



Columbus Division of Police Community Engagement and Outreach Initiatives



COMMUNITY OUTREACH / ENGAGEMENT

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Downtown High School Partnership
Police Explorers Program
Public Safety Exploration Camps for Youth
Teens and Police Service Academy



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- Instagram – <https://www.instagram.com/columbuspolice>
- NextDoor – <https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/oh/columbus/columbus-pd/>
- Twitter – <https://twitter.com/ColumbusPolice>
- Website – <https://www.columbus.gov/police/>
- YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiCLmiDw4OQvusPcgRc3T8Q>



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH / ENGAGEMENT

ABC's of Policing

This program is designed to teach citizens how and why police do what they do. One of the most frequent causes of calls to our complaint line is a lack of understanding or misperception by citizens about how the police are supposed to do their jobs. This program goes into great detail about police training, the use of force, and the laws of arrest, search and seizure. The presentation can be taken to locations large and small. With the cooperation of Columbus City Schools, this program is being expanded to all Columbus middle and high schools in order to better educate students about the police.

Contact: Officer Jason Jackson at 614-645-1407 or jtjackson@columbuspolice.org, or
Officer Thomas Paige at 645-4800 or TPaige@columbuspolice.org

Block Watch Program

Block watches are made up of neighbors committed to helping neighbors, with support and assistance from our Community Liaison personnel. Block watches empower citizens to take back and maintain a better quality of life in their respective neighborhoods. This program has shown that citizens can help in the reduction of local crime by being vigilant and by partnering with local law enforcement to address crime-related issues and other challenges within their community.

Contact: Community Liaison Section Lieutenant Scott Bartholow at 614-645-4002 or
sbartholow@columbuspolice.org

Citizen Police Academy

The Division of Police started its first Citizen Police Academy in 1993. The Citizen Police Academy (CPA) is open to Columbus residents and members of local business and civic organizations. The Citizen Police Academy provides an interactive opportunity for citizens to gain a better understanding of police functions, how policies are developed and implemented, the problem-solving and decision making process our officers use, and what an officer experiences on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, attendees get to know a number of our outstanding Division members and experience their dedication to serving others. The academy is held one evening a week for three hours, over a 12-week period. Classes are held at various Columbus Police facilities.

Participants are encouraged to participate in a ride-along with a police officer, before or after completion of the CPA program. This experience allows citizens to get a better understanding of what a police officer's 8-hour tour of duty encompasses. CPA classes provide citizens with prevention awareness practices, strategies about ways to avoid becoming victimized, and the steps to file a report or inquire about personal property. Upon completion of the CPA, graduates serve as a source of information about the Division, with the ability to explain police practices and procedures to their associates, friends and family members.

The Division is also now offering a Citizen Police Academy continuing education and enrichment program to give our former Citizen Police Academy graduates and others the opportunity to come back for in-depth classes that cover current subjects that may be of interest. This may include Human Trafficking, the opiate crisis and Narcotics enforcement and other current issues. Additionally, we have



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already hosted a class which was interpreted for a deaf individual and we are seeking to conduct an interpreted Citizen Police Academy for Spanish speaking persons once enough volunteers sign up for the academy.

Contact: Officer Catherine Kirk at 614-645-2210 or ckirk@columbuspolice.org or Officer Jacob Day at 614-645-2230 or jjday@columbuspolice.org

Citizen Response to Critical Incidents Training and Safety Planning Assessments

Members of the Training Bureau who are specially trained in safety measures and tactics train citizens in steps they can take before or during Active Aggressor incidents in their businesses, schools and homes. This no-cost training is for govt. and non-profit groups, commercial businesses, churches, and schools with the goal of making citizens feel safer and making facilities more secure.

Contact: Sgt. Michael Kirk at mkirk@columbuspolice.org

Community Diversity Training

The Division invites community members who reflect the diversity of our city to talk with and train our police recruits about the way police are viewed by people from different cultures, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, religions, etc. This interaction allows recruits to develop an awareness and appreciation for people of different cultures and how to improve relationships with the people they will communicate with throughout their career.

Community Liaison Officers

The Division believes a single point of contact is an effective method to stay in touch with community members. Therefore, one Community Liaison officer is assigned to each of our 20 precincts in order for the citizens who live in that precinct to have direct access to an officer. This liaison officer can address long-term crime and quality of life issues, as well as regularly attend Civic Association meetings, Area Commission meetings, and other community group gatherings (more than 1600 in 2016) and oversee block watch efforts (442 mtgs. in 2016). These officers have special training in crime prevention, solving problems and directing necessary resources to areas of concern that need our help. They are well-versed in many topics and conduct informational presentations regularly (over 600 in 2016) to educate citizens about safety and security issues. In all, their attendance at these meetings and gatherings reach hundreds of thousands of our community members. The relationships that develop between the liaison officer and the community groups are fruitful, strong and long-lasting.

Contact: Precinct CLO at 614-645-14 (+Precinct Number) or Community Liaison Section Lieutenant Scott Bartholow at 614-645-4002 or sbartholow@columbuspolice.org

Community Dialogue & Listening Events

In an effort to better connect with our community and listen to their concerns or suggestions, the Chief of Police and her staff have held a number of Community Listening Tour events. By listening to these ideas and issues, the Division will know where to enhance our training, review policies and procedures, and be able to improve upon relationships and trust between community members and the police.



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Dialogue Events w/Partners

In addition to the listening tour, the Chief has made Division personnel available in large or small numbers to attend dialogue events hosted by or for other organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club, OSU Sustained Dialogue (three times), the YMCA, Ohio Diversity Council, the NAACP, and a new program called Game Changer. Multiple personnel throughout the Division have participated in these dialogue sessions where everyone can express their concerns and get to know each other better. While the structure and agenda of these dialogues can vary, they all give citizens an opportunity to interact with police officers in one-on-one discussions in an open-minded environment. For information about upcoming dialogues, please check our social media or if interested in hosting one, contact the Chief's Office at 614-645-4600 or Public Information Office at 614-645-4593.

Diversity Recruiting Council

The Diversity Recruiting Council was established in 2008. The council consists of community and business leaders from the Columbus area and is led by the Division's Recruiting Sergeant. This council meets quarterly to discuss recruiting trends and issues that may impact the populations that these leaders represent.

Drug Education Programming

The Division collaborates with community-based drug education groups promoting initiatives designed to prevent drug abuse. Over the past three years, these groups have delivered messaging to more than 10,000 local middle and high school students. Messaging includes facts relating to the growing epidemic of drug overdoses and encouragement to "Speak Up, Save a Life."

Faith Leaders Action Group (FLAG)

A group of volunteer faith leaders from different faiths and areas of the community have agreed to be a resource to the Division in times of crisis. Their mission is to provide an interfaith, nonviolent, proactive presence seeking to build mutual understanding, respect, unity and peace at the time of social instability and unrest in the City of Columbus. They have received training from Division personnel in the police use of force, arrests and detentions, how we train our personnel in de-escalation, reaction times and communications skills, and been a part of scenario-based training to better understand the dynamics of police encounters.

Heroes and Helpers (formerly known as Shop with a Cop)

Each December, the Columbus Division of Police partners with the Target Corporation and the Fraternal Order of Police to provide area children with an extra special gift during the holiday season. Twenty-six deserving Columbus area children are selected and rewarded with a holiday shopping spree directly accompanied by Columbus Police officers. This program allows for outstanding interaction between the community and the Division while providing a special and lasting memory for the involved families.

Contact: Community Liaison Section Lieutenant Scott Bartholow at 614-645-4002 or sbartholow@columbuspolice.org

Homeless Outreach

The community's Shelter Board and others care deeply about providing essential services to the homeless population in the area who need assistance, not jail. The Division supports these outreach



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programs to ensure the volunteers' safety and prevent problems. As our officers work to assist and/or clean up homeless camps, they utilize our Community Resource Guide to educate homeless individuals about the options available to them. Our Resource Guide helps connect community members with groups that offer shelter, food, counseling, and substance abuse treatment. Many resources in Central Ohio can be found at www.211centralohio.org

National Night Out

National Night Out is a community event designed to increase citizens' awareness of police programs in the communities and identify resources available for families. The Division's command staff and Community Liaison officers attend as many events as possible during this city-wide one-day event to advise citizens on the need for crime prevention and the importance of communities watching out for crime, criminal behavior, and quality of life issues in their respective neighborhoods.

Contact: Community Liaison Section Lieutenant Scott Bartholow at 614-645-4002 or sbartholow@columbuspolice.org

Neighborhood Pride Events

In addition to the annual National Night Out event, the Division partners with the City of Columbus Neighborhood Pride Commission each year to conduct Neighborhood Pride Week in four selected communities. Events include community lunches and dinners, safety services education, crime prevention education, community bike rides led by Mayor Coleman, and community meetings with City Department Directors. Columbus police officers work in conjunction with the Division of Fire, Code Enforcement, and various other city organizations and agencies to address vacant properties, poor street lighting, overgrown weeds, etc., to improve the sense of pride and security within these neighborhoods. Officers and command staff personnel ride in the community bike rides and have the chance to talk about bike safety and other important topics with children and their parents.

Nuisance Abatement Program

A direct connection with Civic Associations and other organizations has created a great way for neighbors to reclaim areas overtaken by crime and decay. Personnel throughout the Division have worked with these local community groups and the City Attorney's Office in a collaborative way to reform and/or shut down local businesses that have a history of illegal narcotics/prostitution activity. This innovative approach was recognized in 2016 by the U.S. DOJ Community Oriented Policing Services Office when Attorney General Loretta Lynch presented two of our CLOs with the first annual "Distinguished Service in Community Policing" award.

Contact: Lieutenant Scott Bartholow at 614-645-4002 or sbartholow@columbuspolice.org

Police Recruits Community Runs and Service Projects

Every police recruit class completes community runs in different neighborhoods in the city. The class runs in formation and chants cadence as they run and carry their class flag. This exercise is meant to show support to the citizens of Columbus and introduce the class to the various areas around the city.

Each recruit class volunteers time to various charities they are interested in supporting. Some of the efforts have included serving meals at the Ronald McDonald House, Columbus Parks beautification,



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community center beautification, participation in food drives for the Homeless Family Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, and Secret Santa.

Recruiting Unit

The Division's Recruiting Unit strives to recruit qualified diverse men and women to test for the entry-level position of Police Officer through the Columbus Civil Service Commission. These officers attend job fairs and other events throughout the year to educate people about career opportunities in law enforcement and to create interest for people who may not have previously considered such a career.

The unit conducts Police Applicant Study Sessions to prepare applicants for the written testing process. In addition, the unit conducts Get Fit and Informed sessions to help applicants prepare for the physical fitness portion of the testing process.

Contact: Sergeant Christopher Smith-Hughes at 614-645-4642 or CSmithHughes@columbuspolice.org

Ride-Along Program

The Ride-Along Program provides interested adults and members of the Columbus Division of Police Explorers an excellent opportunity to observe first-hand the daily patrol operations of the Division. Participants will interact directly with an officer while patrolling in a cruiser and see how the officers approach each call for service and the citizens they come in contact with. These ride-alongs can be conducted in any area of Columbus and on any shift.

Contact: Call 614-645-4580 and request to speak to Patrol Administrative Sergeant about a Ride Along. The request form is available online at: <http://192.168.252.35/FormsPublications/U-10.119%20Citizen%20Ride-Along%20Form.pdf>

Speakers and Presenters

Many of our personnel are excellent public speakers and are available to speak at community meetings, business associations, panels, and various other venues upon request. Requests can be made through our Community Liaison Officers, the Chief's office and directly to any of our members.

Volunteering in the Community

The number of volunteer efforts our personnel participate in is immeasurable but their outreach reaches far and wide. Our personnel serve as board members on numerous businesses and non-profit organizations. We have personnel who serve as coaches, mentors, Big Brothers, tutors, foreign exchange hosts, and chaperons for events/trips etc.

You Tube Channel

The Division has established its own You Tube channel to provide information via videos that cover a great variety of topics. Frequently asked questions are covered, information about our recruiting and training program, a Red, White and Boom music video, information about our use of tourniquets, complete press conferences (not just sound bites), a summary of our 2015 visit to the U. S. Holocaust museum and our bullying video titled "It Takes Courage Columbus, are just some of the interesting and informative videos available on the channel.



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Contact: Community Liaison Section Lieutenant Scott Bartholow at 614-645-4002 or sbartholow@columbuspolice.org

YOUTH INITIATIVES

Bike Safety Classes, School Safety/Fun Days

Our Community Liaison officers and Patrol personnel all like to attend school and recreation center events including book-readings, bicycle safety, helmet hand-outs, classes about bicycle safety, and sharing the road. Additionally, our bike officers often give impromptu lessons to citizens at festivals, school, parks, and National Night Out. For more information, contact the Community Liaison Section Lieutenant Scott Bartholow at 614-645-4002 or sbartholow@columbuspolice.org or our Bicycle Coordination Unit at bcu@columbuspolice.org.

Downtown High School Partnership

As part of our commitment to finding new and innovative ways to enhance our presence in the community and build stronger and lasting relationships, the Division has created a partnership with the Columbus Downtown High School's Public Safety Academy. Our Human Relations Bureau personnel visit once a month and seek to recruit for Civilian positions, recruit for diversity, and help students in pursuit of Law Enforcement jobs to bridge the gap between the ages of 18 and 21.

We provide monthly on-site education/information sessions for the students. We combine efforts with both sworn and civilian subject matter experts conducting sessions in the class room. Presentations are done on a two year cycle to accommodate the two year program for Jr/Sr students. Additionally we partner with the Civil Service Commission to provide on-site training for test taking and creation of profiles. We have a number of positions that a young adult could qualify for right out of high school to build lasting careers or foundations for continuing education through our tuition reimbursement program. This relationship between the Columbus Division of Police and the Downtown High School allows students the opportunity to have a stable career oriented job with good pay, benefits and a pension plan. Specifically, this program allows young adults who may be interested in law enforcement but are not yet old enough to qualify as a police officer an opportunity to learn the business from the inside out and protect their background. Another advantage of this program is through our partnership with the Civil Service Commission, candidates can qualify for out of cycle testing for qualifying job classifications.

Contact: HR Analyst Amy Van Pelt at 614-645-4803 or AVanPelt@columbuspolice.org

Police Explorers

The Police Explorer program is a chapter of the Learning for Life organization, with a mission of introducing young men and women within the community to the field of law enforcement. The program educates and involves youth in police operations and helps these young men and women decide whether or not a career in law enforcement is for them. This program has been one of the best recruiting methods of the Division.

Contact: Officer Jason Jackson at 614-645-4642 or jtjackson@columbuspolice.org



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Public Safety Exploration Camps for Youth

Public Safety Exploration Camps began in 2014 as an initiative between the Division of Police, Division of Fire and the Department of Recreation and Parks. Each summer, these weeklong summer camps exposed youth participants to the challenges and rewards of a career in public safety. The camps, which are offered to Columbus residents, are extremely popular and successful. We now offer four-weeklong sessions to reach children ages 9-17.

Contact: Officer Jacob Day at 614-645-2230 or JJDay@columbuspolice.org

Summer Youth Basketball League

During the summer when youth are not in school, police and fire personnel participate as players and coaches in a youth basketball league to spend time with youth in a friendly environment and get to know more about each other.

Teens and Police Service Academy

The TAPS Academy was created in Houston as a collaboration between the police and academies to find ways to build positive, interpersonal relationships between officers and youth 14 to 18 years old who were at risk of dropping out of school. The program was implemented in Columbus in 2014 and 2015 with the goal of fostering effective communication between youth and police officers, developing a better understanding of the police, and challenging the participants to set positive goals. The officers' participation is voluntary, and they become role models in the schools and for the participants in particular.

Contact: Assistant Public Safety Director Bob Stewart at 614-645-8210 or RLStewart@columbus.gov

ASSIGNMENT & COMMUNITY

Bike Patrol Officers

The Division of Police has a rapidly expanding bicycle program. There are approximately 150 bicycle trained officers who patrol in various neighborhoods throughout the city. The bicycle officers bring a soft policing approach to neighborhoods due to their accessibility to the community. Citizens enjoy being able to say hello and wave to officers in the neighborhoods as they ride by. Citizens frequently stop to talk to officers riding in their neighborhood and provide them with real-time crime information and tips. The bicycle unit has been vital in building a bridge between the Division of Police and community contacts. Bicycle officers gather intelligence from community members about crime trends in their neighborhoods and share the information with the other officers in their respective precincts. The bicycle officers are utilized for many special events because they can patrol large crowds that are not accessible by cruisers and other police vehicles. The Division puts on several Law Enforcement Bicycle Association training schools each year, which are attended by officers from all over the State of Ohio. The mobility and versatility of the Bicycle officers has proven to be invaluable to the Division.

Campus Walking Crew-Community Response Team 4

The primary mission of the Campus Walking Crew is to partner with The Ohio State University and work jointly with the Ohio State University Police Division to improve safety and security in the off-campus



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area. Members of the Campus Walking Crew participate in meetings with Interfraternity Council, the Multi-Cultural Greek Council, Buckeye Block Watch, and members of the Undergraduate Student Government to name a few. These meetings are often focused on safety issues in the campus area, where crime trends are discussed to develop future programs to enhance safety for residents in the off-campus housing area. The Campus Walking Crew also meets with individual fraternities and sororities and attends several philanthropic events, most notably the BuckeyeThon, which is a fundraiser for Pediatric Cancer. The Campus Walking Crew works with the Office of Student Conduct and Off-Campus Student Services. These programs educate residents in the University District about responsible and safe behavior during large celebrations and street parties in the campus area.

In addition to the responsibilities in the OSU off-campus area, the Campus Walking Crew officers participate in many bicycle events, such as the Silent Ride and several of the City sponsored Mayor's rides, which promote bicycle safety. The Campus Walking Crew is often deployed to the large events hosted by the City of Columbus, such as the Arnold Festival, the Pride Festival, Juneteenth, and Com Fest. This is an opportunity for the Campus Walking Crew members to be ambassadors for the City of Columbus, as these events provide the Campus Walking Crew an opportunity to interact with members of the community and visitors to the City of Columbus.

Community Response Teams

The Community Response Teams consist of one sergeant and ten officers. Each of the five patrol zones has their own dedicated team assigned specifically to respond to community needs. All of the officers are trained to operate on bikes, which increases their access to the public and inspires community engagement. With input from the community, these officers concentrate on crime reduction efforts where needed. Officers are assigned predominantly to second shift hours, the weekends and other high crime timeframes. Officers, under the supervision of a sergeant and direction from a bureau commander, work in plainclothes, uniform, or on bikes as the situation dictates. Officers focus on building relationships with the community to increase the likelihood that the public will provide information more openly when a crime occurs. Further, these officers engage community members by being involved in most citywide events such as Festival Latino and Jazz and Rib Festival.

Crisis Intervention Team and Collaboration with ADAMH Board

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is an ongoing community collaboration involving the Division of Police and other stakeholders. At the present, there are approximately 260 active officers in the Division's team. Another 70 officers are no longer in first responder assignments, but can and do use their training in their respective assignments. Over 310 officers in the Division of Police have gone through the CIT core training course and annual training continues. The other stakeholders in CIT include:

- The Franklin County ADAMH Board, family members, consumers, advocates, and service providers who work with or have involvement with mental illness;
- The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, family members, consumers, advocates, and service providers who work with or have involvement with developmental disabilities;
- Service providers, family members, advocates, and consumers who work with or have involvement with other brain-based disorders;



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- Veterans' organizations who are involved with veterans who may fit into any of the above categories;
- Specialty dockets within the Franklin County Municipal Court and the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas;
- Other law enforcement agencies who sent their officers to the county-wide core training course and who are united in a common cause; and
- Emergency departments, state psychiatric hospitals, and other health organizations that interact with persons in crisis.

Volunteer officers from all five Patrol Zones complete enhanced training to become generalist/specialist responders and are sent (more than 4600 times in 2015) to handle service calls involving persons who are in crisis or who might be in crisis due to a mental illness, a developmental disability, a brain-based disorder of another kind, or some combination of the three. The majority of these calls involve persons who have attempted suicide or persons who are contemplating suicide. Officers obtain knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes during their training that help them learn better ways of interacting with persons in crisis and then get to practice what they learned through experience with service calls. The primary goal is to enhance safety for the community and for the officers and then get a person in crisis to a place of safety and care. Officers also learn about the various systems, how to interact with those systems, and how to collaboratively solve problems when called to interact with a person who is in crisis. They have access to resource lists and other documentation that allows them to direct persons in need to the best available location for their needs.

CIT is true community policing in that the community is actively involved with the training course received by officers and in the outcomes. The community provides guidance and resources to the program to ensure its success and all strive to make things better for these special populations.

Contact: Lieutenant Dennis Jeffrey at djeffrey@columbuspolice.org

Diversity and Inclusion Liaisons

To support its ongoing commitment to maintain open and accessible relationships with all members of the community, the Columbus Division of Police has identified three of its officers who will have direct access to the Chief's Office to serve as the Department's Diversity and Inclusion Liaison for the African-American; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender; and New American and Arabic-speaking community members. The Liaisons will assist the Chief in addressing any ongoing concerns that may be interfering with a positive relationship between the Division and the City of Columbus' many and varied communities, which may be defined by ethnicity, culture, language, sexual orientation, or other types of diverse interests. The role of the Liaisons includes:

- Creating and maintaining meaningful dialogues and relationships to address areas of need or concern
- Identifying, analyzing, and addressing problems arising between the Division and the community
- Helping to eliminate barriers and dispel myths that may exist between the police and the community
- Educating the community about the many outreach and engagement opportunities the Division offers to all citizens so they can learn more about police operations and policies



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Contact: Sgt. James Fuqua at JFuqua@columbuspolice.org
Lt. Nick Konves at NKonves@columbuspolice.org
Officer Khaled Bahgat at KBahgat@columbuspolice.org

Joint Police Patrol between the City of Columbus and the Ohio State University

The Joint Police Patrol is collaboration between the Division of Police and The Ohio State University. A CPD officer is partnered with an OSU officer and, as part of their duties, they interact with and educate OSU students and staff and others living in the immediate off-campus areas. This joint patrol provides safety education and attends meetings at venues both on and off campus in an effort to prevent crime, help students learn about responsible behavior, work with residents and landlords to enhance safety, and get students to become more safety conscious.

Mounted Unit

The Mounted Unit was established in 1984 and currently consists of five officers, one sergeant and nine horses. The Mounted Unit is one of the Division's best public relations tools in community policing. A mounted officer, a tower of police visibility standing 8-10 feet tall, creates the best overall crime deterrence for any city event. The Mounted Unit is used by the Division for many different functions and is deployed for parades, all home OSU football games, and in the campus area during some away football games. Additionally, the unit is used for crowd control and security during Red White and Boom, Latino Festival, Asian Festival, and other large festivals in and around the downtown area. The Mounted Unit is the best non-aggressive means to move people.

The Mounted Unit assists in searching for missing persons, especially in areas that are not accessible to vehicle and foot traffic. The unit has proven to be a deterrent to gang problems in our community by being highly visible and patrolling areas in the vicinity of schools known to have gang-related problems. The unit works with patrol officers and has been an effective tool in the reduction of crime in neighborhoods. The Mounted Unit is used for National Night Out and attends several other block watch events throughout the year. The Mounted Unit conducts training once a month with other local mounted units, Franklin County Sherriff, Delaware County, Licking County, OSU, New Albany and Athens, Ohio and is used for crowd control training with police recruits at the Academy.

School Resource Officers

The High School Resource Unit is comprised of two sergeants and 19 officers who are assigned to Columbus Public high schools across the city, and with the addition of the latest two officers we have also expanded some coverage to our Middle Schools. The unit's mission is to provide law enforcement services and a police presence in a strong collaborative effort with the staff of the Columbus Public Schools. These officers are dedicated to the prevention of incidents of violence (12 guns were recovered in the 2016/2017 school year and 3 YTD in 2017/2018 school year) and disorderly behavior at the high schools (770 YTD 2017/2018 with 1210 during 2016/2017 school year), as well as providing positive interaction and role-modeling with the students. Each year they receive training in best practices for School Resource officers which is done in conjunction with Columbus Public Schools security staff.

Contact: Lieutenant David Davidson at 614-645-1457 or ddavidson@columbuspolice.org



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COMMUNICATIONS

Community Engagement Mobile Application

Coming fall 2018 the Division of Police has contracted with a vendor to provide a mobile application allowing greater access and communication with the Division of Police, in the palm of their hands. The mobile application will provide citizens with a one-stop shop for engaging the Division in the virtual world. The application will feature the ability to submit a crime tip and chat with an officer in real-time, location-based public safety alerts using push notifications, interactive public safety maps, and centralized Columbus Police information and resources, such as all social media platforms assessable from one application. Additional features allow for two-way anonymous crime tipping, online report generating, and access to all recruiting resources for police and fire. All Division press releases will be posted to the application, safety tips can be pushed to smartphones at will, and crime alerts can be immediately activated to warn citizens of dangers in their area. The 3 pillars of community engagement success involve informing the public, engaging the public in dialogue and information sharing/exchanging, and equipping the public with key information during crises or to allow for pre-planning.

Media Training Days

Media Training Days are offered annually to media personnel as an educational awareness program that was designed to allow reporters and others to better understand the police use of force, legal issues, weapons and tactics. The training day consists of classroom instruction and group discussion related to arrest, search and seizure as well as scenario-based training.

Contact: Sergeant Rich Weiner at 614-645-4593 or rweiner@columbuspolice.org

Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, Division website, NextDoor

The Division began actively managing and interacting with its Twitter and Facebook pages in late 2013. Since that time, our social media followers have grown by about 400% and have become a go-to source of information for our public and local media. The Division shares positive Division updates, crime prevention tips, human interest stories, traffic and crime alerts, adverse Division updates in the interests of transparency and other information via these channels. Often, the Division responds directly to questions, comments or concerns expressed to us via our social media pages. Social media postings have generated thousands of responses, comments and shares – giving our community a voice about Division stories. Nextdoor is a free private social network for neighborhood groups that is now monitored by our Community Liaison officers to assist with law enforcement related questions and concerns.

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/ColumbusPolice/>

Instagram – <https://www.instagram.com/columbuspolice>

NextDoor – <https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/oh/columbus/columbus-pd/>

Twitter – <https://twitter.com/columbuspolice>

Website – <http://www.columbus.gov/police/>

You Tube – <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheColumbusPolice>