

Whose Responsibility Is It Anyway? The Public Value of Three Policing Models for Quality of Life in Israeli Cities

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Since the 1990s, the public sector has undergone reforms emphasizing economic efficiency, on the one hand, and the quality of life as a policy objective, on the other hand. In order to achieve these goals, national governments have devolved the responsibility for the financing and execution of some policing responsibilities to local governments. In Israel, alongside the traditional policing model in which the police and the municipality work separately to maintain public order, two unique models in which city inspectors and policemen patrol together have emerged: “integrated policing” and “city policing”. Based on the theory of public value management, which assumes that maximizing the value derived from policy tools requires the adequacy of goals and resources, as well as legal legitimacy and, political and public support, this article explores the gaps between the organizational goals of the police and the municipalities, and examines the link between these gaps, as well as the legal and ethical dilemmas in the models yet to be resolved. Analysis of legislation, policy documents, and interviews with municipal administrators in seven cities, using the “strategic triangle” and “public value accounting” analysis tools, show that with some adaptations to the city policing model, public value can be increased and constitutional vulnerabilities improved.