



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE – Issue 2

07/09/2019

Residents of the City of Clever,

The current City of Clever Police Department direction started in the first half of April, and there has been forward progress since that date. In a relatively short amount of time, we have pushed forward with efforts to create a positive working environment for employees, as well as a quality agency the community can be proud to call their own. Some highlights are as follows:

- The Police Department has filled two vacant Patrolman positions with Officer Logan High and Officer Kainon Bouldin, and received Alderman approval for the addition of a yet-to-be-announced new hire, which will move us toward achieving 24-hour coverage without relying on other agency assistance to span certain sections of time.
- We have acquired Tasers through Christian County Sheriff’s Office, and purchased Oleoresin Capsicum and Tint Meters as additional tools to help Officers do their job safely and effectively.
- The CPD Policy Manual and Training Curriculum have been completed, with a special thank you to the Greene County Sheriff’s Office for reaching out to offer POST approved training to our Officers, as well as Ozark Police Department.
- CPD started the Chaplain Program to provide counseling or emotional support to the citizens of Clever, the Police Department members and their families through a non-denominational specific non-agenda driven program. This program is projected to better weave the Police Department with the community and provide a step up in service. The charter members of the program are Pastors Brian Jump, Travis Sanders, Daniel Uptegrave, Tim Shepard, and Kirby Holbrook.
- The Window Alert Program was started in order to obtain better information upon Officer-contact in reference to potential non-response from individuals who may be Deaf, Diabetic, Alzheimer’s/Dementia, or Autistic/Special Needs. We have had individuals from the city, region, around Missouri, and as far away as Virginia to the east and California to the west wanting this program in their communities and/or have provided decals accordingly.

We have rounded the corner from Independence Day and now the focus for many community members appear to be looking forward to mid-August to the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Until that time, there are still things to focus on throughout the rest of summertime where you can start creating safe habits with your children.

- ❖ Exterior Lighting – When the sun goes down, lights go on. Study after study has proven lighting is one of the top deterrents for criminals. Do not give the criminals a dark place to hide.
- ❖ Locks – Do you have deadbolts on all exterior doors? Deadbolts are essential as they do a better job securing your door than a knob lock. Want a more secure door? Check the screws on the strike plate. If they are anything less than 3” long, pitch them. The longer the screw, the better your door will hold in an attempted forced entry.
- ❖ Landscaping – Don’t give criminals a place to hide. Rule of thumb: bushes and shrubs should be trimmed 3’ and lower, and trees should be trimmed 5’ and higher.
- ❖ Make them think you are home – From the mouths of burglars: “Dogs are a deal breaker for me”. Most burglars said they would not attempt to burglarize a home if a car is in the driveway or they could hear a tv/radio on inside the house. They almost always knock first. Contrary to our fears, burglars do not want you to be home. If you answer the door, they will say they may be looking for a lost dog or have the wrong address. If your gut tells you something is wrong, call for the Police Department.
- ❖ Surveillance – Police Departments across the nation are solving countless violent and non-violent crimes due to the increase of surveillance systems on households. Cameras can be purchased with various features and cost vary, but can be very affordable.

Feel free to reach out to the City of Clever Police Department, as we are here for you at 210 South Clarke, Clever, or through email at policechief@clevermo.com. If you have urgent concerns and need immediate attention/service: 911 for an emergency, 417-582-1030 for Dispatch to request an Officer, or 417-743-5109 for non-emergency business at the City of Clever Police Department.

Thank you,

JEFFREY D LOFTON
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