

STRONGSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



2025 YEAR-END REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Thomas J. O'Deens



Dear Residents,

It is an honor to serve the citizens of our great City. Every day, we remain committed to strengthening the relationships that make our community so special—our residents, local businesses, schools, and houses of worship. These partnerships form the foundation of a vibrant, supportive, and connected community.

We are deeply grateful for the trust and confidence you place in us. Your support allows us to continue working toward our shared goal of making our City a wonderful place to live, work, play, and worship. Together, we are building a community that values safety, opportunity, and mutual respect.

Our mission remains clear: to provide the highest level of service possible to everyone we serve. We strive to carry out this mission with unwavering professionalism, compassion, and empathy. These values guide our actions, shape our decisions, and reflect our dedication to the people who call this City home.

As we look to the future, we will continue fostering strong partnerships and open communication with all members of our community. By working together, we can ensure that our City remains welcoming, safe, and thriving for generations to come.

Thank you again for your trust, your partnership, and your commitment to making our City such a special place.

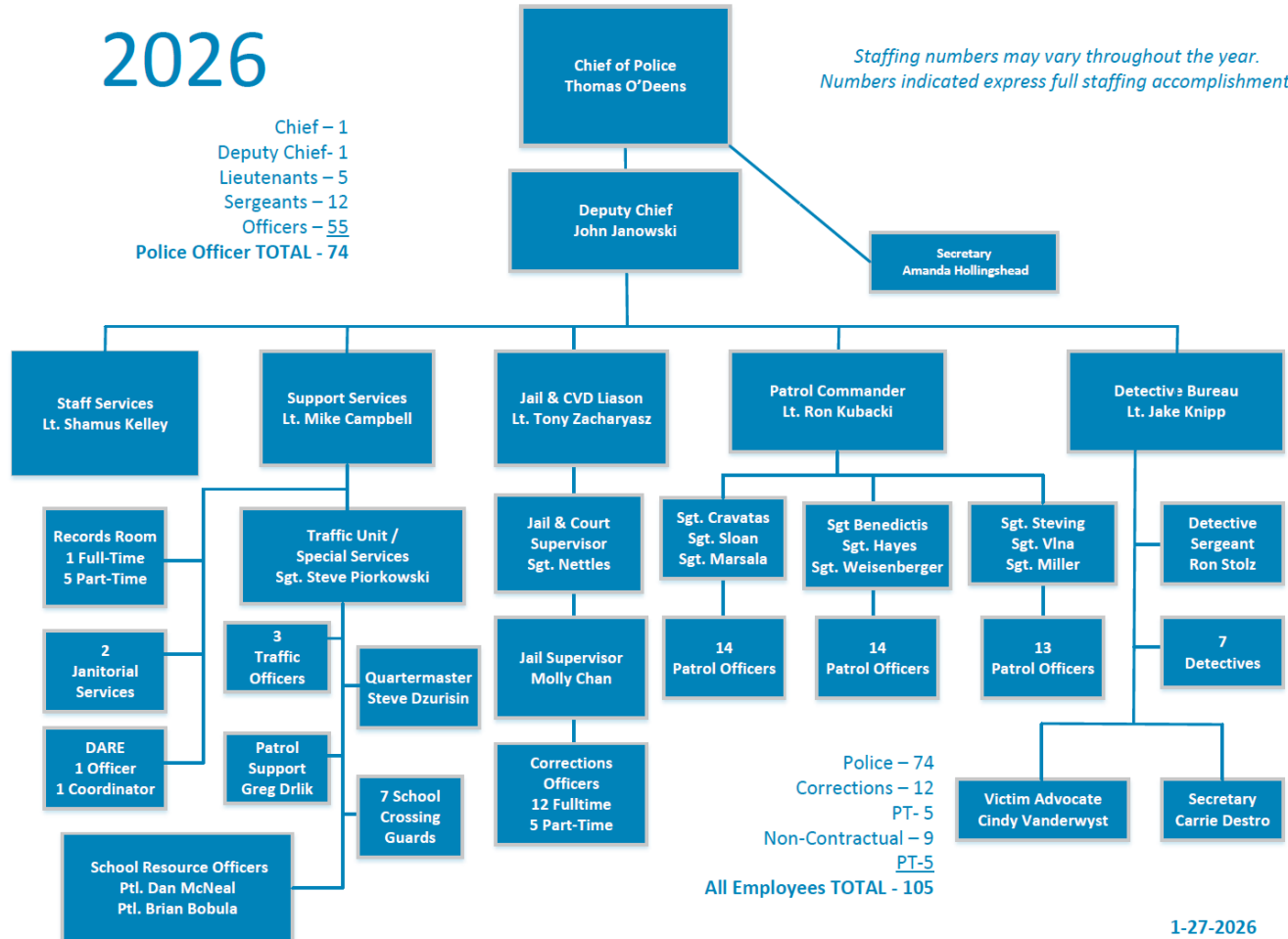
Chief O'Deens

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

2026

Chief – 1
 Deputy Chief- 1
 Lieutenants – 5
 Sergeants – 12
 Officers – 55
Police Officer TOTAL - 74

*Staffing numbers may vary throughout the year.
 Numbers indicated express full staffing accomplishment.*



1-27-2026

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

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 lives and property of our fellow citizens
- Persist in the pursuit of our 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 the proud reputation of quality service, professionalism, integrity, and compassion

Our Values:

We value our proud reputation of:

Quality Service, Professionalism, Integrity, and Compassion

COMPLIANCE WITH OHIO COLLABORATIVE STANDARDS

The Ohio Collaborative and their established standards were implemented at the State level in 2015. The Ohio Collaborative is designed to hold law enforcement agencies accountable and instill a greater confidence with the public by establishing high certification standards that must be met. These standards include: Use of force, body-worn cameras, bias-free policing, investigating employee misconduct, response to mass demonstrations, dealing with people in crisis, recruiting and hiring, telecommunicator training, agency wellness, vehicle pursuits, positive youth interaction and community engagement.



The Ohio Collaborative works closely with communities and law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio with the goal of optimizing police services. Participating law enforcement agencies like the Strongsville Police Department are expected to meet or exceed these standards as they develop policies and procedures to meet new expectations.

The Strongsville Police Department is proud to report that we are completely certified in all of the Ohio Collaborative Compliance Standards for 2025 and into 2026!

2025 Ohio Collaborative Bias-Free Policing Data	
Racial and Gender Makeup of Drivers Stopped by SPD Officers	
<u>Race / Gender of Driver</u>	<u># of Traffic Stops</u>
White Males	3,381
White Females	2,467
Black Males	1,260
Black Females	783
Hispanic Males	272
Hispanic Females	98
Asian Males	115
Asian Females	48
Native American Males	86
Native American Females	20

Citations and warnings statistics are for the motoring public and not the residential race and gender demographics

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 provide guidelines for the reporting, investigation, and dispositions of complaints regarding the conduct of members of the Strongsville Police Department

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 2025:

<p style="text-align: center;">Citizen Complaints</p> <p>Total Complaints: 5</p> <p>Dispositions</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Unfounded: 2</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Exonerated: 1</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sustained: 2</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Not Sustained: 0</p>
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<p>Use of Force¹</p> <p>Justified: 37</p> <p>Not Justified: 0</p>	<p>Pursuit Policy²</p> <p>Compliant: 42</p> <p>Not Compliant: 11</p>	<p>Cruiser Accidents</p> <p>Not Negligent: 8</p> <p>Negligent: 5</p>	<p>City Property Damage</p> <p>Not Negligent: 3</p> <p>Negligent: 0</p>
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¹ TASER deployment on 10 of the 37

² Policy 306 - Motor Vehicle Pursuits

RETIREMENTS



Patrolman Pete Iorillo retired on May 5, 2025. He was hired on January 20, 1992 having served over 33 years with the Strongsville Police Department. Patrolman Iorillo spent most of his career serving as the officer assigned to SouthPark Mall.



K9 Storm has served the city of Strongsville since November 2016 with handler, Sgt. Jason Miller. For the past 9 years this team has been assigned to the night shift where they were active in narcotics detection, article searches, tracking and criminal apprehension.

RECRUITING & HIRING; PROMOTIONS

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. In order get the highest qualified candidates, the Strongsville Police Department utilizes a recruitment team. The recruitment team visits local police academy classes and distributes recruitment materials throughout Cuyahoga and surrounding counties at local recreation centers, community colleges, fitness centers and other locations.

The Strongsville Police Department did not hire or promote any officers in 2025.

The Strongsville Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer

SOUTHWEST EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (SWEDC)



The Southwest Emergency Dispatch Center (SWEDC) is the second largest regional emergency dispatch center in Cuyahoga County. In 2024, SWEDC served the communities of **Berea, Brook Park, North Royalton, Middleburg Hts., and Strongsville** as 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 EMS, Fire, and Police agencies.

Jeff Branic served as the SWEDC Administrator / Manager for SWEDC. Erin Iorillo, Olivera Simic and Erin Pinter served as Communications Supervisors and also assisted with telecommunicator duties when necessary. SWEDC staffing includes 34 full-time telecommunicators, with 3 part-time, 3 supervisors, and one manager / supervisor on staff.

SWEDC continues to provide a Tactical Telecommunicator unit to work with the Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) and member Fire Departments for large scale incidents. SWEDC tactical telecommunicators have become a valuable asset to the SEB unit. The SWEDC Tactical Telecommunicator unit is a resource available to Fire as well where the Telecommunicator’s skill sets would aid to the success of managing a large incident. Currently there are four Tactical Telecommunicators at SWEDC.

SWEDC also maintains a Telecommunicator Emergency Response Team (TERT). The TERT Unit is a State of Ohio asset that can respond to intra-state as well as out of state disasters. The team is activated in the event of a catastrophic incident to provide relief assistance for local 9-1-1 Dispatchers impacted by a disaster. A request is made from the governor of the state impacted and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is activated. SWEDC TERT members join with Ohio TERT and deploy. Costs for aiding are reimbursed back to the City through the EMAC agreements.

Rachel Slavin and Jen Mushe were selected as the 2025 Knights of Columbus Dispatchers of the Year.

At SWEDC our most important asset is our Dispatchers. We are also very fortunate to enjoy outstanding support from the City’s IT and Communications Department personnel who are essential to our operations.



Rachel Slavin (L) and Jen Mushe (R)

SOUTHWEST EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (SWEDC)



SWEDC Basic Phone Statistics for 2025 as provided by VESTA & Premier One CAD:

Total of All Phone Calls Processed by SWEDC: 191,306

Total of 9-1-1 Calls Answered: 30,407

Abandoned 9-1-1 Calls: 892

Total of Administrative Calls Answered: 160,899

Abandoned Administrative Calls: 1124

Outbound Phone Calls: 33,635

Total of 9-1-1 Calls Processed by SWEDC: 30,407

Total of 9-1-1 Calls: 29,515

Abandoned 9-1-1 Calls – 892

96.22% of all 9-1-1 Calls were answered in 15 seconds or less. (Goal is 90%)

97.25 % of all 9-1-1 Calls were answered in 20 seconds or less. (Goal is 95%)

Text to 9-1-1 Calls received – 43

93.0% of all inbound 9-1-1 calls were wireless.

Total CAD Entries as provided by Premier One CAD

All Police CAD: 94,090

All Fire / EMS CAD: 22,121

Total Fire & Police CAD: 116,211

Strongsville Police CAD: 43,132 37% of Total CAD

SOUTHWEST EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (SWEDC)



2025 SWEDC Radio Broadcasts and Monitored Transmissions as provided by the Cleveland Regional Radio System

Totals for Police Main Channels and Fire Channels Combined

Number of Push to Talks (PTTs) – 3,400,532

Number of Seconds of Air Time – 19,561,704

Average Length of Broadcast – 5.75 seconds

Totals for all Police Agencies (5) Radio Main Channels

Number of Push to Talks (PTT) – 2,392,610

Number of Seconds of Air Time – 13,989,867

Average Length of Broadcast – 5.85 seconds

Percentage of Radio Use time – 72%

Percentage of Push to Talk (PTT) – 70%

Totals for Strongsville Police

Number of Push to Talks (PTTs) – 822,510

Number of Seconds of Air Time – 4,823,156

Average Length of Broadcast – 5.86 seconds

Percentage of Radio Use Time – 25%

Percentage of Push to Talk (PTT) – 24%

Totals for 5 SWEDC Fire Agencies

Number of Push to Talks (PTTs) – 1,007,922

Number of Seconds of Air Time – 5,571,837

Average Length of Broadcast – 5.52 seconds

Percentage of Radio Use Time – 29%

Percentage of Push to Talk (PTT) – 28%

RECORDS ROOM



The Strongsville Police Department Records clerks are on duty during business hours and are dedicated to providing administrative services and honoring public records requests.

Records clerks fulfilled 3,002 records requests in 2025. 1,969 of those were non-video requests and 1,033 were body camera and / or dash camera video requests.

Primary Duties

- Data entry and data validation
- Parking citation processing
- Criminal charges / paperwork for local courts
- Handling bond paperwork and monies
- Tow releases
- Civilian background checks

Additional Responsibilities

- Fulfilling public records requests
- Answering phone calls
- Solicitor and deer hunting permits
- Expungement requests from courts
- Processing officer court subpoenas
- Providing patrol car and body camera videos

STRONGSVILLE CITY JAIL

The Strongsville City Jail is located within the police department and is operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. The jail is staffed with a jail supervisor, 12 full-time corrections officers and 5 part-time corrections officers that cover three shifts. In 2025, one full-time corrections officer left Strongsville, but was recently replaced and the jail is operating at full staffing. The jail has a maximum capacity of 24 inmates and can house inmates for up to 12 days. In 2025, the daily inmate population was 6 inmates per day, which was double the amount from last year.

The Strongsville City Jail has contracts with 19 local law enforcement agencies to provide prisoner house. These include:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Berea | Newburgh Heights |
| Brecksville | North Olmsted |
| Broadview Heights | North Royalton |
| Brook Park | Olmsted Falls |
| Brooklyn | Olmsted Township |
| Brooklyn Heights | Parma Heights |
| Cuyahoga Heights | Seven Hills |
| Linndale | Southwest General PD |
| Metroparks | Valley View |
| Middleburg Heights | |

Strongsville City Jail – Inmate Count					
	2025 Count	Highest Month		Lowest Month	
Males	972	August	90	Feb & Oct	72
Females	376	July	49	September	20
Total	1348	July	138	February	95

*The jail staff served 2,959 meals which had a total cost of \$10,010.98.



TRAINING

An officer must maintain numerous certifications, qualifications, skills and abilities which requires continual training. At the direction of the Ohio Attorney General's office, each sworn Ohio peace officer is required to complete 24 hours of Continuing Professional Training (CPT) each year. In 2025, Strongsville officers received 8 hours of legal training and 8 hours of either pursuit supervision or pursuit operations training. Officers were able to choose from a variety of other topics for the final 8 hours.

When officers or supervisors are put in specialized units or promoted, there is required training to help them acclimate to the new position. Newly promoted sergeants attend the Supervisor Training and Education Program (STEP), which is a three-week training program put on by the Law Enforcement Foundation in Columbus. The course helps the new sergeant learn the different aspects of being a first line supervisor. The course has an intense workload to include classroom work / participation, group projects / presentations and several writing assignments. In 2025, Sergeants Jason Miller and Ryan Weisenberger became the most recent graduates of the STEP program.

The Law Enforcement Foundation also puts on the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) which is intended for those who hold administrative or executive leadership roles within the department. Newly promoted lieutenants are sent for this training, which takes the skills learned in STEP and builds on that with an even more intense workload. In 2025, Lieutenant Jake Knipp attended and graduated from the PELC program.

In 2025, the department had a unique opportunity to send an administrator to the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy. Lieutenant Shamus Kelley was selected from multiple applicants across the state of Ohio to attend the training and he became a graduate of Class #292. This ten-week training program is offered to U.S. and international law enforcement officers and covers a variety of topics to include: behavioral science, terrorism, intelligence, leadership, as well as, fitness training.



PATROL DIVISION

Patrol officers are the most visible component of a police department and are asked to handle a wide variety of calls on a daily basis. The patrol division is made up of three shifts consisting of 9 sergeants and around 40 patrol officers. Each shift has at least one K-9 officer, Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) / SWAT officer, in-service instructor and drone pilot.



The city of Strongsville is divided into nine separate zones, with Zone 9 being SouthPark Mall. 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 their assigned area.

Training is a very important part of a patrol officer's development. Each officer has to qualify on each weapon system annually and meet a variety of mandated training / certifications each year. Additionally, the department requires officers to attend regular training in seven core training areas: 1) driving, 2) tactics / use of force, 3) disaster response, 4) investigations, 5) jail procedures, 6) legal, 7) patrol operations / traffic. Utilizing our in-service instructors, every patrol officer, including sergeants and the lieutenant, complete 1.5 hours of training every other month in the areas of firearms training, tactics, high-risk traffic stops and medical training.

It is essential that the patrol officers have the necessary equipment needed to perform their duties. In 2025, the department updated to the TASER 10 energy weapon which requires an initial 8-hour training session taught by our TASER instructors. The department also upgraded to a new body camera and dash camera system.



DETECTIVE BUREAU

Uniformed patrol officers investigate reported incidents 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 calls for service 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 review all cases reported to the department and use available resources in the most efficient manner.
- In 2025, **487** cases were assigned to detectives based on seriousness of the offense.

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

TRAFFIC UNIT

The primary function of traffic violation enforcement is to address traffic concerns before they become dangerous problems. Responsibilities of the traffic unit include:



- Meeting with business owners and residents 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.
- Assist our DARE program with Safety Town graduations, OVI Task Force / Safe Kid's meetings and traffic control for DARE dances and other events.

In 2025, the traffic unit statistics included:

- Installed or checked 70 child safety seats and educated participants on correct installation.
- Deployed speed display trailers at 35 locations.
- Utilized traffic counters 4 times to focus enforcement.



Even when the snow is falling our traffic officers are ready to ride their motorcycles to honor a fallen officer. Traffic officers from the Strongsville Police Department and surrounding agencies, are seen above escorting North Olmsted Police Officer Anthony Smerk, who passed away in December 2025 from a medical emergency.

K-9 UNIT



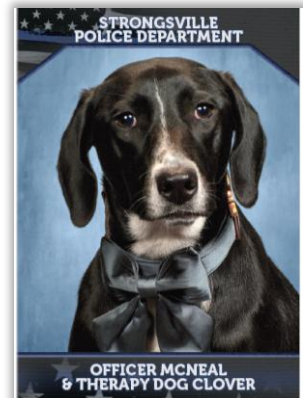
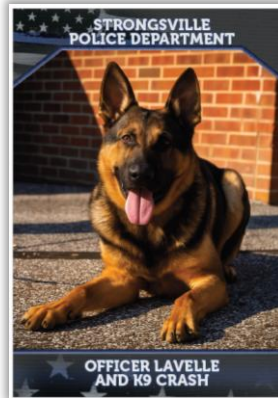
Terry Grealis with Ptl. Lavelle and K-9 Crash at graduation.

The Strongsville Police Department's K-9 Unit began in 1995. Our 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. K-9 teams have many capabilities to include: narcotics detection, building searches, tracking, criminal apprehension, and community relations and demonstrations.

The Strongsville Police Department has a K-9 team assigned to each of the three shifts and we are happy to announce a new K-9 team with the addition of K-9 Crash and his handler, Ptl. Tommy Lavelle. K-9 Crash and Ptl. Lavelle completed a rigorous six-week training program from June to August. The two other teams consist of K-9 Tito with handler, Ptl. Pat O'Sullivan, and K9 Jaxx with handler, Ptl. Justin Lehman. K-9 Crash replaces K-9 Storm who retired on October 20th after nine years of service to the Strongsville Police Department. The department also has a therapy dog named Clover that is assigned to the Strongsville Middle School each day with her handler, Ptl. Dan McNeal.

We would like to recognize and thank Terry and Sharon Grealis who generously donated the money, thru Brady's K-9 Fund, to purchase a ballistic vest for K-9 Crash.

In 2025, the K-9 team statistics included: **168** narcotics searches, **69** public relations events, **7** building searches, **7** apprehensions, **6** guns **5** tracks and **4** article searches.



SOUTHWEST ENFORCEMENT BUREAU (SEB)

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



separated into three regions: West, Central and East, with Strongsville in the West region. In October 2025, Strongsville officer Mike Mendise was selected as the SEB West Region Commander.

The following is a summary of SEB West SWAT activations / calls for service in 2025. In total, SEB West SWAT responded to 27 calls for service throughout the year. Of these incidents, 15 were callouts and 12 were for Counter Assault Team (CAT) car deployments. The SEB West SWAT team responded to 9 of the 10 cities / townships within the region this year. SEB West SWAT had one mutual aid call in 2025.

SEB uses a variety of equipment to include: drones, kinetic energy devices, Bearcat with ram, noise flash diversionary devices, chemical munitions and energy breaching.

Call Types

- 12 of the 27 calls to service or 44% were for CAT car.
- 6 of the 27 calls for service, or 22% were for barricaded subjects.
- 5 of the 27 calls to service, or 19% were for arrest and search warrants.
- 2 of the 27 calls to service or 7% were for hostage situations.
- 1 of the 27 calls to service, or 4% was for a protest.
- 1 of the 27 calls to Service or 4% was for a search and rescue.



DRONE UNIT

The Strongsville Police Department Drone Unit is comprised of officers who have taken and passed the FAA Part 107 Commercial Unmanned Aircraft System license exam. There are currently seven licensed pilots that participate in a dedicated drone training day each month of the year. Our drone program is one of the best in the area and our monthly training has included officers and firemedics from multiple outside agencies in our monthly training.

The drone unit responded to **120** calls to service in 2025 for a multitude of missions, which included:

- Hostage situation
- Arrest / search warrants
- Attempted abduction
- SEB Bomb Unit assistance
- Fatal motor vehicle accidents
- Barricaded subjects
- Missing juveniles
- Community Outreach
- Assisting fire and other agencies
- Traffic surveys
- Overwatch at city events



The Strongsville Police Department operates six drone airframes. They range from the size of a suitcase to the palm of a hand. Our missions range from interior searches to full-scale building mapping.

MOBILE FIELD FORCE

The Strongsville Police Department participates in Mobile Field Force (MFF) which is a group of law enforcement officers with specialized training who can be rapidly mobilized in anticipation of an exigent event. The primary responsibility is to operate in support of an agency's police officers 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.

The Mobile Field Force had **3** activations in 2025.

CEREMONIAL UNIT

The Strongsville Police Department currently has nine officers that serve in the Honor Guard. This unit participates in parades, funeral services, and other special events. Among other events, the Strongsville Police Department five officers from the Honor Guard to a Cleveland Monsters hockey game in December.



DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE)

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

There are currently 186 DREs in the state of Ohio and 19 DREs in Cuyahoga County, two of which are at the Strongsville Police Department.

- Sgt. Steving performed 3 DRE evaluations in 2025 and 77 total evaluations since becoming certified in 2015.
- Ptl. Alex Kurowski performed 5 DRE evaluations in 2025 and 23 total evaluations since becoming certified in 2023.

In addition to performing evaluations and assisting officers with processing and adjudication of drug and alcohol impaired drivers, Sgt. Steving and Ptl. Kurowski gave a presentation to a group of 25 prosecutors regarding Operating a Vehicle while under the Influence (OVI) enforcement and processing; both attended the Impaired Driving and Traffic Safety Conference; both became Senior Intoximeter Operators; Sgt. Steving taught OVI enforcement at the Citizen's Police Academy.

The Strongsville Police Department conducted the first OVI checkpoint since 2005 with the help of the Cuyahoga County OVI Task Force, Rich's Towing, 13 Strongsville police officers and a police K9. The statistics from that event include:

Vehicles Thru Checkpoint	805	Temporary Permit Violations	1
Vehicles Checked	484	No License Violations	1
Vehicles Diverted	15	OVI Arrests	0
Expired Registration	3	Driving Under Suspension	0
Open Containers	2		
Underage Alcohol Possession	2	Average Delay Per Motorist	40 seconds

OVI Arrests in 2025

- 142 total arrests for impaired driving; 15 arrests for suspected drug impairment
- Of the 142 OVI arrests, Sgt. Steving had 33, Ptl. Kaetzel had 26, Ptl. Robinson, Ptl. Tohati and Ptl. Rossman each had 7.



VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATE

For 25+ 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 2025, Ms. Vanderwyst assisted hundreds of victims of crime, which incidents included crimes of domestic violence, assault, menacing, menacing by stalking, criminal damaging, etc. These clients are provided with comprehensive information as to their rights under Marsy's law, and they are guided through the often-confusing process of the criminal justice system. She also accompanies them to every court hearing, providing moral support and acting as a liaison between them and the City Prosecutor. Ms. Vanderwyst has been available for crisis intervention, assessing emergency needs and, thus, making referrals to the appropriate social service agencies for the individual clients.

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (DARE)



The DARE program has a number of students that participate, to include high school students. Many of these students have been thru the program and now assist with the younger students. Additionally, Officer Aaron and Cheryl will participate in numerous community events throughout the school year and will be teaching at Safety Town in the summer.



Grants Received

Grant money received for DARE and the Community Diversion Program (CDP)

- **DARE Program – Drug Use Prevention Grant** **\$25,503.32**

Student Participation

8th grade DARE program – 450 (SCS) plus 52 (SJJ) 502 total students

5th grade DARE program – 446 (SCS) plus 50 (SJJ) 496 total students

3rd grade safety belt presentations 502 total students

- Officer Aaron and Traffic Unit Officers Damore, Young, and Kurowski taught lessons at Strongsville City Schools, Sts. Joseph and John School, and Albert Einstein Academy to all 3rd grade students.

Strongsville High School Role Models 117 total students

- Current 11th and 12th graders were split into groups of 5-10 and each group took part in attending an elementary and/or middle school visit to talk with 5th/8th grade DARE students about transitioning to the middle or high school in the coming year. In addition, the Role Models have helped at various safety fair events.

Food Bank Donations

- Macaroni & cheese collected from spring celebration **160 boxes**
- Macaroni & cheese collected from the Halloween parties **528 boxes**
- Macaroni & cheese/ cereal collected from ice skating events **203 boxes**

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (DARE)

Events

DARE dances/parties

- **End-of-year spring celebration** – grades 5
- **Halloween party** – grades 5
- **Halloween party** – grades 6, 7 and 8

232 total students

385 total students

505 total students

DARE ice-skating events grades 5-8

- **April** (Spring event)
- **November** (Fall event)

242 total students

400 total students

Community events

- Epilepsy walk @ SouthPark Mall
- DARE participated in the annual Strongsville Business Expo at the Rec Center
- DARE participated in numerous safety fairs around the city and 4th of July Parade
- Halloween events

➤ Strongsville Rotary Duck Races

500+ total children

➤ Halloween at Safety Town

500 total children

➤ Strongsville High School Greet & Treat

800 total children

Safe Kids/Safe Communities and Strongsville police events @ Strongsville HS

- **CIFAT Event** – held prior to prom season to promote safe driving and the importance of wearing safety belts.
- **Distracted Driving Simulator** – hands-on driving simulator for students to drive with distractions on the computer screen. SPD set up one campaign during traffic safety month (October) and before prom (end of April).
- **International Walk-to-School Day** at Kinsner Elementary School in October.

Safe Kids/Safe Communities Mock Tail Event

In 2025, there were a total of 9 separate Safety Town classes taught Monday thru Friday for two hours each.

- Pre-Kindergarten students: 275
- Student volunteers (ranging from grades 6th – 11th): 162

Safety
Town



QUICK RESPONSE TEAM (QRT)

The City of Strongsville was awarded a grant for the 2025 fiscal year for \$65,000. The grant was renewed for the 2026 fiscal year for \$61,000. The grant funds a quick response team made up of a police officer, a firemedic, and a counselor to combat the opioid epidemic.

Quick Response Team (QRT) Objectives:

- 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.

2025 Statistics

- 11 total reported drug overdoses.
- 55 individuals referred to the program.
- 102 individuals contacted from prior overdoses.
- 302 total calls / visits to follow up with individuals.

CHAPLAIN PROGRAM – FR. JOE MAMICH

In 2014, the Strongsville Police Department welcomed Fr. Joe Mamich, who has volunteered to be our Safety Forces Chaplain. Father Joe is a native of Strongsville. In 2025, he volunteered for 45 hours, assisting the police department.



Chaplain Duties Include:

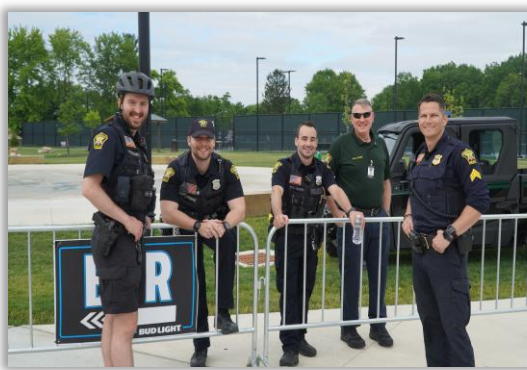
- May serve a role in line-of-duty deaths.
- Assist with department / citizen notifications.
- Assist with counseling and emotional support.
- Recognized by the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE (VIPS)

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program, designed to address the increasing demands on state and local law enforcement agencies in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, is a locally-driven program that enables community members to offer their time and talents to their local law enforcement agency. The Strongsville Police Department initiated its VIPS program in 2005, and currently has 12 members.

VIPS donate their time at events in the city including:

- Homecoming
- Rib Burn Off
- Winter Wonderland
- City council meetings
- Mayor's court
- 5k runs
- SouthPark Mall vehicle escorts
- Summer Concerts at the Town Center



Strongsville Police Department VIP, Duke Evans, assists officers with security for a concert at the new Town Center this past summer.

Rx DRUG DROP BOX PROGRAM

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



Strongsville Police Drug Box Collection Totals - 2025	
January	66.0 lbs
February	230.0 lbs
March	47.4 lbs
April	79.8 lbs
May	63.8 lbs
June	50.2 lbs
July	61.6 lbs
August	68.6 lbs
September	66.8 lbs
October	62.4 lbs
November	75.4 lbs
December	50.8 lbs
Total :	922.8 lbs

Drug Drop Boxes, like the one in the Strongsville Police Department lobby, 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

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.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Strongsville Police Department hosted its 3rd annual Citizens Police Academy, which is taught by officers within the department who specialize in different aspects of policing. The attendees included 16 members of the Strongsville community who participated every Tuesday evening between August 26th and October 14th. The topics include:

<u>Introduction</u>	Chief Tom O’Deens
<u>Legal Training</u>	Detective Zaki Hazou
<u>Traffic Enforcement</u>	Officer Ryan Damore
<u>Detective Bureau</u>	Detective Steven Vanek
<u>OVI Enforcement</u>	Sergeant Jeff Steving
<u>Use of Force / Pursuits</u>	Officer Eric Schubert
<u>Hide / Run / Fight</u>	Officer Nicole Kellar
<u>Opioid QRT</u>	Lieutenant Jake Knipp
<u>K9 Operations</u>	Officer Pat O’Sullivan/K9 Tito
<u>SWAT Operations</u>	Officer John Murphy



At the conclusion of the 8-week academy, a graduation ceremony was held and a plaque was made to commemorate the 2025 class attendees.

Graduates

Mark Balas	Sean Grandage	Mark Petrie
Daniel Cricks	Hunter James	Michael Sinko
Ashley Gay	Barry Kuzmickas	Ravichandran Thangavelu
Thomas Gigliotti, Jr.	Thomas Laub	Thaddeus Brown
Thomas Gigliotti, Sr.	Glenn Moenich	
William Gordon	Peter Nixon	

TORCH RUN

In June 2025, ten officers from the Strongsville Police Department participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Officers carried the torch approximately 2.5 miles down Pearl Rd. where they passed the torch to officers from the Brunswick Police Department. The run brings awareness and raises money for the Special Olympics.



NIGHT TO SHINE

In June 2025, ten Strongsville police officers, along with several officers from other departments, participated in the annual Night to Shine event hosted by the Best Western Plus in Strongsville. This memorable night is put on by the Tim Tebow Foundation and is a worldwide event for those with special needs. Strongsville has been participating in this event since 2019.



SHOP WITH A COP FUNDRAISER

The annual Reverse Raffle fundraiser benefiting Shop with a Cop® was held on April 25, 2025 at St. Michael's Woodside. This fundraiser generates the majority of the funds needed to hold the annual Christmas Shop with a Cop event. Officer Kellar, along with fellow committee members from Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #15 and Fraternal Order of Police Associates Lodge #14, were the organizers. Many hours from January to April were spent preparing to include collecting donations from a number of businesses throughout the area. This year's fundraiser included 27 raffle baskets, 37 silent auction items, and 12 envelopes each containing gift cards totaling ≥\$79. We are grateful for everyone that bought tickets to attend, businesses that donated, and those who made purchases. We couldn't have the December Shop with a Cop event without everyone's support!

We'd like to thank the following for donating: Advance Auto Parts- Strongsville; Akron RubberDucks; Aladdin's Eatery- Middleburg Hts; Amy Ponciano, Brian & Michelle Kerr, Earl Sprague, Stacy Poe, & Vicki Marfizo; Ascherl Studios; AutoZone- Strongsville; Azure Salon; Brown Hardware & Plumbing; Clean Express Auto Wash- Strongsville; Cleveland Browns; Cleveland Cavaliers; Cleveland Metroparks; Cleveland Monsters; Crumbl Cookies- Strongsville; D-Bat Middleburg Hts; Dante Rantucci; Dave Stepka; Dayton Dragons; Dog House; Don Raimondo; Don's Pomeroy House; European's Best Restaurant & Bakery; Fin, Feather & Fur Outfitters; Frank Chipuk; Gourmetgiftbaskets; Havana's Choice Cigars; Heidelberg Distributing Company; Hirt's Flowers Inc.; Holden Forests & Gardens; Holistic Halo Salt Spa; Honey Baked Ham Co.- Strongsville; Hooley Pub & Kitchen; J Bella; Jacci Fiser; Jeff Dunnell; Kings Island; Lake Erie Crushers; Landenberger Family; Landoll's Mohican Castle; Longhorn Steakhouse; Maggie & Ellie's Pottery and Art Studio; Massage Envy- Strongsville; Meijer- Brunswick; Mitchell's Ice Cream; Mom's Deli & Grille; Niko's Bar & Gyros; O'Reilly Auto Parts- Seven Hills; Outback Steakhouse- Strongsville; Panini's Bar & Grill; Parma Armory; Pawsitively Pure; Pearle Vision- Strongsville; Ray Friedl; Rock & Roll Hall of Fame; Royal Nail Spa; Royal Park Fine Wine; Scene75; Shoreline Express; Southern Glazers Wine & Spirits; Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens; Tim Robinson; The 3 Spot; Trivs Restaurant & Lounge; Waterway Carwash- Parma; Wiant Jewelers; and the Wuebker Family.



**Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #15
& Fraternal Order of Police
Associates Lodge #14**



SHOP WITH A COP – MACY'S

Macy's at the SouthPark Mall sponsored a Back to School Shop with a Cop[®] event on September 14, 2025, led by Macy's Store Management and Officer Kellar. The night began by having the children picked up in marked patrol vehicles from their homes and driven to the store for a Touch-a-Truck, light refreshments, raffle prizes, and shopping with Police Officers. Macy's generously donated \$250.00 to each of the 10 children who participated and kept the store open late just for us! We are grateful for Macy's supporting our local youth and creating this partnership!



**Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #15
& Fraternal Order of Police
Associates Lodge #14**



SHOP WITH A COP – MEIJER

The annual Shop with a Cop® event was held on December 6, 2025. Officer Kellar, along with fellow committee members from Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #15 and Fraternal Order of Police Associates Lodge #14, organized the event. Police Officers from 12 agencies within our lodge assisted 70 children that would benefit the most. The day began by having the children picked up in marked patrol vehicles from their homes and driven to the lodge for breakfast, optional face painting, games, and a craft. From there, the children were escorted in patrol vehicles with lights and siren to the Meijer in Brunswick, Ohio. Each child was provided \$150.00 to spend on presents while shopping with an Officer. After shopping, the children were driven back to the lodge to enjoy lunch and a visit from Santa.

The program is funded by private and business donations, and local fundraising events. The generous sponsors that helped make the day possible included Aldi, Angelina's Pizza, Antonio's Pizzeria, Berea Police Foundation, Cleveland PAL, Donut Scene, Ehrnfelt Family, Evelyn Foster, Giant Eagle, Grand Pacific Popcorn & Sweets, Jimmy John's, Krispy Kreme, Maggie's Mission, Meijer, Mission BBQ, North Royalton Lions Club, Romeo's Pizza, Spudnut Donuts, Starbucks, Strongsville Optimist Club, and the Strongsville Police Foundation. Your support allows us to bring joy to children in need and create memories they'll carry for a long time.

meijer



**Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #15
& Fraternal Order of Police
Associates Lodge #14**



SHOP WITH A COP – DICK’S HOUSE OF SPORT

Dick’s House of Sport at the SouthPark Mall sponsored a Shop with a Cop® event on December 9, 2025. 12 amazing children were picked up in marked patrol vehicles from their homes and driven to the store for a pizza party! Unlimited experiences were offered to include rock climbing, batting cages, and the golf simulator. Each child was provided with a \$100.00 gift card to shop with a Police Officer, and then driven home at the conclusion of the event. We are grateful for Dick’s House of Sport supporting our local youth!



**Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #15
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AGENCY AWARDS

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. The awards ceremony is held during a city council meeting, where the Knights of Columbus Officer of the Year award is presented along with other departmental awards.



2025 Officer of the Year – Detective Steven Vanek



Professionalism Award
Patrolman Kaitlin Smead



Quality Service Award
Patrolman Brent Robinson

AGENCY AWARDS



Life-Saving Award
Sergeant Steve Piorkowski
Patrolman Nick Prochaska
Not pictured
Patrolman Dan Whelan
Patrolman Bryan Kadlec



Joseph A. Gambino
Prosecutor's Award
Detective Jason Glover



On behalf of the Strongsville Police Department, Lieutenant Shamus Kelley accepted the 2025 Community Traffic Safety Platinum Award for outstanding education, enforcement, and engineering to improve public safety.

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



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Director of Public Safety Charles W. Goss

Chief of Police Thomas O'Deens