



Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



Cliff Pinkney
Cuyahoga County Sheriff

Twenty Sixteen was a great year to be a Cleveland. The Cavs brought home a championship win, the Lake Erie Monsters won the Calder Cup, the Republican National Convention went off without a hitch, the Indians made it to the World Series and Public Square underwent a complete renovation, just to name a few. However, in light of recent events at Ohio State University and across the country, and in the wake of warnings from numerous agencies about threats against public safety, I would like to urge everyone to be aware of their surroundings and more cognoscente when interacting on social media. This is important for everyone, but especially important if you wear a uniform.

At the end of 2016, the Chief and I established a monthly report in which each department outlines goals and objectives, discusses current projects and tracks progress along the way. These reports are beneficial because they create motivation and a plan for action, increase ac-

countability, raise awareness, encourage teamwork and generally creates a desirable outcome in the situation in which they address.

This year, among other initiatives, we have a plan to increase leadership training and to enhance leadership at all levels. This will be accomplished in conjunction with the Human Resources Department, and you will be notified if you are impacted. Recently, too, we have been working on various recruitment efforts, which will be explored in the near future. Currently, we are in the process of working on a recruitment video for deputy sheriffs.

If you should ever have an idea, or a positive story about the department, please do not hesitate to submit it to me, via writing. We love to hear about your successes and the success of the Sheriff's Department. I truly appreciate your hard work and look forward to successful new year.

CIVIL DIVISION UPDATE

This past year was an exciting and challenging one for the Sheriff's Civil Division, particularly the foreclosure unit.

A significant change that recently took place and that will carry on into the foreseeable future is the introduction of House Bill 390. This bill is unique in that it will create new opportunities for some home buyers. On the flip side, it also places restrictions, such as the ability to purchase a foreclosed property for another person, a practice that occurred in the past.

With House Bill 390 in effect, prospective buyers who find a property that has not received a bid at the first Sheriff's sale, now have the ability to begin the

bidding process for that property two weeks later. They may do so, with an opening bid as low as one single dollar. Although we have yet to witness any properties being purchased for a dollar, that day may come very soon. We have seen houses appraised at \$75,000.00 go for as little as \$32,000.00; not too shabby for a newly wedded couple or a flipper who needs to recoup money from a previous loss. All of this sounds great, but there are also a few exceptions. House Bill 390 allows the initial lien holder/judgment creditor to match your purchase amount post sale and thus can slide that house right from underneath your fingertips. In another scenario, you may purchase a house at sheriff's sale, only to

owe back taxes on a property which accrued long before you knew it even existed. These are some of the caveats that most people forgo to think about, because they see potential dollar signs from those late night foreclosure infomercials. Sometimes a simple phone call, or utilizing the internet can be a great place to begin any successful endeavor.

Submitted by: **James Bitterman**

House Bill 390

SHERIFF'S SORN UNIT

July 1, 2017, will mark the 20 year anniversary of the Sheriff's Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN) Unit. July 1, 1997, the State of Ohio enacted Megan's Law, H.B. 180, which required individuals convicted of Sexually Oriented Offenses to register with the Sheriff's Office in their residential county. A decade later, the legislature repealed Megan's Law and enacted the Federal Adam Walsh Act ("AWA"). The Adam Walsh Act was enacted on January 1, 2008. The Adam Walsh Act is the current law in Ohio. Offenders convicted under the Adam Walsh Act are classified as Tier level offenders, based on the offense of conviction; Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III. The purpose of the law is community awareness, mandating the Sheriff to provide information about the convicted sex offender on a public website, as well as generate community notifications on designated sex offenders.

The Sex Offender Unit is staffed by six Dep-

uty Sheriff's and maintains office hours Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 5:30pm. Two Deputies each are assigned to the Registration Office, Field Address Verifications/Community Notifications, and Compliance.

Deputy Sheriff's assigned to field address verifications/community notifications work in the community in a fast paced environment knocking on doors verifying address, as well as, giving personal notice of designated offenders to neighbors, educational institutions, day cares, and police departments. Under Ohio law, the Sheriff is mandated to generate the community notification within five days of the date of registration.

The Sex Offender Unit is responsible for following up on inquiries, questions, and tips regarding registered sex offenders. Detectives are assigned to investigate non-compliant registered sex offenders in Cuyahoga County. If it is determined that an offender has violated

the law, criminal charges are filed against the offender. Annually, over 200 non-compliant sex offenders are convicted under, ORC, 2950.

Over the past 20 years, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Sex Offender Unit has initiated over 6,600 sex offender records including photographs and finger prints. Annually, the unit conducts over 7,000 in person address verifications and address changes (office visits), thousands of community notifications (mailings) and hundreds of field address verifications/notifications.

Sheriff Pinkney is committed to ensuring awareness and safety in the community.

Submitted by: Deputy Katie Oleksiak

NEW HIRES

Correction Officer

Jeffri Black, Tracey Goode, Justin Kannard, Cassandra Perry, Sunde Smith, Christina Stribling, Michael Wills, Feben Yeshak

Security Officer 2

Anthony Gagnon

Registered Nurse

Mazo G. Beawin-Monah

RECENT RETIREMENTS

Deputy Sheriff Sergeant

Michael Sparks

Correction Officer

Reginald Garner, Reynold Lindsey, Carl Morgan

Clerk 2 Inmate Services

Patricia Santell

A special thank you to Detectives Jerman, Enk, Siefer, C. Miller, Babics and Deputy Herceg for participating in this years "Shop with a Cop" program.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT GIVES BACK TO FAMILIES IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



IN MEMORIAM

Donald Love III • Ruby Miller • Joseph Keeler