



Hello,

Thank you for visiting the Washington Township Website. You are now on the page for your police department. I appreciate the opportunity to share some facts with you about the police department.

Currently there are six officers serving the residents of Washington Township. We are very unique in the fact that most small police departments just become a training ground and stepping stone for officers to gain experience to move on to larger departments. The reason for this is that the smaller departments can't pay the wages that larger departments do, nor can they provide any benefits. Our officers have proven through their length of service with this department that they are committed to staying in this area. I have been with this department for almost nineteen years serving as the police chief since April of 1992. Most of our officers have five years of service or more. All have other jobs working full time with another employer. We have two officers that are fully trained fire fighters and serve with are fire departments. This is particularly unique of a small police department to have these types of resources to provide its residents. We have by design sent our officers to various training sessions to become instructors. By doing this our initial cost for the class was higher but this was a one- time expense. By having our officers acquire instructor status we have reduced our mandatory yearly training expenses. Now instead of paying some other agency a fee every year, and the travel expenses to get the officers there, we now host the training. We can now supplement our budget by collecting training fees from other agencies to provide training that we are certified to teach.

We are a committed, dedicated group of law enforcement professionals working hard to provide you with the best police protection we can with the available resources we have. We are very community police oriented. This department has planned events such as the bike rodeo which is generally scheduled in the spring to promote safety for the upcoming summer. This event is completely funded by area businesses and citizen involvement. The police department actively solicits support the business community so that your tax dollars are used for the day to day operations of the police department and nothing else. Officers donate their time so there is no cost there either. Other community events are orchestrated in the same manner such as Ident-a-kid Gun Lock Giveaway, Safety Town. We are also very active in the schools. Officers routinely speak at the school for career day activities. We are also involved in the mock accident event and the promotion of seat belt use in our: What's Holding you Back campaign that generally is timed just before prom and graduation. We have attended neighborhood watch group meetings and advised on how to deter crime in their areas. These are just a few of our community policing efforts.

Our calls for service remain pretty steady. In the summer months we average 200 a month dropping to about 140-150 a month in the non-summer months. We average 132 traffic stops a month in our traffic enforcement effort. We do not place an emphasis on issuing citations. Only a third of those stopped are issued a citation. I get the reports every month to track trends to employ counter tactics to reduce crime in your area. Thanks to your past support of the police levies I have been able to increase the amount of time a patrol car spends in your neighborhood. If you are spending anytime at all outside, I am sure you have seen us. I have seen a direct correlation in the reduction of breaking and entering complaints because of the increased police presence. On the county crime map, Washington Township had far less breaking and entering incidents compared to all areas around Washington Township. Criminals are going to avoid an area where they see a cruiser patrolling frequently. Another benefit to our patrol assignment is our average response time was just under five minutes. That is not because we are driving fast to non-emergency calls; it is because we can have two units out at peak times of activity at each end of the township.

I have tried very hard to give our community a police department they can trust and be proud of. I have always been open to direction from the residents I am responsible for serving. Many residents have called me at home and I make sure the time is spent resolving their issues. That is not something that generally is accepted at larger agencies. Our officers are trained to be courteous and fair but to serve the public by enforcing the law. I do not take your expectations lightly, I promise to guide this police department to serve our residents. Thank you for your support and please visit this web site regularly for update and other valuable information.

Sincerely,

Chief Rick Core