



Middletown Police Department

Middletown, Kentucky



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

J. Byron Chapman, Mayor

Rob Herman, Chief

Mission Statement

The Middletown Police Department is a law enforcement agency working in collaboration with the people of Middletown to provide for the safety and security of the community which it serves.

We are committed to fostering an attitude of cooperation based on mutual respect and understanding between our department and those with whom we interact.

Our presence will enhance the quality of life in Middletown by promoting the ideals of a free society while maintaining the highest ethical standards of policing.

We will protect the rights of all individuals and businesses without discrimination, and we will pursue excellence in the performance of our duties.



SAFETY RESPECT ETHICAL EXCELLENCE

A Message From Chief Rob Herman

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Report of the Middletown Police Department. This is the 7th addition of this report, but it seems like yesterday we started the police department with a Chief and one officer. Within this report you will find accomplishments and statistics we have achieved throughout the year. We have continued to expand our resources to better service the citizens, businesses, and visitors to our city with a staff of 22 officers. Of those we have Administration, including a newly hired civilian Police Administrator, Detectives, Traffic Officers, and a newly hired K-9 Officer. We are excited to be in a position to expand our services, which include the purchase of drones that can be used for tactical overwatch and search and rescue missions. The backbone of the police services, its Patrol Officers, was also expanded by adding additional officers to our late-watch shift. With the trend of break-ins and theft of vehicles we felt it was necessary to reinforce the overnight shift to combat this increase in property crime.



All of this could not have been accomplished without the support of our Mayor, City Commissioners, and the citizens of our city. Additional support has been provided by our Middletown Police Foundation, I encourage you to visit their website (www.mpfky.org) to see the great projects they have supported throughout the year. In the Spring they handed out over 150 fitted bicycle helmets to area children to reduce the number of injuries sustained while enjoying their bikes, skateboards and scooters. The foundation also funded many more projects including literature to educate seniors on scams, funding support for the police drones, and the purchase of a new roadside drug testing kit.

I look forward to what the next new year will bring as we are consistently evaluating the needs of our city and responding to those challenging needs. As our population grows and new businesses are launched in our city, the need for additional officers also grows. In 2024, we also invested in our employees by providing competitive wages, improving the benefits they receive, and providing the equipment officers require to safely and effectively perform their jobs. This translates into better customer service for our residents.

Police work is a team effort. Our establishment and growth would not be as successful without the partnership of the more senior agencies that has supported us along the way such as the Louisville Metro Police, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Jeffersontown Police, St. Matthews Police, and the many other federal and state agencies throughout the area. We are sincerely appreciative of their continued support and guidance.

Lastly, I encourage you to follow our social media platforms and to let us know if you see something that you feel needs our attention. You can contact us by phone, email, or drop by the police station and have a chat with your compliments, complaints or suggestions. We want you to be involved in your city and your police department. I want to thank all the citizens, businesses, and visitors for your support of our officers who have worked tirelessly to provide the best police services we can.

Command Staff



**Chief of Police
Rob Herman**



Major Joe Webb



**Lieutenant
Steve Kaufling**



**Police Administrator
Barbara Fischer**

1st Platoon



Sgt Bill Shingleton



Sgt Eric Kemper



Officer Glenn Simpson



Officer Chad Ledington

2nd Platoon



Sgt Dale McCormack



Sgt Holly Rogers



Officer Mark Hord



Officer Nathan Bengé

3rd Platoon



Sgt Ricky Guffey



Sgt Chris Morris



Officer Zach Prichard



Officer Mike Holston



Officer Mark Kuzma
K-9 Handler



Officer Chris White



K-9 Raiko

Criminal Investigations Unit



Detective Sgt Pat Bass



Detective Scott Russ



Detective Scott Beck

Traffic Unit



Officer Michael Cummins



Officer Adrian Wheeler

Police Chaplains



John Abel



Jay Kustes



Greg Gischner

Criminal Investigations Unit

From January 1 to December 31, 2024, the Detective Unit investigated 471 cases. During this same period, the detectives and officers have been able to close/clear 220 cases. Some of the cases we investigate include criminal mischief, theft, domestic violence, narcotics, robbery, and other criminal activity. Of that total, 151 of the clearances were by arrests being made on the suspect. Below is a list of clearances:

- Closed By Arrest: 151
- Closed By Exception: 41
- Unfounded: 17 (Originally reported by did not occur)
- Inactive: 189 (Cases are not closed but waiting on new information for follow-up)

Officers and Detectives work hand in hand to investigate all the crimes that occur in the City of Middletown. In some cases, the officer or detective taking the report can completely solve and close the case while he or she is on the scene. The normal scenario of what occurs when a crime is committed is listed below:

- When a crime occurs in the City of Middletown, the police are contacted by dialing 9-1-1, or dispatch (502)574-5471 or by coming into our office located at 11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.
- The police respond to the area of the crime to report the incident and gather pertinent information and evidence (photograph the scene, gather witness statements, victim's accounts of what occurred, broadcast descriptions of perpetrator(s), possible arrest of perpetrator if still on scene, analyze intelligence, call a detective for assistance, etc...). A report number is generated to give to the victim.
- In most cases, that report is forwarded to the Detective Unit where the detectives will continue investigating the crime. All cases are a little different, but in this step the detective will reach out to the victim to see if there is any further pertinent information. The detectives will follow up on all calls that the responding officer noted and make phone calls and visit potential suspects, victims, witnesses, and query all databases and investigative tools at their disposal, request video surveillance if applicable, etc..., process court orders or search warrants.
- In some cases, a suspect might be generated quickly, and others might be more difficult. The goal of the detective is to find the person that committed the crime, recover property taken (if anything was taken), and do everything possible to make the victim safe and follow through with making the arrest of the suspect(s) and follow through with adjudication and court appearances.

It takes all of us to stop or deter criminal activity. If you see something suspicious, please call us at the appropriate phone number. If you are contacted in a suspicious way, like a possible scam email or phone call, please make sure you know who you are sending money to. You can contact Middletown Police by calling our dispatch on the following numbers: Emergency, dial 9-1-1 or non-emergency, dial (502) 574-5471. If you have a general question for the police, call (502) 365-1900. Have a wonderful year in 2025!

Sincerely,
Detective Sergeant Pat Bass

Middletown Police Detectives



L-R Detective Scott Russ, Detective Scott Beck and Sgt Detective Pat Bass

Detective Scott Russ began working in Middletown in April of 2024. Detective Russ began his policing career in 1999 as a police officer in Kansas City, Missouri. After getting home sick he returned to Louisville and joined the Louisville Division of Police in 2001. During his career in law enforcement Detective Russ worked in Patrol, Crimes Against Children Unit and a Homicide Detective. Detective Russ brings a lot of knowledge and experience to the city, and he takes pride in making our city a better place and hopes to for many years to come. Detective Russ is married to Fallon, and they are a house divided, so Louisville and Kentucky sports are exciting.



Detective Scott Beck began working in Middletown in September of 2019 after retiring from LMPD. Detective Beck also worked for nearly 5 years with Louisville Metro Corrections. During his career in law enforcement most of his duties were in investigative units and special response tactical teams. Detective Beck brings a ton of knowledge and experience to the city, and he takes pride in making our city a better place for all of us. When he is not working you might find him attending one of his two sons' soccer matches; both played at the college level. Detective Beck also loves to spend time with his two furry family members, Liberty and Bailey.



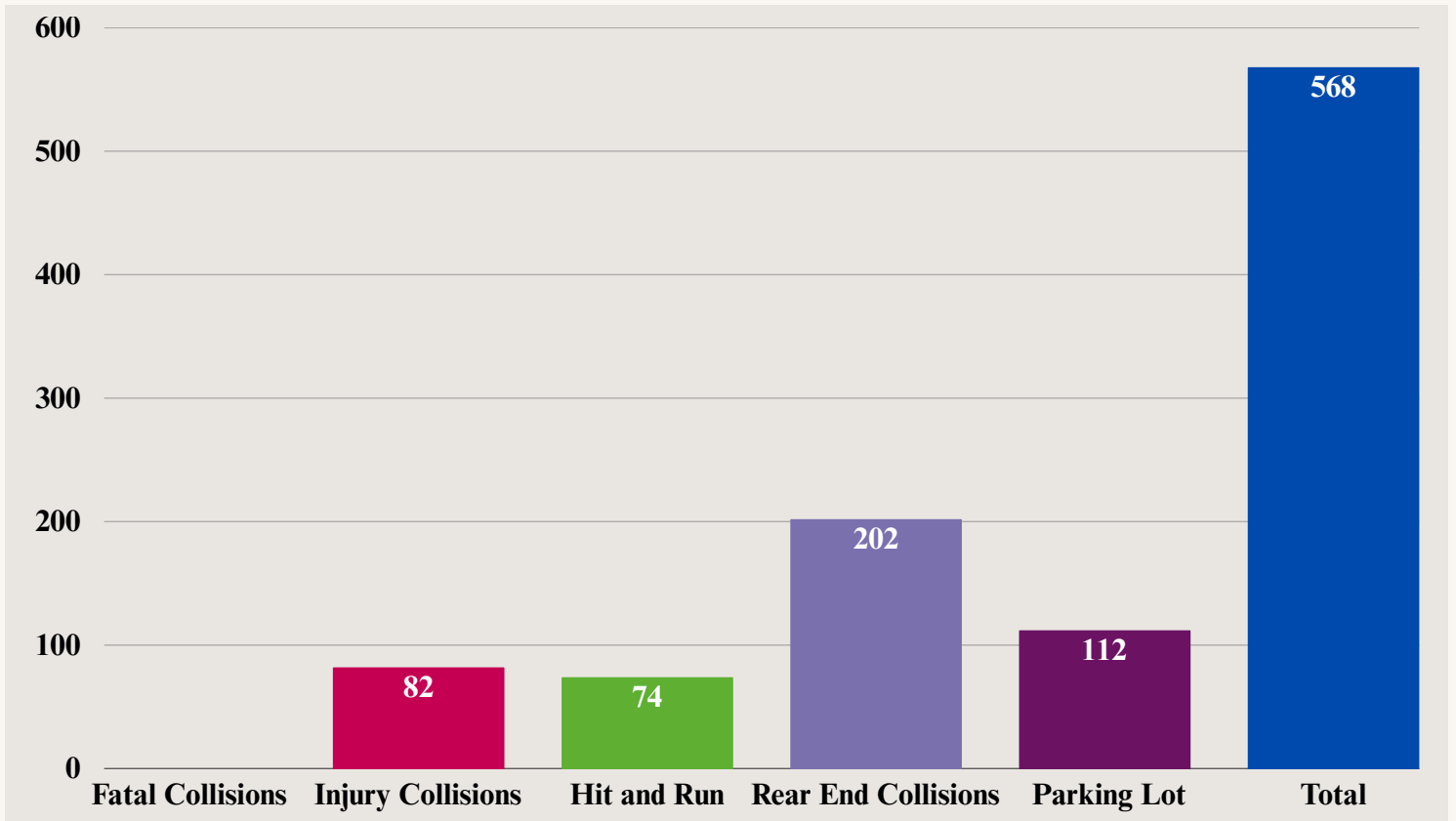
Liberty and Bailey

Sergeant Pat Bass has been with Middletown Police since 2019. He formerly worked as a Sergeant for LMPD where he retired with most of his career being investigations. Sergeant Bass loves spending his time off with his family and attending sporting events. He enjoys the hobby of working on leather craft projects. Sergeant Bass would like to continue his leather hobby as a part-time job when he retires.

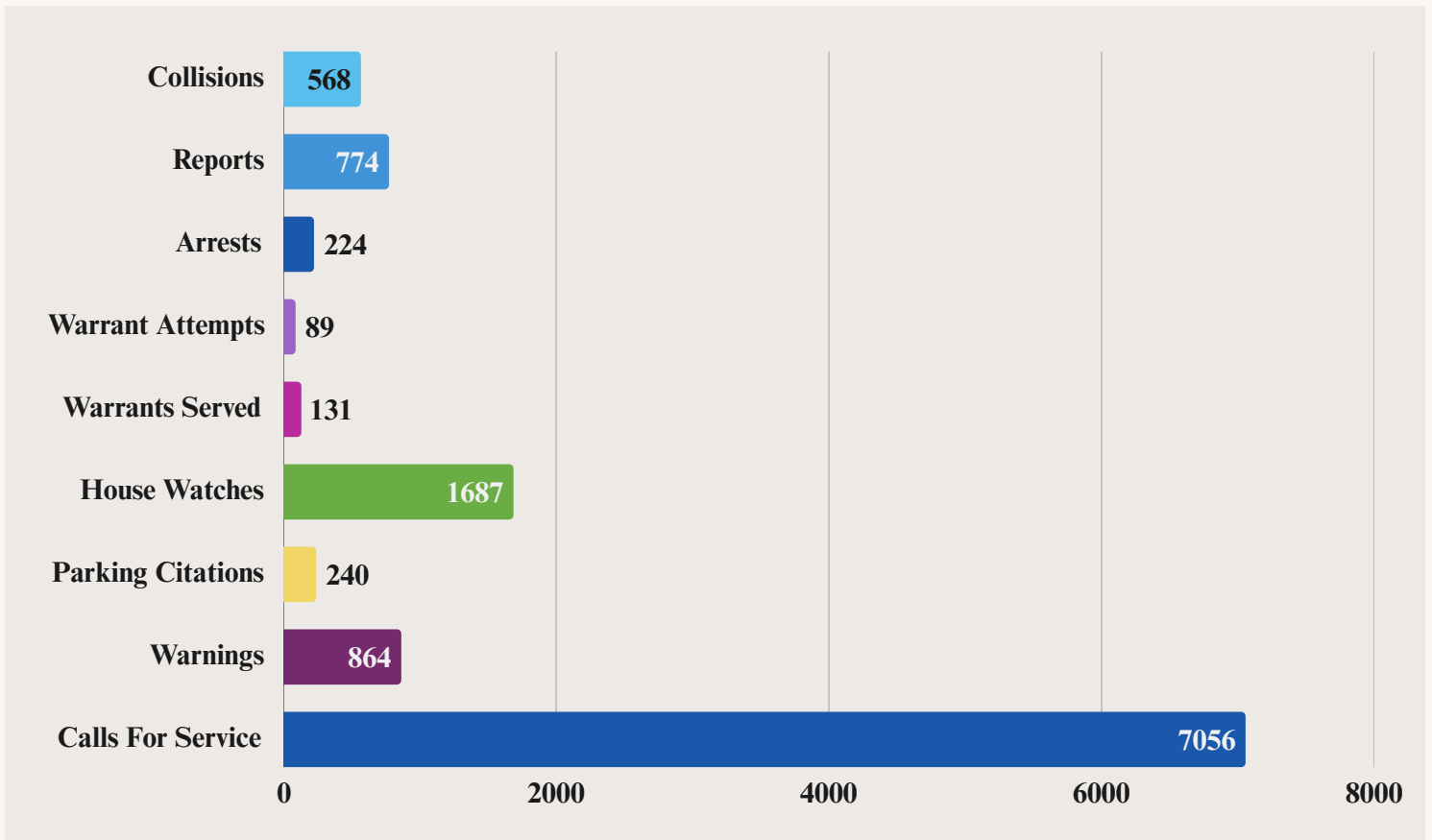
Detective Sgt Bass with his 5-year-old nephew, Grant, who won the 2024 Middletown Police Department Christmas Card art contest.



2024 Traffic Collision Statistics



2024 Middletown Police Activity



Middletown Police Traffic Unit



L-R: Officer Adrian Wheeler and Officer Michael Cummins

Our city continues to grow at an astounding pace. New residents continue to move into Middletown to take advantage of our wide array of shopping opportunities, fabulous restaurants, top notch schools, and other essential services, all conveniently located within a short commute of our warm and welcoming neighborhoods. New businesses continue to open in Middletown because of the strong customer base, the low crime rate, and of course the strong network of the Middletown Chamber.

While the growth of our community provides many benefits, it also produces TRAFFIC – a LOT of it. “Is there something that can be done about the speeding in my area?” is one of the many traffic related questions that citizens and business owners ask of our police officers. In fact, traffic related concerns are the largest category of complaints our department receives. In addition to the police officers you see patrolling your neighborhood, the Middletown Police Department has a Traffic Unit comprised of two Traffic Officers, solely dedicated to keeping motorists and pedestrians safe along our roadways.

In 2024, the MPD Traffic Unit alone investigated 284 of the 568 collisions. This included investigating hit and run collisions, providing medical care as the first responder on the scene of injury collisions, and quickly clearing the roadway after a collision, to allow for continued traffic in the area. And while speed enforcement activity resulted in 764 citations, 642 warnings were also issued in lieu of citations. Our Traffic Officers also participated in numerous hours of training to improve and refine their skills in the field.

As always, we are here to help in any way we can – 24/7. But never forget that you have the greatest impact on safety by following just a few simple guidelines. Never place a higher importance on that unanswered text over the safety of yourself or your neighbor. Impaired driving and speed are other major factors that affect a driver’s ability behind the wheel. So do your part, but if you need us, don’t hesitate to call (502) 574-5471.



On The Road with The Traffic Team



Middletown Police Department Dispatchers

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office provides Middletown Police Department with dedicated dispatchers for our city's police and emergency services. Known as the voice behind the thin blue line, we honor their invaluable and often unseen work. Their communication center, located in downtown Louisville, is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week which includes every holiday and weekend. We give our sincerest thanks and gratitude to our dispatchers.

If you or someone you know is interested in a career in Law Enforcement or Emergency Dispatch, please call our Middletown Police Department (502) 365-1900 or the Jefferson County Sheriff's Officer Career Development Department at (502) 574-5400.



Latewatch Dispatcher Tyra brings an amazing 26 years of experience and Dispatcher Gabriel just arrived to JCSO in February 2024. He is an Army Reservist in the 8-229th AHB.



Dispatcher Kennedy started with JCSO in August 2024 (left) and Dispatcher Gracie began in June 2024 (right).

There are 23 total JCSO dispatchers at their center who also assist with our department.

Middletown Police Department Awards



Officer Mike Holston receives the Distinguished Lifesaving award from Chief Rob Herman



Sgt Chris Morris receives the Distinguished Lifesaving award from Chief Rob Herman



Sgt Ricky Guffey receives the Distinguished Lifesaving award from Chief Rob Herman



Officer Michael Cummins receives the Distinguished Lifesaving award from Chief Rob Herman



Middletown PD recipient
of the 2024 Kentucky League of Cities
100% Safety and Reliability Award.
L-R: KLC John Clark, Det Scott Beck,
Major Joey Webb, and Chief Rob Herman

Middletown Police Department's Bagpiper

Sgt Bill Shingleton, who has worked with MPD for six years, is a member of the Louisville Police Pipes and Drums Band. What is so remarkable about it is that he was 48 years old when he realized that he wanted to play the bagpipes. Other than the elementary school recorder, Shingleton had no musical training or education to build upon this endeavor. Jovially, he will tell you that he is tone deaf and can't carry a tone.

“At the time I started, I had been a police officer for 22 years. I initially believed I lacked the basic skills or natural talent to begin learning any type of musical instrument. A chance encounter with several members of the Louisville Police Pipe band (many of whom I knew) helped to encourage me to learn to play the bagpipes.”

Personal determination and guidance from the band lead him on his musical journey. He studied with a professional trainer for about 2 1/2 months while practicing day and night for four months on a “practice” chanter, the part of the bagpipe that creates the melody. After becoming proficient at playing 4 or 5 tunes by memory he graduated to the Great Highland bagpipes, native to Scotland.

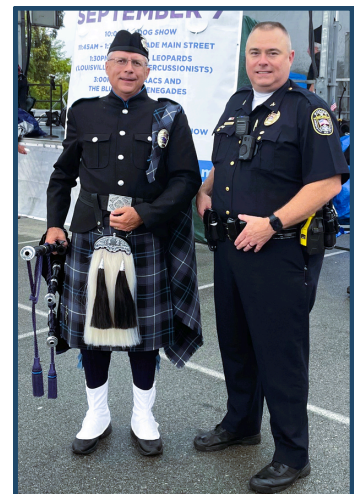
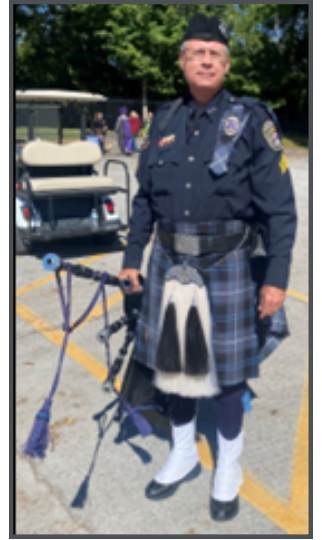
The droning sound of bagpipes playing “Amazing Grace” is comforting to a grieving soul.

When asked what he finds most rewarding by playing the bagpipes, he stated:

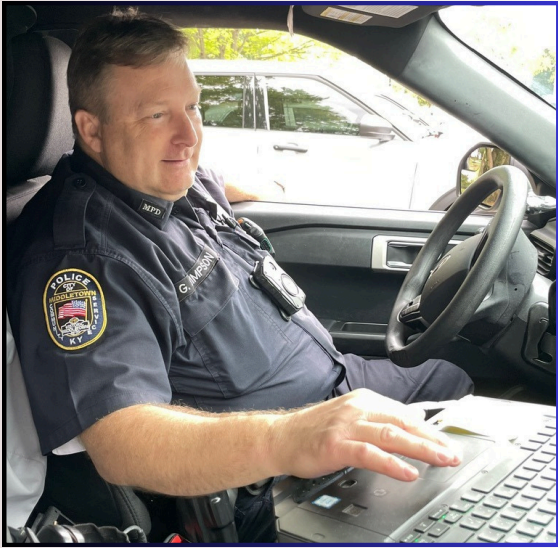
“Performing for a purpose. When performing at a funeral or memorial, it is the privilege of providing a rite of honor to the deceased and to show respect for his/her family and friends. When participating in parades or community events, it is the privilege of representing the organization or event.”

Considering that the bagpipe has only nine notes, the style of music he performs tends to be more ceremonial than contemporary. He further explains that most of us are familiar with the traditional Scottish and Irish tunes such as Going Home, Rowan Tree, or Minstrel Boy during a funeral which usually leads up to Amazing Grace. Lighter and upbeat tunes are played along a parade route.

If the bagpipe isn't fascinating enough, the traditional uniform is a showstopper consisting of a glengarry (hat), a uniform shirt, formal dress horse-hair sporran (pouch) and the knee length wool kilt. The specific bagpipe band or individual determines the kilt plaid design. Sgt Shingleton chose the tartan named Ancient Patriot for the Middletown Police Department because the colors of muted blue, light blue, black and white colors represent traditional police colors. Sgt Shingleton is a beacon of inspiration not only as he wears the tartan plaid and plays to comfort the grieving, but he is also a dedicated officer for our community. If it is true that music soothes the soul and lifts our spirits, then our thanks to Sergeant Shingleton for conquering a challenge for our benefit.



All In A Day's Work



Meeting and Greeting with Our Community Cone With A Cop





Trunk or Treat 2024



Our Mayor and City Commissioners



Commissioners Mark Stigers and Ron Wolf
at 2024 Trunk or Treat



Above L-R: City Commissioner Paul Hayden, Ron Wolf,
Mark Stigers and Mayor Byron Chapman
at the Family Festival



L-R: Mayor Chapman, Seiler's Rep, Gary Edelen, Mark Stigers, Chief Herman and Ron Wolf
Drone demonstration in Wetherby Park





Middletown Police Foundation



Support of your Middletown Police Department and your community by making a tax-deductible donation to the Middletown Police Foundation.

Any amount helps our foundation to fund much-needed training, education and life-saving equipment. Your donation directly impacts these critical resources which enhance our police department ensuring a safer community in which to live, work and visit.

Deliver your donation to:

Middletown Police Foundation
11803 Old Shelbyville Rd
Louisville, KY 40243

Or click on the Donate button on our website at **mpfky.org** to be directed to our donation portal.

It's that easy to support the men and women who support you!

Middletown Police Foundation

Strengthening Community Bonds

Founded in 2021, the Middletown Police Foundation is a vital organization dedicated to enhancing the safety and well-being of the citizens, visitors, and businesses of Middletown, Kentucky. With a mission to “Prepare and Support Those Who Protect and Serve,” the foundation plays a crucial role in fostering a strong bond between the Middletown Police Department (MPD) and the community.

Vision and Mission

The foundation’s vision is to ensure that the MPD is well-equipped to maintain a safe environment for everyone in the community. By providing critical resources such as training, equipment, public education, and support for officers, the Middletown Police Foundation aims to enhance the capabilities of the police department.

Community Programs and Initiatives

One of the key initiatives of the Middletown Police Foundation is its focus on child safety. The foundation provides materials to elementary school-age children that includes safety oriented coloring books and crayons. Additionally, the Middletown Police Foundation provides bicycle safety helmets to children from underserved and economically challenged communities. These helmets are distributed through partnerships with the Middletown Chamber of Commerce and local vendors. The foundation also invests in crime prevention services for senior community members by providing literature, information, and seminars on financial scams. These educational resources help prevent crime and strengthen relationships between seniors and the police department.

Supporting Law Enforcement

The Middletown Police Foundation supports the officers of the MPD by providing training on various topics, including de-escalation techniques, response to persons in mental crisis, and education on emerging groups of people and their interactions with law enforcement. The foundation brings in subject matter experts and offers small group training sessions to ensure that officers are well-prepared to handle diverse situations.

Financial Assistance and Technology

The Middletown Police Foundation also provides financial assistance to the MPD for researching crime prevention and response technology. This includes investments in tools such as Aerial Drones, Training Equipment, and Mobile Drug Testing Equipment. These resources help the police department to be more effective in preventing and responding to criminal activities.

How to Get Involved

The Middletown Police Foundation welcomes donations and volunteers who are passionate about supporting the safety and well-being of the community. Donations can be directed to specific programs within the foundation, such as honoring fallen or injured officers, supporting senior citizens, youth safety, and K-9 units via our website or by mail. Those interested in volunteering can apply to join the board of directors and contribute their skills and expertise to the foundation's mission.

Conclusion

The Middletown Police Foundation is a cornerstone of community safety and support in Middletown, Kentucky. Through its various programs and initiatives, the foundation strengthens the bond between the police department and the community, ensuring a safer environment for all. By supporting the MPF, individuals can play a direct role in enhancing the safety and wellbeing of their neighbors and loved ones. The Middletown Police Foundation is both governed and staffed by an unpaid volunteer Board of Directors comprised of individuals who live or work in Middletown. The Middletown Police Foundation operates as a 501(c)3 organization that relies completely upon donations and fundraisers to fund its mission.

THANK YOU

Our sincere appreciation and gratitude
to the following individuals and agencies for providing
training, guidance and support to us at the
Middletown Police Department:

Mayor J. Byron Chapman
Commissioner Paul Hayden
Commissioner Amy Oliver
Commissioner Mark Stigers
Commissioner Ron Wolf

Louisville Metro Police Department
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Jeffersontown Police Department
St. Matthews Police Department
Department of Criminal Justice Training
Kentucky League of Cities

Middletown Residents, Business Owners,
Churches, and Visitors who have supported
us during the year.

