003458081-17).
- [31] Toronto Police Service. (2025). *Neighbourhood Community Officer Program*. Retrieved from <https://www.tps.ca/neighbourhood-community-officer-program/>.
- [32] Tyts, E.A., & Strelchenko, O.G. (2023). Administrative and legal status of a community police officer. *Science and Technology*, 9, 102-109. doi: [10.52058/2786-6025-2023-9\(23\)-102-109](https://doi.org/10.52058/2786-6025-2023-9(23)-102-109).
- [33] Vitvitska, N.V. (2022). Community police officer in Ukraine and similar programs in other countries of the world. *Legal Scientific Electronic Journal*, 7, 230-232. doi: [10.32782/2524-0374/2022-7/52](https://doi.org/10.32782/2524-0374/2022-7/52).

- [34] What is the role of the Neighbourhood Officer? (2024). Retrieved from <https://www.commissioner.brussels/what-is-the-role-of-the-neighbourhood-officer/>.
- [35] Yesberg, J., Brunton-Smith, I., & Bradford, B. (2023). Police visibility, trust in police fairness, and collective efficacy: A multilevel structural equation model. *European Journal of Criminology*, 20(2), 712-737. doi: 10.1177/14773708211035306.
- [36] Zakharchenko, A., Koteliukh, M., Ryabiy, S., Mostovenko, O., & Mykhailov, R. (2024). The role of legal mechanisms in cooperation between the police and local self-government in controlling the observance of public order. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 16(3), 1269-1285. doi: 10.62271/pjc.16.3.1269.1285.

Концептуальні засади та практичні аспекти участі поліцейського офіцера громади в протидії злочинності

Михайло Грібов

Доктор юридичних наук, професор
Національна академія внутрішніх справ
03035, пл. Солом'янська, 1, м. Київ, Україна
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2437-5598>

Андрій Вознюк

Доктор юридичних наук, професор
Національна академія внутрішніх справ
03035, пл. Солом'янська, 1, м. Київ, Україна
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3352-5626>

Дмитро Здорик

Ад'юнкт
Харківський національний університет внутрішніх справ
61080, пр. Льва Ландау, 27, м. Харків, Україна,
<https://orcid.org/0009-0009-1335-678X>

■ **Анотація.** Діяльність поліцейського офіцера громади відбувається в умовах майже невідриного фізичного перебування на її території та постійних контактів з місцевими мешканцями. Це зумовлює його значні можливості зі своєчасного виявлення та попередження кримінальних правопорушень. Проте через брак повноважень не завжди ці можливості можуть бути реалізовані. Мета дослідження полягала у встановленні доцільності наділення поліцейського офіцера громади повноваженнями з ініціативного виявлення кримінальних правопорушень, а також у визначенні переліку та змісту цих повноважень. Для досягнення мети було використано загальнонаукові (індуктивний, дедуктивний, аналіз, синтез, аналогія, узагальнення, моделювання) та спеціальні (порівняльно-правовий, системно-структурний та логіко-юридичний аналіз) методи. Вивчено юридичні підстави виявлення, розслідування та розкриття кримінально каранних деліктів, попередження їх учинення працівниками правоохоронних органів, а також застосування до них заходів адміністративної та кримінальної відповідальності. Здійснено перевірку отриманих результатів за допомогою методу експертних оцінок. Шляхом узагальнення досвіду різних країн сформульовано концепцію (ідеологію) інституту поліцейського офіцера громади – через визначення: мети його функціонування; завдань; суб'єктів і принципів. Успішна реалізація цієї концепції потребує не лише надання необхідних повноважень поліцейському офіцеру громади, а й якісного кадрового та матеріально-технічного забезпечення таких суб'єктів. Концептуально важливо уповноважити їх негласно залучати місцевих мешканців до конфіденційного співробітництва у справі протидії кримінальним правопорушенням (виявлення, припинення, розкриття, розслідування, запобігання), а також проводити в певних випадках спостереження, опитування, відвідування житла. Практична цінність цієї роботи полягає в можливості використання її результатів для вдосконалення нормативно-правових актів, що регламентують роботу поліції з протидії злочинності в частині врегулювання повноважень поліцейського офіцера громади

■ **Ключові слова:** правоохоронець; взаємодія; виявлення; розслідування; запобігання; громадськість; кримінальний аналіз