

# **STRONGSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## **2021 Year-End Report and Strategic Plan**

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Message from the Chief of Police,

On behalf of the Strongsville Police Department (SPD), it is my honor to submit the 2021 Annual Report. The past year was another action-packed and eventful year. In addition to delivering the best possible services to our community, we did so while operating in an environment that included the continuing pandemic.

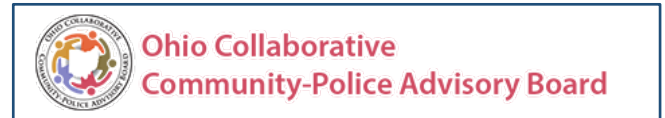
Throughout the year, quality service, professionalism, integrity, and compassion were the traits displayed by the personnel of the SPD.



Some highlights from 2021 include being selected as "Ohio's Best Agency of the Month for December 2021" by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. This award reflects the outstanding achievements of our men and women in the Strongsville Police Department, including its support services, the South West Emergency Dispatch Center (SWEDC), and our Corrections Officers.

Additionally, the Strongsville Police Department is proud to announce achieving Full Compliance on Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification status. This multidisciplinary group establishes statewide standards for law enforcement agencies.

On October 21, 2021, the SPD received recertification in compliance with the Ohio Collaborative. The compliance process involves the review of documentation by an Ohio Collaborative assessor for each agency to prove it is complying with standards on an annual basis. The SPD is recognized as fully compliant with the standards set forth by the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board.



Your Police Department is committed to maintaining compliance with current and future standards to ensure we provide the best possible service to our community.

The 2021 Annual Report outlines many of our programs and outstanding accomplishments. I hope the hard work of our men and women will become evident to all of you.

The members of the Strongsville Police Department genuinely appreciate the trust and support from our Mayor, Tom Perciak, City Council, city staff, and members of the community. In return, we pledge to continue delivering professional, quality service to you, our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Fender  
Chief of Police

## **The Strongsville Police Department**

### **Our Vision:**

To develop together as a team who enjoys our work, takes pride in our integrity, professional public image, and commitment to constant excellence in our service.

### **Our Mission:**

In partnership with the community, we pledge to:

- Protect the lives and property of our fellow citizens
- Persist in the pursuit of violators of our laws, while protecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of all
- Enhance the quality of life by identifying and solving community problems, preventing crime and extinguishing fear
- Preserve a proud reputation of quality service, professionalism, integrity and compassion

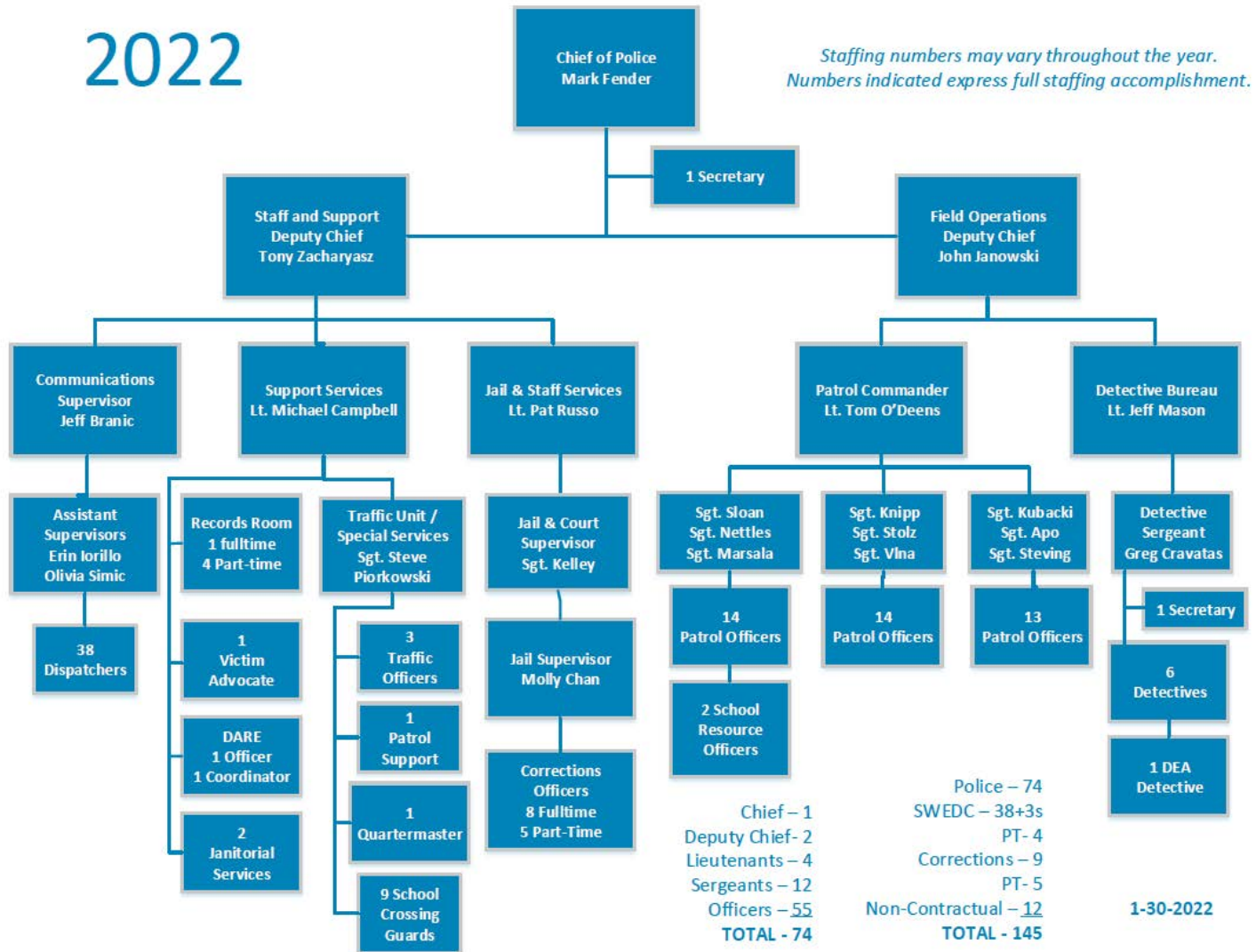
### **Our Values:**

We value our proud reputation of

Quality Service, Professionalism, Integrity and Compassion

<b>Strongsville Police Administration</b>		
Chief of Police	Mark Fender	<a href="mailto:Mark.Fender@Strongsville.org">Mark.Fender@Strongsville.org</a>
Deputy Chief - Field Operations	John Janowski	<a href="mailto:John.Janowski@Strongsville.org">John.Janowski@Strongsville.org</a>
Deputy Chief - Staff & Support Services	Anthony Zacharyasz	<a href="mailto:Anthony.Zacharyasz@Strongsville.org">Anthony.Zacharyasz@Strongsville.org</a>
Lieutenant - Patrol Commander	Thomas O'Deens	<a href="mailto:Thomas.Odeens@Strongsville.org">Thomas.Odeens@Strongsville.org</a>
Lieutenant - Detective Bureau	Jeffrey Mason	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Mason@Strongsville.org">Jeffrey.Mason@Strongsville.org</a>
Lieutenant - Jail and Staff Services	Patrick Russo	<a href="mailto:Patrick.Russo@Strongsville.org">Patrick.Russo@Strongsville.org</a>
Lieutenant - Support Services	Michael Campbell	<a href="mailto:Michael.Campbell@Strongsville.org">Michael.Campbell@Strongsville.org</a>

# 2022





## Full Compliance on Ohio Collaborative LE Certification Announcement

The Strongsville Police Department is proud to announce achieving Full Compliance on Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification status. This multidisciplinary group establishes statewide standards for law enforcement agencies. The compliance process involves the review of documentation by an Ohio Collaborative assessor for each agency to prove it is complying with standards on an annual basis. The Strongsville Police Department is recognized as fully compliant with the standards set forth by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board.

At the end of 2016, our department began the process of achieving compliance with the standards of the newly created Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. In 2017, the department achieved compliance and was issued certification in the first round of standards that govern Use of Force, Recruiting, and Hiring. In subsequent years the Collaborative added additional standards covering Community Engagement, Body-worn Cameras, Telecommunicator Training, Bias-Free Policing, Investigation of Employee Misconduct, and Motor Vehicle Pursuits. Standards were recently added this year which include Response to Mass Protests/Demonstrations and Agency Wellness. We are working toward certification in those two standards and expect to receive that certification in early 2022.

The Strongsville Police Department is committed to maintaining compliance with current and future standards to ensure that we provide the best possible service to our community.



## Organizational Integrity

The Strongsville Police Department works hard to maintain organizational integrity through an internal review process. It is an internal system where objectivity, fairness and justice are ensured by intensive and impartial investigation and review of the actions of departmental employees. Its purpose is to clear the innocent, establish guilt of wrongdoers and facilitate prompt, fair and consistent disciplinary action. The Strongsville Police Department will investigate all complaints, alleged or suspected (signed or anonymous) made against the department or its employees. In addition, the following is a summary of the various internal quality control checks completed in 2021.

<b>CITIZEN COMPLAINTS – 2021</b>		
<b>Total Complaints: 8</b>		
<b>Dispositions:</b>	Unfounded: 5	Exonerated: 3

<b>Use of Force<sup>1</sup></b> Justified: 20 Not Justified: 0	<b>Pursuit Policy<sup>2</sup></b> Compliant: 35 Not Compliant: 5	<b>Cruiser Accidents</b> Not Negligent 2 Negligent: 3	<b>City Property Damage</b> Not Negligent: 1 Negligent: 2
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<sup>1</sup> Taser deployment on 4 of the 20

<sup>2</sup> Policy 306 - Motor Vehicle Pursuits

## Field Operations

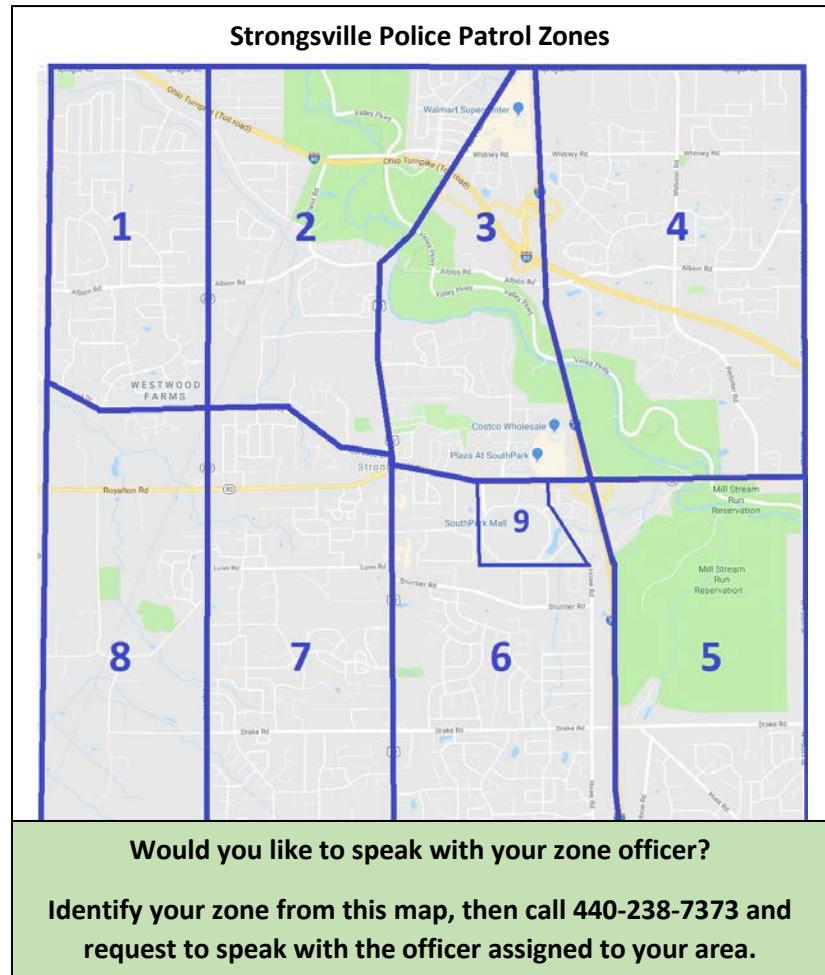
<b>PATROL DIVISION</b>			
<b>Supervisors</b>			
<b>DAY SHIFT</b>			
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Assignment:</b>	<b>E-Mail:</b>
Marsala, Marcello	Sergeant	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Marcello.Marsala@Strongsville.org">Marcello.Marsala@Strongsville.org</a>
Nettles, Ronald	Sergeant	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Ronald.Nettles@Strongsville.org">Ronald.Nettles@Strongsville.org</a>
Sloan, Brian	Sergeant	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Brian.Sloan@Strongsville.org">Brian.Sloan@Strongsville.org</a>
<b>AFTERNOON SHIFT</b>			
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Assignment:</b>	<b>E-Mail:</b>
Knipp, Jacob	Sergeant	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Jacob.Knipp@Strongsville.org">Jacob.Knipp@Strongsville.org</a>
Steving, Jeff	Sergeant	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Steving@Strongsville.org">Jeffrey.Steving@Strongsville.org</a>
Vlna, Brian	Sergeant	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Brian.Vlna@Strongsville.org">Brian.Vlna@Strongsville.org</a>
<b>NIGHT SHIFT</b>			
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Assignment:</b>	<b>E-Mail:</b>
Apo, Derek	Sergeant	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Derek.Apo@Strongsville.org">Derek.Apo@Strongsville.org</a>
Kubacki, Ronald	Sergeant	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Ronald.Kubacki@Strongsville.org">Ronald.Kubacki@Strongsville.org</a>
Stolz, Ronald	Sergeant	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Ronald.Stolz@Strongsville.org">Ronald.Stolz@Strongsville.org</a>

## Patrol Zones

The city is divided into 9 separate zone assignments for police coverage. Patrol officers on each shift are assigned a permanent zone at the beginning of each year to ensure they are not only familiar with the businesses, schools and traffic issues, but also are more likely to notice something out of the ordinary.

In addition, officers on permanent zone assignments get to know the business owners and residents, which enhances our relationship with the community. Depending on the call volume or type of call, officers backup other officers in other zones to better serve the needs of the community.

SouthPark Mall, a regional shopping mall, has its own zone due to the high volume of traffic and calls for service concentrated in a small area near the interstate.



## Traffic Bureau

**The primary function of the Traffic Bureau is to address traffic concerns before they become dangerous problems.**

Major responsibilities of the traffic bureau include:

- Meeting with community business owners, residents and others to identify and address community traffic issues.
- Providing technical assistance relating to traffic crash investigations or reconstruction
- Coordinating, deploying and maintaining traffic enforcement trailers and speed survey devices; gathering data and providing reports.
- Providing escorts and directing traffic at special events, parades, funerals, football games, etc.
- Working with the Engineering Departments in an effort to minimize traffic congestion and correct hazardous situations, such as those that occur during road construction.

In 2021, the Traffic Bureau:

- Deployed the speed trailer 52 times
- Conducted 5 traffic studies
- Installed 25 car seats

**Target enforcement**  
is generated through citizen complaints,  
crash analysis review and data review.



## **K-9 Teams**

The Strongsville Police Department's K-9 teams are valuable law enforcement tools that improve the operating efficiency and effectiveness of the patrol division. These canines are registered with the Cuyahoga County Auditor's Office and are certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy as both Police Service Canines and Narcotics Detection Canines.

**K9 Chase**  
**Handler: Ptl. Bryan Kadlec**



Chase is a dual-purpose police service dog trained in narcotics detection and the patrol areas of obedience, agility, tracking, evidence search, area/building searches and handler protection.

### **K-9 Team Duties Include:**

- narcotics detection
- tracking wanted or lost people
- article searches
- building searches
- criminal apprehension
- lectures/demonstrations for many groups such as civic organizations and school functions.

**K9 Storm**  
**Handler: Ptl. Jason Miller**



Storm is a dual-purpose police service dog and has been trained in narcotics detection, obedience, tracking, article search, handler protection and suspect apprehension.

**K9 Tito**  
**Handler Ptl. Pat O'Sullivan**



Tito is trained to sniff out illegal narcotics, track individuals, search for lost people, and of course Tito's favorite, apprehending criminals.



K-9s Storm and Tito enjoying some downtime.



K-9 Officer Pat O'Sullivan with Tito during a K-9 lesson

### Strongsville K-9s in 2021

- 75 Drug searches
- 12 Building searches
- 14 Trackings
- 10 Apprehensions

The Strongsville Police Department's K-9 unit started in 1995. Our canine teams are valuable law enforcement tools that improve the operating efficiency and effectiveness of the patrol division.

## Drug Recognition Expert

A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) or Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE) is a law enforcement officer highly trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol. The DRE focuses on the detection, apprehension and adjudication of drug-impaired drivers.



### Drug Recognition Expert - 2021

- The Strongsville Police Department had a total of 167 OVI arrests in 2021.
- Of the 167 OVI arrests, 11 were drugged driving arrests, which is about 7% of the total.
- Of the 167 OVI arrests, Sgt. Jeff Steving had 33 of them (19%), and Officer Alex Kurowski had 26 of them (15%).
- Officer Steving performed 6 DRE evaluations in 2021.

The Strongsville Police Department has one DRE, Sgt. Jeff Steving. Due to the difficulty to obtain and maintain the status of a Drug Recognition Expert, Sgt. Steving is one of the few DREs in the Northeast Ohio area; therefore, his skills are shared outside the City of Strongsville as needed by other police departments. To maintain his certification, Sgt. Steving attended a DRE recertification class in Columbus and also attended the DRE national conference (Drugs, Alcohol, and Impaired Driving Conference) in Orlando where he attended 8 blocks of training.

## Detective Bureau

Uniformed patrol officers investigate reported offenses to the fullest extent practical. However, detectives will conduct secondary investigations when additional time or expertise is required. Each day, the detective supervisor conducts daily electronic reviews of all CAD activities and case reports. Based on case screening and solvability factors (that indicate the offense may be solved with a reasonable amount of investigative effort), the detective supervisor determines which will be assigned for additional follow-up.

- All case reports are reviewed by the detective bureau for completeness and for assignment.
- It is the goal of the detective bureau to investigate all cases reported to the department and use available resources in the most efficient manner.
- In 2021, 395 cases were assigned to detectives based on seriousness of the offense, solvability factors, need for further investigation and/or court preparation.

### How are cases assigned to a Detective?

**Cases that may be assigned to a Detective**  
*(based on case screening and solvability factors)*

- Additional follow-up needed that would indicate significant reason to believe that the offense may be solved with a reasonable amount of investigative effort.

**Cases that will be assigned to a Detective**  
*(regardless of solvability factors)*

- Homicides
- Rape and associated sexual crimes
- Kidnapping/abduction
- Felonious/aggravated assault
- Extortion
- Arson
- Any other complaints the Chief of Police assigns

## Record Room

Primary Duties	Additional Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data Entry and Data Validation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fulfilling public records requests</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parking citation processing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Answering phone calls</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Criminal charges/paperwork for local courts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Handling bond paperwork and monies</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solicitor and deer hunting permits</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expungement requests from courts</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tow releases</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Processing officer court subpoenas</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civilian background checks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing patrol car and body cam videos</li></ul>

The Record Room is available to the public from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. It is currently staffed with 1 full-time and 5 part-time employees. The Record Room staff greet the public who enter our lobby to make police reports at the police station. In July of 2021, the records room initiated a new system to track all public records requests received and fulfilled by the department. During this 6-month period 896 public records requests were completed by records clerks.



## Southwest Emergency Dispatch Center (SWEDC)

The Southwest Emergency Dispatch Center (SWEDC) is the second largest regional emergency dispatch center in Cuyahoga County. Operated by the City of Strongsville, the state-of-the-art center increases efficiency by regionalizing emergency dispatching for police and fire departments for the communities of Berea, Brook Park, Middleburg Hts., North Royalton, Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, and Strongsville. The SWEDC is a primary public safety answering point (PSAP). SWEDC answers 9-1-1 calls and administrative phone calls for member communities in addition to providing emergency dispatching services for each member community's Police, Fire and EMS agencies.



SWEDC is staffed with 38 full time telecommunicators and 2 part time telecommunicators. All telecommunicators are required to meet or exceed the minimum training requirements in the pursuit of excellence.

In the beginning of 2021, a new auditing process was put into place to ensure all race and gender information was documented for all traffic stops to comply with the Ohio Collaborative Standards. This process ensured 100% compliance with the standard to safeguard against any biased based policing.

### **SWEDC Basic Statistics for 2021**

Total of All Phone Calls Processed by SWEDC	213,733
Total of Administrative Calls Answered	184,875
Outbound Calls	46,795
Average Call Duration Administrative Calls	2 minutes and 23 seconds
Average Answer Time for Administrative Calls	5.1 seconds
Administrative Calls answered in 10 seconds or less	96.2%
Phone calls received wirelessly	61%

## 9-1-1 Calls Processed by SWEDC

Total of 9-1-1 Calls	28,263
Abandoned 9-1-1 Calls	377
Average 9-1-1 Call Duration	3 minutes and 29 seconds
Average Answer Time for 9-1-1 Call	5.4 seconds
9-1-1 Calls were answered in 10 seconds or less	96.22%
Text to 9-1-1 Calls received	15

**The SWEDC handled 30,253 calls for service for the Strongsville Police Department in 2021.**



SWEDC dispatchers Erin Iorillo, Becky Naymik and Christine Eddy volunteered to help dispatch operations in the U.S. Virgin Islands for two weeks when their dispatch units were overrun by COVID.



## Jail

**The Strongsville Jail has contracts with 17 local law enforcement agencies to provide prisoner housing,**

<b>Berea</b>	<b>Newburgh Heights</b>
<b>Brecksville</b>	<b>North Olmsted</b>
<b>Broadview Heights</b>	<b>North Royalton</b>
<b>Brook Park</b>	<b>Olmsted Falls</b>
<b>Brooklyn Heights</b>	<b>Olmsted Township</b>
<b>Cuyahoga Heights</b>	<b>Parma Heights</b>
<b>Linndale</b>	<b>Seven Hills</b>
<b>Metroparks</b>	<b>Southwest General</b>
<b>Middleburg Heights</b>	

### Jail Operating Costs...

The Strongsville City Jail has contracts with 17 outside agencies for the housing of prisoners.

The fees associated with these contracts help defray some of the costs of operating the jail.

### STRONGSVILLE JAIL – INMATE COUNT

	2021 Count	Highest Month	Lowest Month
<b>Males</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>March &amp; May</b>	<b>February</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>February</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>857</b>		



## **Victim/Witness Advocate**

For 21+ years now, the residents of Strongsville have had the availability of utilizing the services of Cindy Vanderwyst, the Victim/Witness Advocate. Ms. Vanderwyst works very closely with victims and witnesses of crime, offering information, guidance, referrals and other assistance to get those persons through their often traumatic experiences.

In 2021 Ms. Vanderwyst assisted more than 100 victims of crime. These victims were involved in crimes of domestic violence, assault, menacing, menacing by stalking, criminal damaging, etc.

### **A victim advocate:**

- Provides information on victimization
- Provides information on victims' legal rights and protections
- Provides information on the criminal justice process
- Provides emotional support to victims
- Helps victims with safety planning
- Helps victims with victim compensation applications
- Helps victims submit comments to courts and parole boards
- Helps victims find shelter and transportation
- Provides referrals for other services for victims
- Notifies victims of inmates' release or escape

<b>The Victim/Witness Advocate:</b>
Provides comprehensive information as to their rights under the law
Provides guidance through the sometimes confusing process of the criminal justice system
Accompanies victims to every court date, providing moral support
Acts as a liaison between them and the City Prosecutor
Provides crisis intervention and assesses emergency needs
Makes referrals to the appropriate social service agencies

## **Community Diversion**

The Strongsville Community Diversion Program is designed to give juveniles an opportunity to successfully complete a program- specifically tailored to each individual's crime - that would allow the juveniles to maintain a clear record with the Strongsville Police Department. Failure to complete the program results in the juvenile's crime being prosecuted formally in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.

### **Goal of Diversion:**

Offenders gain a greater sense of responsibility to themselves as well as their community.

- Cases are heard by one (1) of nine (9) volunteer Magistrates who act on behalf of the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.
- These Magistrates impose sanctions on the juveniles, which must be fulfilled in an appropriate and timely manner.
- In 2021, 21 cases were heard by the volunteer Magistrates, with all successfully completing the program.

## Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

The Volunteers in Police Service Program, designed to address the increasing demands on state and local law enforcement agencies in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, is a locally-driven program that enables community members to offer their time and talents to their local law enforcement agency. The Strongsville PD initiated its VIPS program in 2005. As of result of the Citizens Police Academy, the unit has added 11 new members.

During 2021 the V.I.P.S. donated nearly 300 hours of their time at events in the city including:

- Homecoming
- Rib Burn Off
- Christmas lighting and patrolling grounds during holiday season
- Fireworks
- City 911 ceremony
- City council meetings
- Mayors court



## Quick Response Team (QRT)

In October of 2020, the City of Strongsville was awarded a one-year grant from the Ohio Attorney General in the amount of \$50,000 to combat the opioid epidemic. This grant was for the 2021 fiscal year. This grant was renewed for the 2022 fiscal year, also awarding \$50,000 to follow-up after an opioid overdose. The grant funds a quick response team made up of a police officer, a fire medic, and a counselor.

### **Quick Response Team**

- Visits the survivor of an overdose at their residence within 72 hours of the overdose
- Offers counseling and referrals to treatment centers for overdose survivors
- Follows up with the survivor through the recovery process and provides support and advice
- Provides support and resources to family members of those suffering from an addiction

### **2021 Overdoses involving opioids**

- 27 total reported drug overdoses
- 4 overdose deaths
- 20 were Strongsville residents
- 7 were not residents
- 2 individuals overdosed twice in 2021
- 6 individuals received treatment for their addiction

**In 2021 and prior years, the team made 288 follow-up calls and visits with individuals who had overdosed.**

## Drone Program

In 2021, the Strongsville Police drone was utilized multiple times for missing persons in the city, utilized during City special events (including the Rib Burn Off and Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony), and was a platform for training new pilots. In addition, the drone is being utilized in traffic surveys for a real “birds-eye” view of current congestion issues on major city thoroughfares. Finally, Officer Alex Kurowski became the department’s third drone pilot having received his certification from the FAA as a Part-107 licensed drone pilot.



Photos taken by the Strongsville Police Drone during the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony and the Rib Burn Off.

## Community

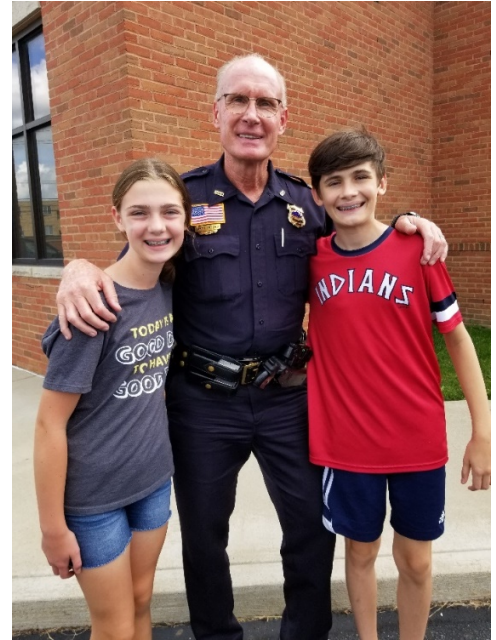


University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital and the Safe Kids/Safe Communities Greater Cleveland Coalition teamed up with FedEx and the Strongsville Police Department to teach children how to walk to school safely on Walk to School Day.





Strongsville officers stopped by to celebrate Charlie's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Chief Mark Fender joins the Elgin family on an impromptu tour of the police station, a privilege the police department has to interact with our great community.



Working with the City Chamber of Commerce, the police department welcomes new businesses like Hot Chicken Takeover in our city. Partnerships with our business community is a recipe for success.





Strongsville VFW Post 3345, Strongsville safety forces, and the community dedicated a memorial bench as a tribute to police, fire and EMS personnel. The dedication was held on September 11, 2021 at the annual remembrance ceremony marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attacks.



Strongsville VFW Post 3345 Commander Tim Zvoncheck with Police Chief Mark Fender and Fire Chief Jack Draves.



Chief Fender and the Strongsville Police Department Command Staff





The Strongsville Police Honor Guard participated in the Strongsville High School class of 2021 commencement.



Members from St John Neumann Catholic Church dropped off Christmas cheer to show appreciation.



The Strongsville Police Department is grateful for the support from our community.



Dick's Sporting Goods dropped off donuts and coffee to Strongsville PD on National Coffee Day.



# SAFESITTER

Designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting.

The Instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. Students even get to use manikins to practice rescue skills like choking rescue and CPR!



The Strongsville Police Department in partnership with University Hospital hosted the Safe Sitter class at Safety Town. The class is designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting.



Strongsville Police Chief Mark Fender spent an evening at Cherry Tree Apartments to meet and converse with residents. The Strongsville Police Department has great appreciation and respect for the diversity of our residents.





Sgt. Derek Apo visits with vendors at the annual Strongsville Homecoming event.



The Strongsville Police Honor Guard is honored to march with our country's veterans in the annual Memorial Day parade.



Valley Storage, a Strongsville business, displayed a banner to recognize and support the Strongsville Police Department.

## Our Children...Our Future



The Safe Kids/Safe Communities Greater Cleveland Coalition provided activity books promoting family safety for use by children in Safety Town.



D.A.R.E. Officer Aaron Plut teaches curriculum to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.





The Strongsville Police Department held a special event called "Safety Village" for children who missed Safety Town in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. 253 children visited 8 different stations to learn about 9-1-1, police and fire services, pedestrian safety and more.



Strongsville D.A.R.E. Officer Aaron Plut interacts with trick or treaters at the "Safe Trick or Treat" event at Safety Town.

**In 2021, the Strongsville Police Department received a Drug Use Prevention Grant for \$32,340.46 from the Ohio Attorney General.**



Lt. Mike Campbell and Youth Program Coordinator Marie McManus join D.A.R.E. Officer Aaron Plut at a D.A.R.E. ice skating party at OBM Arena.

# DARE

## D.A.R.E. Statistics - 2021

- DARE 5th grade students taught: 450
- DARE 8th grade students taught: 461
- DARE 5th and 6th grade Halloween Dance : 655
- DARE 7th and 8th grade Halloween Dance: 587
- DARE Ice-Skating at ice rink: 350 (limited to 350 due to COVID rules)
- Third Grade Safety Belt presentation: 410



Lt. Mike Campbell discusses safety belts with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

## Strongsville ...

### Seventh Lowest Assault Rate in the U.S.

Despite the rise in assault cases nationwide, in many parts of the country, violent assault remains rare.

Using data from the FBI's 2020 Uniform Crime Report, 24/7 Wall St. LLC identified the 50 U.S. cities with populations greater than 25,000 with the fewest aggravated assault cases.

The methodology resulted in the City of Strongsville, Ohio ranking the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest assault rate in the U.S.

***... a safe community!***

## Rx Drug Drop Box Program

The Strongsville Police Department, in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, is continuing to fight the ongoing battle against the heroin and opiate epidemic.

Drug Drop Boxes provide a safe, environmentally friendly way for citizens to dispose of their unwanted or unused prescription drugs. Unused prescription drugs are typically the gateway to heroin abuse, as over 70% of Americans misusing painkillers obtain them from friends or relatives.

## National Prescription Drug Take Back Day



Strongsville Police Drug Box Collection Totals - 2021	
January	48.2 lbs
February	24.0 lbs
March	51.4 lbs
April	17.4 lbs
May	37.0 lbs
June	100.8 lbs
July	48.8 lbs
August	74.6 lbs
September	37.6 lbs
October	72.6 lbs
November	61.6 lbs
December	49.2 lbs
<b>Total :</b>	<b>623.2 lbs</b>

The Strongsville Police Department provided a drive thru collection site on the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This program aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of unneeded medications from residents' homes, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

The Strongsville Police Department is committed to our community's health and safety, and encourages the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes as a measure of preventing medication misuse and opioid addiction from ever starting.

In 2021, the Strongsville Police Department collected 11 boxes containing a total of more than 300 lbs. of unneeded medications.



## **Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB)**

The Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) is a council of governments made up of eighteen cities that share resources and manpower, enabling its members to field SWAT, Bomb Squad, Crisis Negotiations and Tactical EMS for situations beyond the capabilities of individual police agencies.



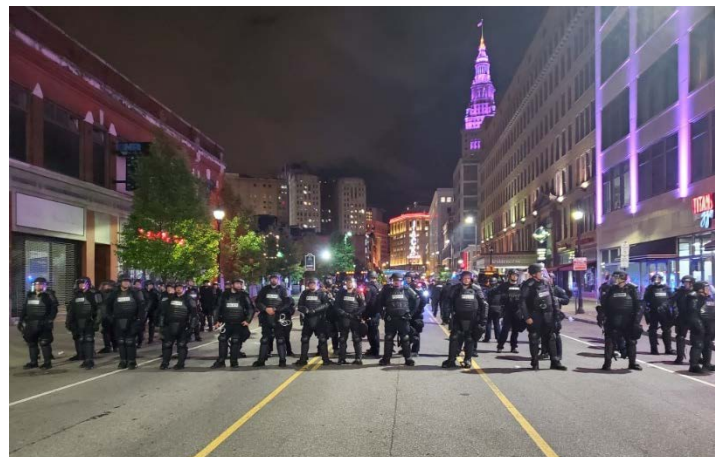
### **The importance of S.W.A.T.in 2021 ...**

- Six of the 18 calls for service, or 33% of the total calls, were for barricaded subjects.
- One call for a barricaded subject resulted in the use of deadly force.
- Eight high risk arrests were made total.
- Firearms were a factor in 6 calls.
- The threat of firearms, or the presence or threat of other deadly weapons, were a factor in 2 additional calls.



## **Mobile Field Force**

The Strongsville Police Department participates in a Mobile Field Force (MFF) - a group of law enforcement officers who can be rapidly mobilized into the mobile field force in anticipation of an exigent event. Its primary responsibility is to operate in support of an agency's regular police during periods of civil unrest by disrupting and dispersing crowds that are in the process of forming, or identifying and arresting leaders of crowds that have already formed.



**In 2021, the Mobile Field Force was activated 3 times for incidents in Brook Park, Independence and Westlake.**

## Recognition

### Strongsville Police Awards Committee

In January of each year, an Awards Committee reviews all citizen and departmental commendations received during the previous calendar year in order to identify actions or performance commensurate with a departmental award.

Departmental awards may be presented for outstanding performance in the following areas:

- **Professionalism**; awarded for outstanding effort or performance resulting in the advancement of our agency's professional image
- **Problem Solving**; awarded for recognizing and establishing a long-term solution for a particular or collective community problem or complaint
- **Compassion**; awarded for an employee's outstanding and special display of empathy
- **Quality Service**; awarded for an employee's dedication, thoroughness and persistence (going the extra mile) in furthering the department's mission and values
- **Blue Collar**; awarded for a police officer's outstanding efforts in making, or assisting in, a criminal apprehension. Police officers are recognized for their perseverance and ingenuity in arrest situations.
- **Citizen Award**; will be presented to a citizen who provides the Strongsville Police Department with valuable assistance in fulfilling our mission.

### Officer of the Year: Ptl. Mike Mendise, presented in 2021 by Knights of Columbus

On May 25th, Strongsville PD received a call of a distraught female that was planning on jumping off the Boston Rd bridge over I-71. Several SPD officers responded to the scene with Officer Mendise being the first to arrive. Upon arrival, Officer Mendise noticed the female had already climbed over the safety fence, and was standing on a narrow ledge above I-71. Not knowing the reasons the female was so upset, Officer Mendise immediately asked for the family members on scene to step away. Officer Mendise then climbed over the fence, and began to speak to her. Officer Mendise was able to calm the female and assure her that he was there to help.

After a few minutes, Officer Mendise was able to convince the female that harming herself was not the solution to whatever problems she was facing. Officer Mendise then escorted the female off the ledge to safety. Officer Mendise displayed extreme compassion and used his instincts to bring about a successful outcome.





## Dispatcher of the Year: Angela Love, presented in 2021 by Knights of Columbus



Emergency Dispatcher Angela Love was selected by her peers as the Knights of Columbus Dispatcher of the Year because of her dependability and dedication to the goals of SWEDC. She is a consistent provider of quality emergency dispatching service to the agencies SWEDC serves as well as its citizens. Her commitment to excellence is unfailing whether dealing with the most serious of emergencies or the seemingly insignificant question from a phone call. Angela takes pride in her profession and in her additional duty as a

field trainer sets an example for her trainees to emulate. The example of excellence is also unfailingly communicated to those that work with her daily. Angela is a "team player" who recognizes what has to be done and will do what is necessary for the success of the team.

## Prosecutors Award: Det. Andy Bartlett

In 2020, Detective Bartlett investigated the tragic death of a child. His lengthy and detailed investigation lasted several months. Detective Bartlett utilized security camera video, witness statements and interviews, even reports by local news channels to help piece together the facts and events of this incident. Detective Bartlett worked with investigators from the County Medical Examiner's Office and Department of Children and Family Services, along with experts in various fields to help lay out the case. Ultimately, he was able to create a timeline that documented the case down to the minute. His detailed documentation painted a clear picture of the circumstances surrounding this tragic case.



More than a year after the incident, Detective Bartlett presented his case to a county grand jury. The case was successfully prosecuted by the Cuyahoga County Prosecutors Office, resulting in a multi-year prison term at sentencing. Detective Bartlett's outstanding investigative work on this case was the driving force behind the successful prosecution.

### Blue Collar Award: Sgt. Kelley Sgt. Colegrove Ptl. Feierabend, Plut and Berry:



On September 17 at 11:46am, a resident on Drake Rd. contacted the Strongsville Dispatch Center and said she was watching a burglary in progress, remotely by her home video surveillance system. Strongsville PD units were dispatched, Sgt. Kelley arrived first and entered the property from the backyard. He radioed other units that he could see the burglar inside the home rifling through drawers. Officer Feierabend arrived and positioned himself near the front of the house. He radioed officers he could hear the burglar still inside. Sgt. Colegrove, Officers Plut, and Berry were now on the scene. A coordinated entry was made into the house. Officers immediately confronted the stunned burglar. Although the burglar tried to escape by throwing a laptop at officers and running for the front door, he was quickly taken into custody.

### Quality of Service Award: Ptl. Jason Miller & Ptl. Matt Omilion:

On September 27, at 2:07am, Officer Miller was stationary on routine patrol near I71 and SR82. Ofc. Miller observed a vehicle traveling E/B on SR82 nearly strike a pickup truck. Ofc. Miller attempted to stop the car. However, the vehicle did not comply. The car turned south on W. 130<sup>th</sup> and continued with its reckless behavior, speeding away from Miller. Due to the recklessness of the driver, the vehicle crashed on W. 130<sup>th</sup>. When Ofc. Miller arrived at the crash site, the car was fully engulfed in flames, and the driver was trapped in the vehicle. Officer Omilion was also on the scene at this time. The officers approached the car and used only fire extinguishers and a pocket knife to free the driver from the burning vehicle. Because of their quick thinking, Miller and Omilion were able to rescue the driver from a likely fatal result.





### Quality of Service Award: Ptl. Aaron Plut and Ptl. Matt McKinney:

On June 8, at about 1:00am, SPD responded to a residence in Strongsville. Upon their arrival, officers found the front door wide open. After announcing their presence, McKinney and Plut entered the home. As officers cleared the house, they could hear a faint moaning sound coming from the backyard. Following the sound to the backyard, officers found a teenage male laying in the grass with life-threatening lacerations to his lower extremities. The male was conscious but incoherent. Officers immediately began to render aid. Although the male was in a very critical state, he began to get violent with officers. Officers had to hold the



male down to administer pressure and gauze onto the wounds to stop the bleeding. The Strongsville Fire Department arrived and quickly loaded the male into the squad. The paramedics used several lifesaving procedures while enroute to the hospital to keep the male alive. It was later learned that the male had used LSD and threw himself through the upstairs window, landing on the grass below. It was evident that without the officers' lifesaving aid, this young man would not have survived.

### Compassion Award: Ptl. Zaki Hazou

The Strongsville Patch newspaper recognized officer Zaki Hazou for going above and beyond. A resident in our community wrote the Patch News to recognize Zaki for saving her son's life several times. The resident's son is a Marine vet who needed some help. Zaki calls this veteran weekly to check in on him and also visits periodically in hopes of changing his life around. Zaki is very passionate about assisting veterans in need. His actions go above and beyond what is expected. His compassion and dedication make him a worthy recipient of the compassion award.

### Quality of Service Award: Custodian Staff Alan Kurilich & Jim Allen:

Never before has cleanliness meant more than during the Covid-19 pandemic. Maintenance personnel Alan Kurilich and Jim Allen definitely stepped up in the wake of the pandemic. The station has always been in great shape because of their efforts. However, they have gone above and beyond in their efforts to keep the station disinfected and germ-free. Too often, work like theirs goes unnoticed and underappreciated. Indeed, they are our front line when it comes to maintaining a healthy workforce.





## Citizen Award: Ayed Farah:



On October 12, Ptl. Ryan Young responded to SouthPark Mall to assist with a shoplifting in progress call. Ofc. Iorillo put out a description of the suspect and his last known location. Ofc. Young spotted the suspect male walking towards center court from Macy's. As Ofc. Young started to close the distance with the male. He looked back and saw Ofc. Young. At this time, the male took off in a full sprint towards the exit doors. Young gave chase, continually yelling for the male to stop. Young's commands alerted some of the shoppers of the foot pursuit in progress. The male continued running down the North corridor towards the exit. At this

time, a mall patron, Ayed Farah, took it upon himself to intervene. Ayed stepped directly in front of the fleeing suspect, forcing him to change direction. However, Ayed was determined to prevent the suspect from getting away and took the suspect to the ground, where he held him until the officer completed the arrest. The suspect had six entered warrants, some of which were entered with caution.

Ayed was under no obligation to assist but displayed great character and selflessness by putting himself in harm's way to come to the aid of a police officer.

## Departmental Training

2021 Departmental Training
<b>Police Officers</b>
Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.)
First Amendment Updates
Implicit Bias
Search and Seizure Updates
Tactical Medical
<b>Police Officers, Corrections Officers and Dispatchers</b>
First Aid/CPR



Strongsville officers and dispatchers attended First Aid/CPR training at SFD Fire Station 4.

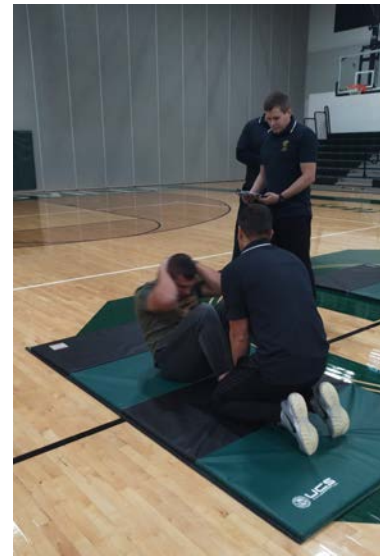
## **Retirement, Recruiting and Hiring**

When officers retire, are promoted, or other vacancies occur, candidates are selected from a civil service eligibility list or as a lateral transfer from another agency.

- Recruitment activities include:
  - Visits to local police academy classes
  - Distribution of recruitment materials throughout Cuyahoga and surrounding counties
    - Local recreation centers, community colleges, fitness centers
- Nineteen Strongsville police officers are trained in recruiting to assist in these efforts.

### **Retirements in 2021**

- Ptl. Ron Whitney – July 7<sup>th</sup> (32 years)
- Ptl. Dan Mertz – August 1<sup>st</sup> (33 years)
- Ptl. Frank Pientka – August 2<sup>nd</sup> (32 years)
- Ptl. Chris Koenig – December 29<sup>th</sup> (21 years)



Police officer candidates must pass physical fitness tests as part of the hiring process.



New police officers Kaitlin Smead, Cheyann Wolf, Samuel Ortiz and Brent Robinson with Chief Fender at the swearing-in ceremony.

### **New Hires in 2021**

- Kaitlin Smead – 2/14/2021
- Cheyann Wolf – 2/15/2021
- Samuel Ortiz – 2/16/2021
- Brent Robinson – 2/17/2021
- Richard Anthony – 3/14/2021
- Jason Bravo – 6/21/2021
- Justin Lowry – 8/23/2021

*The Strongsville Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*



New police officers Richard Anthony, Jason Bravo and Justin Lowry are sworn-in by Mayor Perciak.

## **Promotions**



Officer Jeff Steving, a 19-year veteran of the Strongsville Police Department, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He has been recognized for his efforts by the Cuyahoga County OVI task force as a “Top Cop” and by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization multiple times. In 2015, he became a Drug Recognition Expert and is one of only about 200 in the state of Ohio.

He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant by Mayor Tom Perciak.

## **Chaplain Program**

### **Safety Forces Chaplain**

- Recognized by the International Conference of Police Chaplains
- May serve a significant role in line-of-duty deaths
- Assists with survivor notifications
- Assists the survivors and departmental members
- Assists department members with counseling or emotional support, as requested and appropriate



Father Joe Mamich

In 2014, the Strongsville Police Department welcomed Fr. Joe Mamich, who has volunteered to be our Safety Forces Chaplain. Father Joe is pastor at St. Joseph Catholic Church and a native of Strongsville.



## **Duty Index 2022**

<b><u>Agency Function</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	<b><u>Phone Number</u></b>
Accreditation	Lt. Russo	440-580-3242
Administrative Secretary	Margaret Hintz	440-580-3231
Budgeting/Fiscal Mgt.	Deputy Chief Zacharyasz	440-580-3234
Ceremonial Unit	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
Chaplain Program	Deputy Chief Zacharyasz	440-580-3234
Citizen Police Academy	Lt. O'Deens	440-580-3223
College Intern Program	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
Communications Supervisor	Jeff Branic	440-580-3291
Complaints / Commendations	Deputy Chief Janowski	440-580-3239
Court Liaison	Sgt. Kelley	440-580-3240
Crime Analysis	Lt. Mason	440-580-3233
Crime Prevention	Sgt. Apo	440-580-3230 x5248
Criminal Investigations	Lt. Mason	440-580-3233
D.A.R.E.	Marie McManus	440-580-3255
Emergency Preparedness	Deputy Chief Janowski	440-580-3239
Employee Assistance Program	Deputy Chief Zacharyasz	440-580-3234
Employee Fitness Program	Lt. Russo	440-580-3242
Facility & Equipment Mgt.	Michael Graziani	440-580-3238
Firearms/Qualifications	Lt. Russo	440-580-3242
Grant Application & Mgt.	Deputy Chief Zacharyasz	440-580-3234
Jail Operations	Molly Chan	440-580-3230 x5255
Juvenile Operations	Det. Bartlett	440-580-3241
K-9 Teams	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
LEADS Terminal Agency Coordinator	Erin Iorillo	440-580-3292
Liquor Permits	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
Narcotics	Lt. Mason	440-580-3233
Parking Violations Bureau	Margaret Hintz	440-580-3231
Patrol Division Commander	Lt. O'Deens	440-580-3223
Professional Standards	Deputy Chief Janowski	440-580-3239
Property and Evidence Control	Lt. Mason	440-580-3233
Public Information/News Releases	Chief Fender	440-580-3232

Quick Response Team/Safe Passages	Lt. Campbell	440-580-3224
Record Requests	Clerical Staff	440-580-3230
Recruiting & Selection	Lt. Russo	440-580-3242
Research & Development	Deputy Chief Zacharyasz	440-580-3234
Safety Town	Marie McManus	440-580-3255
School Crossing Guards	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
Secondary Employment	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
Seizures/Forfeitures Acquisition	Lt. Mason	440-580-3233
Solicitor's Permits	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
Special Events	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
Tactical Operations	Sgt. Marsala	440-580-3240
Traffic Bureau	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
Training/Career Development	Lt. Russo	440-580-3242
Vice Control	Lt. Mason	440-580-3233
Victim/Witness Assistance	Cindy Vanderwyst	440-580-3237
Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)	Sgt. Piorkowski	440-580-3253
Warrant Service	Deputy Chief Janowski	440-580-3239
<b>For Employees or Departments not listed above</b>		<b>440-580-3230</b>



Strongsville Police Department, 18688 Royalton Road, Strongsville Ohio

# Strategic Plan

In order to maintain the delivery of first-rate police services to our community, it is important to take an organized approach in adapting to changing conditions and meeting new challenges. Therefore, the command staff of our agency solicits input, conducts research and meets to review and update our Strategic Plan – a process that began in 2011. Objectives in this plan have strategies that may continue in subsequent years. We continue to add and remove objectives to this multiyear plan to enable our agency to stay current with the changing trends nationwide and locally within our community.

Strategic Planning, as used for our purposes, is the comprehensive formulation of a broad-based plan designed to guide the activities of all members of the police department toward the accomplishment of a set of goals. These goals are realized through the implementation of specific objectives and strategies assigned to appropriate individuals with the necessary talent/skills, authority and resources to ensure success.



Many of the objectives listed in the plan do not directly relate to calls for service. Rather, they will target our activities during non-directed time. We consider success achieved during this time to be the greatest measure of our efforts. Such success must be measured by defined outcomes.

Some of the goals and objectives will have a concrete beginning and end. Others may have a definitive beginning, but by their nature will be ongoing practices seeking continued improvement without the need for a definitive end point. Additionally, the objectives should not be looked upon as “fixed” efforts, but rather as flexible attempts that can be modified or expanded upon as necessary in the future.

The goals outlined in this plan are ambitious. Failure to attain every goal or every objective should not be seen as the department somehow falling short of the plan’s intentions. Some of the goals or objectives may be re-prioritized due to the changing demands of society. Others may be found to be too resource-intensive, offering a diminishing return for the effort invested. When this happens, new more realistic objectives will be substituted with an eye toward the effective accomplishment of our stated goals.

Throughout the implementation of the Strategic Plan, it was important that we stayed true to our department’s Mission and Vision statements as well as our Core Values which can be found on the previous



pages. Most importantly, while our strategic plan is a changing document, our Values, Mission, and Vision statements are not! We believe that as you review the plan you will agree that we were successful on this goal.

The Seven Overriding Strategic Goals of the Plan are:	
1	Reduce Crime
2	Improve Traffic Safety
3	Reduce Distribution of Illegal Drugs and the Impact of Illegal Drugs in our Community
4	Strengthen Response Capabilities to Critical Incidents and Large Scale Disasters
5	Strengthen Partnerships with the Schools and Community
6	Improve Efficiency of Resource Management and Use of Technology
7	Manage Risk / Improve Officer Safety and Wellness

It is the intention of this plan to work toward the achievement of our goals through the implementation of the outlined objectives and strategies which can be defined as follows:

**GOALS** – The overall needs or shortfall to be addressed. Not specific in nature, rather, they identify a serious issue which objectives and strategies will be designed to correct.

**OBJECTIVES** – Specific targets or programs designed to meet the needs which were identified through the development of the goals.

**STRATEGIES** – Specific actions calculated to achieve objectives. The strategies identify personnel responsibility as well as the necessary steps to achieve objectives.

### STRATEGIC GOAL #1: REDUCE CRIME

The reduction of crime through a variety of control strategies will always be a principle goal of our agency. We will target criminal activities that threaten the quality of life within our community and those that live, travel or establish businesses here. This can be done not only through professional response, investigation and prosecution for crimes already committed, but also through crime prevention and control strategies. Our plan prioritizes self-initiated patrol intervention based on focused intelligence information and strategies.

#### **Objective 1.1 – Reduce Criminal Activity through Effective Preventive Patrol**

##### **Strategy:**

- 1.1.1 Complete self-initiated, intelligence-based, checks of special attentions and directed patrol assignments
- 1.1.2 Complete self-initiated, intelligence-based, surveillances which lead to criminal arrest
- 1.1.3 Complete self-initiated citizen contacts with Field Information (FI) of suspicious persons or circumstances for crime-related activity

- 1.1.4 Complete self-initiated on-view criminal enforcement for violations that detract from public order and quality of life, including disorderly conduct, public intoxication, curfew, noise disturbance, littering, soliciting and street vending.
- 1.1.5 Complete self-initiated identification and resolution of community problems as documented through CAD
- 1.1.6 Complete self-initiated crime-prevention efforts as documented through CAD
- 1.1.7 Conduct bicycle and foot patrol in crime “hot-spot” areas
- 1.1.8 Develop handouts for specific kinds of crime-prevention tips (e.g., car burglary), distribute them through apartment managers, neighborhood watches, associations and other means.
- 1.1.9 Complete self-initiated traffic enforcement as a way to increase visibility and reduce crime  
**Assigned to:** Patrol Division: Lt. O’Deens, DC. Janowski, Traffic Bureau: Sgt. Piorkowski, Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz

#### **Objective 1.2 - Reduce Criminal Activity through Thorough Preliminary Criminal Investigations**

##### **Strategy:**

- 1.2.1 Conduct preliminary criminal investigations within first 24 hours
- 1.2.2 Complete field arrest of offenders in cases that dictate immediate arrest
- 1.2.3 Obtain and execute search warrants in all necessary cases stemming from uniformed operations

**Assigned to:** Patrol Division: Lt. O’Deens, DC Janowski, Detective Bureau: Sgt. Cravatas, Lt. Mason

#### **Objective 1.3 - Impact Crime through the Development of Intelligence and Other Investigatory Crime Control Methods**

##### **Strategy:**

- 1.3.1 Initiate confidential local investigations and joint regional cases
- 1.3.2 Initiate local surveillances, compliance inspections and plain-clothes patrol details
- 1.3.3 Obtain and execute search warrants in all necessary cases stemming from secondary investigations
- 1.3.4 Develop, document and share local intelligence information from a variety of sources

**Assigned to:** Detective Bureau: Sgt. Cravatas, Lt. Mason, DC Janowski

#### **Objective 1.4 - Impact Crime through Case Investigation and Prosecution**

##### **Strategy:**

- 1.4.1 Assign, investigate and, when possible, prosecute all non-part 1 crimes that contain solvability factors

**Assigned to:** Detective Bureau: Sgt. Cravatas, Lt. Mason, DC Janowski

- 1.4.2 Conduct probable cause hearings, when necessary, with Berea Municipal Court.

- 1.4.3 Conduct video arraignments, when necessary, with Berea Municipal Court

**Assigned to:** Sgt. Kelley, Lt. Mason, DC Janowski

#### **Objective 1.5 – Reduce Criminal Activity through Warrant Service**

##### **Strategy:**

- 1.5.1 Use a proactive approach to serving Strongsville warrants and seeking wanted subjects.
- 1.5.2 Verify and serve active local arrest warrants.

1.5.3 Utilize social media to post wanted subjects

**Assigned To:** Lt. O'Deens, Lt. Campbell, DC Janowski, DC Zacharyasz

**Objective 1.6 – Reduce Neighborhood Vandalism and Thefts from Autos Through Effective Patrol**

**Techniques**

**Strategy:**

- 1.6.1 Conduct night time surveillances, foot patrols, bike patrols, and other non-traditional patrol techniques.
- 1.6.2 Interact with homeowners associations to discuss strategies.
- 1.6.3 Use curfew enforcement as a neighborhood strategy for controlling night time crime.

**Assigned to:** Patrol Division: Lt. O'Deens, DC Janowski

**Objective 1.7 – Reduce Crime through Preventative Efforts**

**Strategy:**

- 1.7.1 Disseminate crime prevention handouts.
- 1.7.2 Offer premise risk analysis to businesses and residences.
- 1.7.3 Disseminate crime prevention tips via social media.

**Assigned to:** Patrol Division: Lt. O'Deens, Crime Prevention Officer Sgt. Apo, Lt. Campbell, DC Janowski, DC Zacharyasz

**STRATEGIC GOAL #2: IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY**

*Given the high volume and dynamics of the traffic which travels through our community, improving traffic safety is a clear mandate for our agency. While enforcement of traffic laws will remain a principle controlling strategy, our plan also includes education and engineering components. Patrol officers are expected to dedicate a portion of their non-directed time to enforcement efforts in high accident or complaint areas.*

**Objective 2.1 – Reduce Traffic Crashes through Enforcement Action**

**Strategy:**

- 2.1.1 Conduct self-initiated traffic enforcement during non-directed patrol time at high accident locations, areas of citizen's complaints and for city-wide violations of hazardous offenses
- 2.1.2 Participate in regional traffic safety enforcement programs
- 2.1.3 Review motor vehicle crash data and citizen complaints to compile "hot-spot" enforcement action reports.

**Assigned to:** Traffic Bureau: Sgt. Piorkowski, Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz

**Objective 2.2 – Improve Traffic Safety through Non-Enforcement Traffic Control**

**Strategy:**

- 2.2.1 Deploy the speed trailer at "hot-spot" areas of speed-related or citizen complaint locations.
- 2.2.2 Deploy and oversee civilian crossing guards at critical intersection locations as identified in the "best-route" School Pedestrian Plan
- 2.2.3 Conduct speed and vehicle volume surveys to determine problem areas.
- 2.2.4 Identify potential safety issues and work with other departments to mitigate such issues.



### **Objective 2.3 – Improve Traffic Safety through Public Education**

#### **Strategy:**

- 2.3.1 Conduct safety seat inspections by public request and one annual event.
- 2.3.2 Instruct the Third Grade Safety Belt Program city-wide.

**Assigned to:** Traffic Bureau: Sgt. Piorkowski, Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz

- 2.3.3 Utilize social media to promote traffic safety awareness and education

**Assigned to:** Traffic Bureau: Sgt. Piorkowski, Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz

## **STRATEGIC GOAL #3: REDUCE DISTRIBUTION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS AND THE IMPACT OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Because illegal drugs are related to such a large percentage of other crimes and they have such a destructive effect, all law enforcement agencies must join forces to fight the problem. Our use of K-9 teams, intelligence efforts and participation in undercover and regional strike teams will help us do our part. In addition, we will work with the community to develop alternatives for those struggling with addiction.

### **Objective 3.1 – Develop Intelligence to Identify Drug Distribution Channels and Offenders**

#### **Strategy:**

- 3.1.1 Produce intelligence reports from regional information sharing and suspect interviews

**Assigned to:** Detective Bureau: Sgt. Cravatas, Lt. Mason, DC Janowski

### **Objective 3.2 – Conduct Field Enforcement of Drug Possession and Sales**

#### **Strategy:**

- 3.2.1 Use patrol and K-9 Teams to conduct field interdiction, seizures of contraband and make arrests

- 3.2.2 Conduct self-initiated traffic enforcement to enforce drug laws.

**Assigned to:** Patrol Division: Lt. O'Deens, DC Janowski

- 3.2.3 Initiate undercover investigations based on intelligence information

- 3.2.4 Share intelligence and collaborate with regional and federal narcotics task forces

**Assigned to:** Detective Bureau: Sgt. Cravatas, Lt. Mason, DC Janowski

### **Objective 3.3 – Develop Alternatives for Those Struggling with Addiction**

#### **Strategy:**

- 3.3.1 Maintain a resource network with the courts, non-profit organizations, government-funded agencies, churches and others to provide services for those struggling with addiction.

**Assigned to:** Detective Bureau: Sgt. Cravatas, Lt. Mason, DC Janowski, Lt. Campbell

- 3.3.2 Utilize a Quick Response Team (QRT) to respond to the residence of overdose survivors who are residents of our city within 72 hours to offer assistance to the survivor and their families to get the survivor treatment.

**Assigned to:** Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz

## STRATEGIC GOAL #4: STRENGTHEN RESPONSE CAPABILITIES TO CRITICAL INCIDENTS AND LARGE-SCALE DISASTERS

We live in a changing world with evolving threats. The responsibility to respond to potential disasters lies first and foremost with local authorities. For that reason, we pledge to continue to improve our ability to respond to such threats. This can be done through training, practice, equipment readiness and intelligence dissemination.

### **Objective 4.1 – Disseminate Intelligence Information to Patrol Forces and Critical Infrastructure Stakeholders**

#### **Strategy:**

- 4.1.1 Monitor, Solicit, collate and forward intelligence information from the FBIJTTF, Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center, The U.S. Attorney's Northern Ohio District Anti- Terrorism Council and the Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Advisory Committee.

**Assigned to:** Chief Fender

### **Objective 4.2 – Improve Competence and Readiness to Respond to Critical Incidents through Training, Drills and Inspections**

#### **Strategy:**

- 4.2.1 Conduct Monthly readiness inspection of all critical equipment  
**Assigned to:** Quartermaster Graziani, Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz
- 4.2.2 Oversee ongoing active threat safety drills at all schools and preschools in compliance with HB-178 (Section 3737.73D of the ORC)  
**Assigned to:** DC Zacharyasz
- 4.2.3 Participate in large scale critical incident drills at strategic locations within the city  
**Assigned to:** Ptl. Mendise, DC Janowski
- 4.2.4 Maintain National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance for all sworn and City first responder personnel.  
**Assigned to:** Lt. Russo, DC Zacharyasz
- 4.2.5 Participate as a member of the eighteen – community Southwest Enforcement Bureau Regional SWAT and Bomb Disposal Team for hostage situations, barricade subjects, high risk warrants, crowd control, search and rescue and bomb disposal  
**Assigned to:** Chief Fender
- 4.2.6 Conduct Active Threat Training and drills for police, fire and EMS First Responders
- 4.2.7 Conduct Active Threat Training and drills for churches and businesses
- 4.2.8 Identify potential criminal targets and work with stakeholders to mitigate risks.  
**Assigned to:** Lt. O'Deens, DC Zacharyasz, DC Janowski
- 4.2.9 Develop city-wide faith-based organization emergency preparedness
- 4.2.10 Utilize the Volunteers in Police Service (V.I.P.S.)  
**Assigned to:** Sgt. Piorkowski, DC Zacharyasz

## STRATEGIC GOAL #5: STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

A hallmark component of the community-policing philosophy is the partnership between the police department and citizens, business owners, community-based organizations and the school system. These partnerships have an exponential effect on our successes. Therefore, we will pursue and encourage both traditional and innovative ways to foster these relationships.

### Objective 5.1 – Improve Communication and Release of Information to the Public

#### Strategy:

- 5.1.1 Update Police Department Information on the City web page and social media  
**Assigned to:** Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz
- 5.1.2 Showcase effective police efforts through press releases to the media
- 5.1.3 Interact with community business stakeholders at economic development breakfasts and Chamber of Commerce luncheons  
**Assigned to:** Chief Fender
- 5.1.4 Accommodate all public record requests and manage retention of records in compliance with the Ohio Public Records Law  
**Assigned to:** Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz
- 5.1.5 Increase community involvement in preventing and reporting crime through homeowner association meetings.  
**Assigned to:** Patrol Division: Lt. O’Deens, DC Janowski, Crime Prevention Unit: Sgt. Apo

### Objective 5.2 – Participate In Joint Juvenile Education and Justice Efforts

#### Strategy:

- 5.2.1 Conduct 5<sup>th</sup> grade and middle school D.A.R.E. programs
- 5.2.2 Conduct Safety Town Program
- 5.2.3 Participate in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Diversion Program
- 5.2.4 Conduct safety and community relations events  
**Assigned to:** Sgt. Piorkowski, Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz

### Objective 5.3 – Foster Community-Oriented Policing Activities

#### Strategy:

- 5.3.1 Network with the Building Department to ensure crime prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principals are followed when designing or developing new neighborhoods, commercial or retail space.  
**Assigned to:** Crime Prevention Unit: Sgt. Apo
- 5.3.2 Conduct foot and bicycle patrols to promote interaction with the public
- 5.3.3 Conduct “walk-throughs” by uniformed officers of the high school, middle school, elementary schools, preschools and day care centers that welcome such visits.  
**Assigned to:** Patrol Division: Lt. O’Deens, DC Janowski
- 5.3.4 Conduct Active Threat Response Options Training for school teachers and staff
- 5.3.5 Conduct Active Threat Response Options Training for our businesses and community  
**Assigned to:** Sgt. Apo, Lt. Russo, DC Zacharyasz
- 5.3.6 Conduct a yearly Citizen Police Academy
- 5.3.7 Provide city-wide emergency preparedness training to faith-based organizations



5.3.8 Utilize the Volunteers in Police Service (V.I.P.S.) program

**Assigned to:** Sgt. Piorkowski, DC Zacharyasz

**STRATEGIC GOAL #6: IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Fiscal responsibility must be incorporated into every facet of our operation. This means not only a conservative approach and attention to detail in budget issues, but also a commitment to work “smarter.” Using technological advancements to deliver intelligence information will allow greater results with fewer resources. Attaining many of the goals and objectives contained elsewhere in this report will depend on our ability to manage resources and use technology effectively.

**Objective 6.1 – Budget Management and Control**

**Strategy:**

- 6.1.1 Monitor overtime utilization and other potential cost reductions and report monthly with recommendations

**Assigned to:** DC Janowski, DC Zacharyasz

- 6.1.2 Conduct staffing analysis study and forecast, and report annually with efficiency recommendations

**Assigned to:** Chief Fender

- 6.1.3 Conduct annual vehicle fleet analysis and make recommendations for consolidation, replacement and sale of obsolete vehicles.

**Assigned to:** Quartermaster Graziani, Sgt. Piorkowski, Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz

- 6.1.4 Review all K-9 team operations, drug investigations and OVI cases to maximize asset forfeiture and use of funds to offset operating costs

**Assigned to:** DC Janowski

- 6.1.5 Review internet announcements and websites associated with grant announcements to develop information on outside funding opportunities.

**Assigned to:** DC Janowski, DC Zacharyasz

- 6.1.6 Network with hospital care providers for cost reduction options

**Assigned to:** Corrections Coordinator Chan, Sgt. Kelley, Lt. Russo, DC Zacharyasz

- 6.1.7 Identify processes that can be made paperless through restructuring and technology implementation.

**Assigned to:** Lt. Mason

**Objective 6.2 – Monitor Functionality of Technology in all Marked Patrol Vehicles**

**Strategy:**

- 6.2.1 Maintain 100% operational reliability of mobile computers and video equipment through prompt reporting of needed repairs by all operators

- 6.2.2 Maintain 100% operational reliability of GPS based AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location) technology through prompt reporting of needed repairs by all operators

**Assigned to:** Patrol Division: Lt. O’Deens, DC Janowski, Traffic Bureau: Sgt. Piorkowski, Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz

## **STRATEGIC GOAL #7: MANAGE RISK / IMPROVE OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS**

Because the safety of our employees has always been paramount, we have established, and will continue, a tradition of frequent training, sound policy, and the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment. Additionally, we have a responsibility to manage risk and reduce unnecessary exposure. Therefore, our goal will be to promote safety and reduce risk.

### **Objective 7.1 – Improve Employee Safety and Reduce Risk through Core-Category In-Service Training**

#### **Strategy:**

- 7.1.1 Complete training for each category and job classification.
- 7.1.2 Prepare an annual training plan based on the Career Development Plans prepared by departmental supervisors.
- 7.1.3 Complete “Continued Professional Training” as mandated by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission.
- 7.1.4 Complete “Crisis Intervention Team” (C.I.T.) training.
- 7.1.5 Complete “Implicit Bias for Police Officers” training.

**Assigned to:** Training Coordinator: Lt. Russo, DC Zacharyasz

### **Objective 7.2 – Improve Officer Safety and Reduce Risk through Effective Policy Formulation and Review**

#### **Strategy:**

- 7.2.1 Maintain reviews of all applicable policies mandated by the Ohio Collaborative,
- 7.2.2 Collect compliance proofs for Ohio Collaborative Standards.
- 7.2.3 Ensure all department policies, procedures, and practices are in compliance with Ohio Collaborative standards.

**Assigned to:** Lt. Russo, DC Zacharyasz

### **Objective 7.3 – Review High Risk Events to Ensure Compliance with Policy and Professional Standards**

#### **Strategy:**

- 7.3.1 Review all after-action Use Of Force and Pursuit reports
- 7.3.2 Review and assign for investigation all citizen complaints
- 7.3.3 Complete Daily Training Bulletins to reinforce policies and procedures.

**Assigned to:** DC Zacharyasz, DC Janowski, Chief Fender

### **Objective 7.4 – Maintain Internal Communications**

#### **Strategy:**

- 7.4.1 Conduct Labor/Management Meetings

**Assigned to:** Chief Fender

- 7.4.2 Conduct monthly first line supervisory staff meetings
- 7.4.3 Conduct timely reviews of staff meeting notes with personnel in all work units.

**Assigned to:** DC. Zacharyasz, DC Janowski, Lt. O’Deens, Lt. Campbell, Lt. Russo, Lt. Mason

### **Objective 7.5 – Reduce Risk within the Jail Facility**

#### **Strategy:**

- 7.5.1 Achieve 100% compliance with all standards identified by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

- 7.5.2 Complete in-service use of force and defensive tactics training for all correction officers  
**Assigned to:** Corrections Coordinator Chan, Sgt. Kelley, Lt. Russo, DC Zacharyasz

#### **Objective 7.6 – Ensure Reliability of Critical Personal Safety Equipment**

**Strategy:**

- 7.6.1 Complete line inspections as required by policy.  
**Assigned to:** Patrol Division: Lt. O’Deens, DC Janowski, Traffic Bureau: Sgt. Piorkowski, Lt. Campbell, DC Zacharyasz
- 7.6.2 Replace all personal body armor that has been in service for more than five years  
**Assigned to:** DC Zacharyasz

#### **Objective 7.7 – Property Room Inventory Management**

**Strategy:**

- 7.7.1 Operate the property room with 100% inventory integrity, efficient processing of property and evidence, and the prompt release, disposal, auction, or conversion of property associated with completed cases  
**Assigned to:** Lt. Mason, DC Janowski

#### **Objective 7.8 – Improve Employee Health and Fitness through City Sponsored Wellness Programs**

**Strategy:**

- 7.8.1 Provide an on-duty exercise program.
- 7.8.2 Encourage participation in the city’s wellness program.
- 7.8.3 Achieve 100% compliance with biometric screenings.
- 7.8.4 Utilize the City’s Employee Assistance Program to promote wellness and work/life balance.  
**Assigned to:** Lt. Russo, DC Zacharyasz



# ***STRONGSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT***

## ***Resources on the Web***

*The Strongsville Police Department has resources available on our website and our Facebook page. Visitors to these online resources can access motor vehicle crash reports, learn about the organization and operation of the police department, access news, view crime prevention tips and access drug addiction resources. There is also information about our popular D.A.R.E. and Safety Town programs, child safety seat inspections, and an option to send an anonymous tip about criminal activity.*

<http://www.strongsville.org/departments/police>

*Follow or visit us on Twitter and Facebook:*



**@StrongsvillePD**



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*Mayor Thomas P. Perciak*

*Director of Public Safety Charles W. Goss*

*Chief of Police Mark Fender*

<http://www.strongsville.org/departments/police>