



Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: May 2022

Traffic complaints – be it speed on residential streets, vehicles failing to stop for stop signs or driver inattention in school zones – are the most common reasons residents contact the Gahanna Division of Police (GPD). Gahanna-focused social media sites are the frequent outlet for some to express frustration with discourteous drivers and either real or perceived traffic scofflaws. As we enter our seventh traffic fatality-free month in Gahanna, rest assured traffic safety, including reducing the number of traffic crashes, is one of our primary missions.

Gahanna has 325 lane miles of residential streets and arterial roadways, several miles of Interstate 270 and 11 school zones within its jurisdiction. More crashes occur within the City's section of IR-270 than any other roadway. In fact, approximately one fourth to one third of all the annual crashes in Gahanna occur on IR-270 (as of the date of this writing, just under 30% of the City's annual crashes have been on IR-270). Excessive speed, abrupt lane changes, following too closely, impaired and distracted driving are the primary causes of these interstate crashes. To clear up a common misconception, our agency has primary responsibility for responding to and investigating crashes occurring within the City's jurisdictional boundaries on IR-270 – not the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, or Columbus Division of Police.

High traffic volume, vehicle speeds, limited visibility, distracted motorists, and other factors associated with crash scenes, frequently expose first responders to many risks and hazards. Stabilizing the scene, treating and transporting the injured, and conducting a thorough investigation while attempting to minimize delays and disruptions for other motorists is often challenging. In today's world, these challenges are far too often compounded by drivers consumed with their own personal priorities or those whose attention is focused on the use of personal devices rather than the safe operation of their vehicle. Tragically, many police officers, firefighters, and tow truck drivers have lost their lives while rendering aid to traffic crash victims. We take the response to traffic crashes and the risks associated with them very seriously, just as we take our obligation to reduce their occurrence through robust traffic enforcement, crash analysis, multi-agency operations, media releases, public advisories and education programs.

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While the interstate presents its own set of unique challenges, so do our school zones and residential streets. Like most agencies, our volume of calls-for-service, combined with other responsibilities can exceed the capacity of the patrol officers assigned to a particular shift. Given our calls-for-service, staffing levels and other factors, we are precluded from assigning an officer to each school zone on a daily basis. We simply cannot assign an officer to every residential street location associated with a traffic complaint as other duties would be neglected.

While excessive speed and other violations occur to varying degrees on all public roadways, we are fortunate in that the City experiences a relatively low incidence of pedestrian and bicycle-involved crashes annually. We maintain an active presence in many of our school zones in order to provide a visible deterrence to aggressive driving behaviors. Through student engagement initiatives, our officers educate young drivers about safe-driving practices and encourage our students to eliminate distractions while crossing streets.

In all cases, we must prioritize our calls-for-service with public requests for increased traffic enforcement on a particular roadway, be it within a school zone or otherwise. To that end, we make every effort to identify high-risk locations and devote appropriate resources based upon data collection and analysis and other metrics, such that we have the greatest impact on improving public and roadway safety given finite resources. In response to traffic complaints from residents we deploy traffic volume and speed survey equipment, our mobile speed monitoring and notification device in an effort to promote public awareness, and officers in marked vehicles for high-visibility enforcement activities in key locations.

Frequently, we find that the very residents of a particular neighborhood in which we are working a speed complaint are the ones most often cited for traffic violations – and often times flagrant ones – vs. drivers “cutting” through a residential area (as is often reported). Most of these violations are associated with morning and evening “rush hours” as residential areas experience a high volume of motorists on their way to and from work or school. We encourage drivers to leave ample time for their commutes, lowering vehicle speed when entering residential areas, eliminate driving distractions, be aware of children in the area, and to simply be respectful of other residents in their neighborhood through courteous and safe driving habits. Think of it as the “golden rule” of driving in your neighborhood - drive like you would want others to drive in front of your own home.

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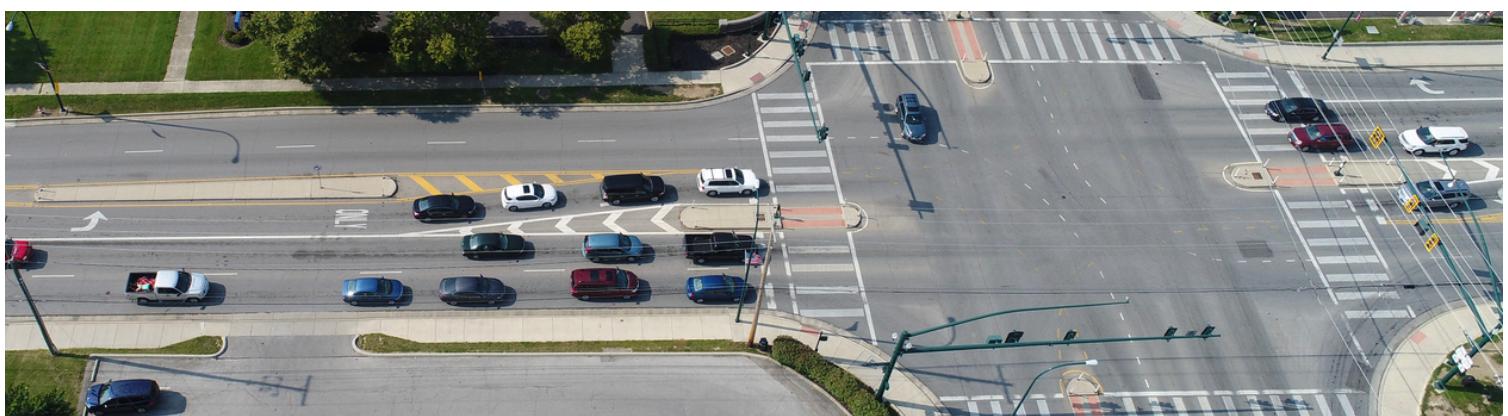
Beyond addressing specific public complaints or mitigating the incidence of crashes, proactive traffic enforcement efforts in general are an invaluable tool used by law enforcement to discover, interrupt, and reduce all types of criminal activity. Simply put, we try to enhance overall public safety by intercepting criminals on the roadway (who are perhaps on their way to or from having committed a more serious crime) and taking appropriate action. For example, traffic enforcement resulting in the arrest of drivers or other vehicle occupants following the discovery of outstanding warrants, illegal firearms and drugs, and stolen property, is commonplace. This is one reason why there is no such thing as a "routine" traffic stop; every officer knows that every stop has the potential to escalate into a deadly encounter with an armed individual.

A traffic stop is likely the only enforcement encounter many will have with a police officer in their lifetime. In nearly all cases, the violation must be observed by a sworn officer in order for enforcement action to occur. Given the potential hazards of traffic stops, not the least of which is being hit by a passing vehicle, it is in everyone's ultimate interest to minimize the time spent stopped on the roadside. Our officers are trained to conduct every traffic stop with professionalism and courtesy and we would ask that the public do the same even if not "agreeing" with the reason for the stop. The proper venue to contest a traffic violation is always in court and not on the roadside.

While traffic safety is one of our primary missions, it is not one we can fully accomplish without you – the public. We urge drivers to maintain focus on the roadway around them, maintain a safe and legal speed, slow down or move over for stopped emergency vehicles, and we remind drivers not to text and drive. When planning your travels or even daily commute, a little patience and a bit of extra time can go a long way in making our roadways and neighborhoods safe and setting a great example for our young drivers. Because we in law enforcement cannot do it alone, we must continue to partner together for a safer Gahanna!

JEFFREY B. SPENCE

Chief of Police, Gahanna Division of Police



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Summary of Division Activity for April



Support Services – Communications Center:

Dispatchers handled 863 9-1-1 calls throughout the month. 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center were answered in an average of 2.0 seconds. One Text-to-911 message was received.

75% of all 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center originated from cellular phones while 14% were received from VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.

An additional 1,644 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines.

Overall year-to-date call volume has increased 19% over 2021.

2,819 calls for service were dispatched during the month.

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Summary of Division Activity for April

3499

2022 Year-to-Date
Total 9-1-1 Calls

2930

2021 Year-to-Date
Total 9-1-1 Calls

19.42%

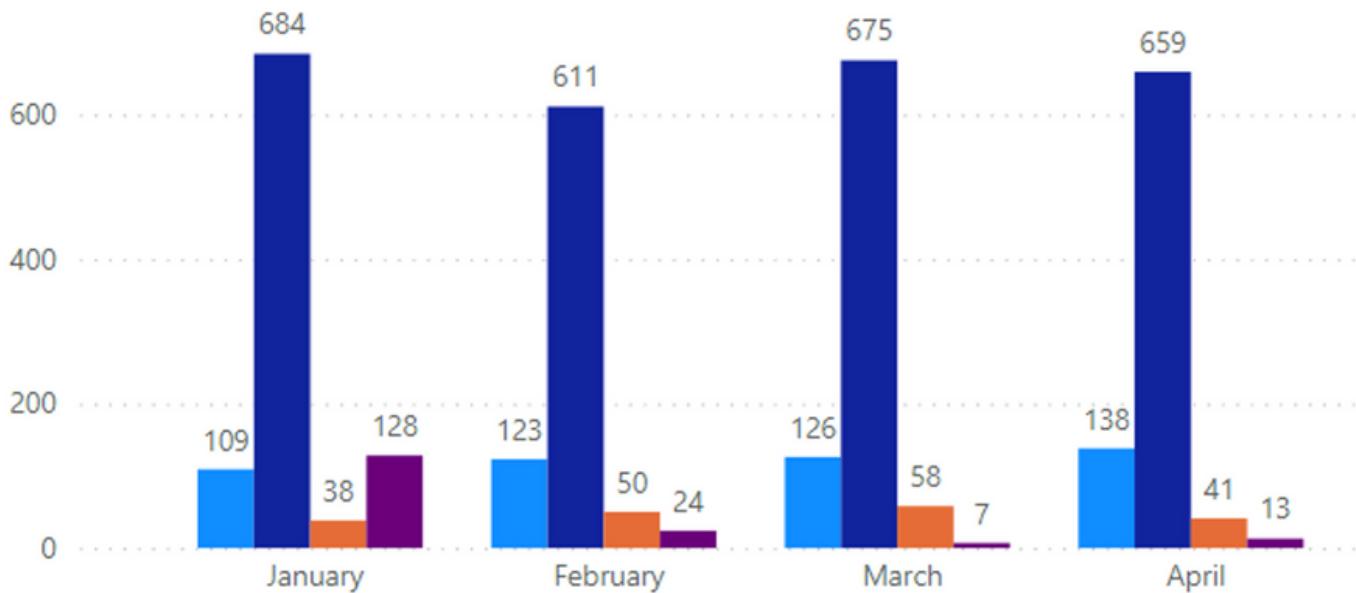
% Change
Year-to-Date Total
9-1-1 Calls

Gahanna 9-1-1 System Data

Month	9-1-1 Total	9-1-1 Wireless	9-1-1 Wireline	9-1-1 VoIP	No ANI/AI	Average Answer Delay (Seconds)	Abandoned Calls	Rollover Calls	Non- Emergency Lines	Text to 9-1-1
January	959	684	38	109	128	4.00	28	0	1948	0
February	811	611	50	123	24	3.00	32	0	2085	0
March	866	675	58	126	7	3.00	27	0	1709	0
April	863	659	41	138	13	2.00	35	0	1644	1
Total	3499	2629	187	496	172	3.00	122	0	7386	1

Total 9-1-1 Calls by Month & Type

● 9-1-1 VoIP ● 9-1-1 Wireless ● 9-1-1 Wireline ● No ANI/AI



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Field Services: April 2022

-354 offense and arrest reports were generated including a summary of the following incidents by type:

- No robberies were reported.
- 14 thefts from vehicles were reported in April; some involved forced entry.
- 20 incidents of criminal damaging were reported
- Six thefts of motor vehicle parts involving the removal of catalytic converters were reported.
- One burglary occurred.
- Four Breaking & Entering offenses were reported in April.
- Four vehicles were reported stolen including an ATV from Gahanna-Lincoln High School. Juveniles and young adults are believed to be the suspects in nearly all the incidents.
- Incidents of assaults (no domestic nexus) are as follows:
 - No aggravated assaults.
 - Six simple assaults; five arrests.
- Domestic-related responses include:
 - 19 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
 - Four arrests for Domestic Violence were made during the month.
 - Five offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
- Drug offenses for the month include:
 - Drug/Narcotics violations – Five offense reports; three arrests; one warrant issued.
 - Drug equipment violations – one offense report; four arrests; one warrant issued.
 - Three overdose responses occurred in April with one resulting in a fatality. Fentanyl is suspected to have been involved in two incidents including the fatality. Methamphetamine is suspected in one incident.
 - Fentanyl is being detected in other illicit drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and counterfeit prescription medications as a means to increase the addictive nature of the drugs.

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Field Services: April 2022 (page 2)

--32 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.

-Three field interviews were conducted resulting in reports.

-Officers conducted 636 self-initiated traffic stops with 283 traffic violators issued citations; 15 arrests were made from the stops.

-The Division responded to 45 motor vehicle crashes with a further breakdown as follows:

- No traffic fatalities occurred during the month.
- No crashes were classified as serious injury suspected.
- Two crashes were classified as minor injury suspected – 4.4% of crash responses.
- Four were classified as injury possible – 8.8% of responses.
- The remaining 39 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 86.6% of responses.
- 12 crashes occurred on IR-270 – 26.6% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
- Two incidents involved alcohol and/or drug impairment – 4.4% of responses.
- One commercial vehicle crash occurred during the month – 2.2% of crash responses involved a commercial motor vehicle.
- One crash involved a motorcycle – 2.2%.
- Distractions were reported in 14 of the 45 crashes.

-Patrol officers made 16 arrests for impaired driving (OVI).

- Three arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
- The results of blood/urine tests in four incidents are pending laboratory analysis.
- The average blood alcohol content for the nine arrestees that submitted to breath testing was .18 or two times the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio (.08).
- The period between Friday evening into Sunday morning resulted in the highest number of arrests (5).
- Officers of the Division have made 52 impaired driving arrests year-to-date.

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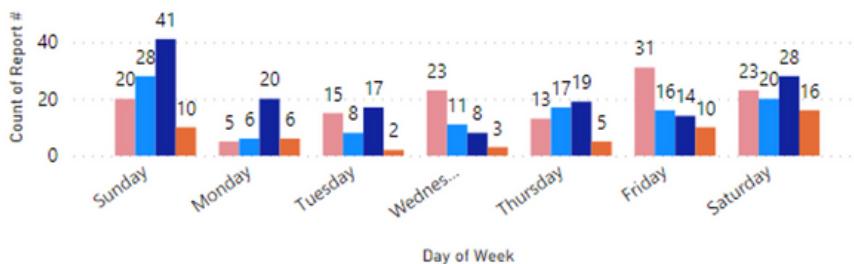


Summary of Division Activity for April 2022

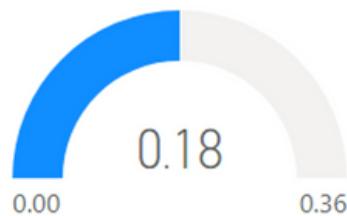
OVI Report

Arrests by Day of Week

Year ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022

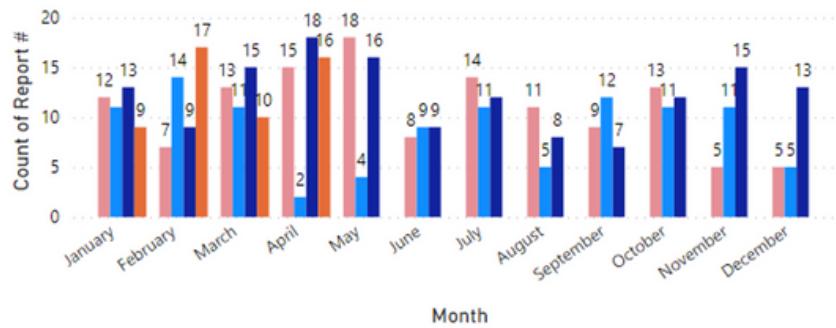


Average BAC



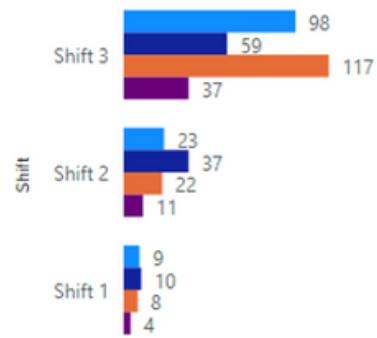
Arrests by Month

Year ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022

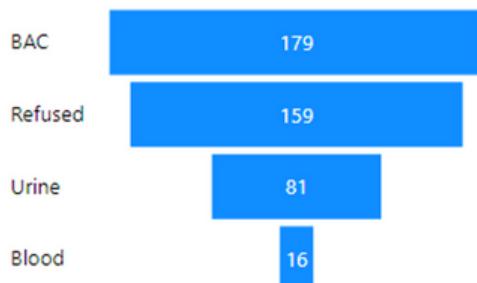


OVI by Year and Shift

Year ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



Testing Type Total

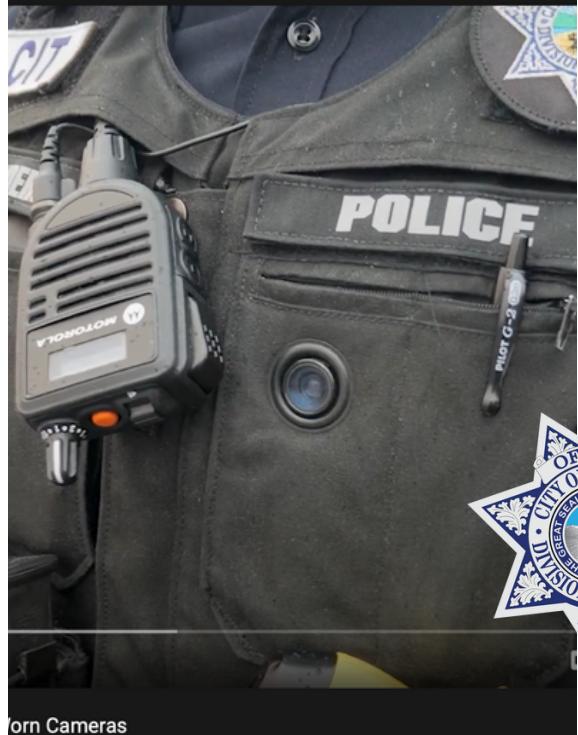


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Investigative Services



- The Division's detectives were assigned 119 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained six investigative subpoenas and executed seven search warrants during the month.

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Suspect in Fatal 2020 Crash Sentenced



Christopher A. McCleese II
(Left)

Christopher Alan McCleese II, age 40 of Columbus, pled guilty last month in Franklin County Common Pleas Court to Aggravated Vehicular Homicide and Attempted Felonious Assault for the death of Shannon E Currier, age 44, of Gahanna. McCleese II was sentenced to 6-9 years in prison with an additional lifetime driving suspension. On the night of January 8, 2020, McCleese II was the driver of a vehicle in which Currier was a passenger. McCleese had active warrants for Domestic Violence in which Currier was the alleged victim. McCleese II fled from officers responding to a call to Currier's Gahanna home crashing into a tree at the intersection of Clark State Road and Headley Road. McCleese sustained only minor injuries and fled from responding Franklin County deputies and the Division's officers but was later apprehended a short distance away. Currier died at the scene of the crash.

Theft Suspect Indicted



Stolen 2021 Honda Civic

On April 27th, 2022, officers of the Division responded to a report of suspicious person at the Vista Apartments. Upon arrival, officers identified two individuals in what was later determined to be a reported stolen vehicle. Officers placed Edward A. Pinson, age 43 of Columbus, under arrest for Receiving Stolen Property. During a search of the stolen vehicle by detectives, numerous stolen items were located. Pinson was later indicted by a Franklin County Grand Jury for two felony counts of Receiving Stolen Property.

Help Needed to Identify



**In-store surveillance image
(Left)**

On April 3rd, 2022, the suspect captured in the below image from an in-store surveillance camera entered the Verizon store at 1253 North Hamilton Road in the StoneRidge complex wearing a Guy Fawkes mask and stole numerous I-Phones. If you recognize the clothing items, please contact detectives.

Retail theft impacts everyone in our community. Anyone with information that may lead to the identity of these suspects is encouraged to contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240. Callers may remain anonymous.

National Police Week

Officer Charles DuVernay

Every year during Peace Officer Memorial Day and Police week we honor the memory and ultimate sacrifice of Gahanna Police Officer Charles DuVernay Badge Number 27. Officer Charles DuVernay was killed on August 4, 1982 when he was struck by a vehicle while directing church traffic on Haven's Corner Road. Officer DuVernay was a United States Marine Corp Veteran and had served with the Gahanna Division of Police for two years. He had previously served with the Berrien County Sheriff's office in Michigan for a year. Officer DuVernay was survived by his wife and two children at the time of his death.



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National Police Week

Honor Guard Attends National Police Officer Memorial Events

This weekend members of the Gahanna Police Honor Guard traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in some of the solemn ceremonies that honor National Peace Officer Memorial Day and Police Week. The Honor Guard attended the Candlelight Vigil, toured the National Law Enforcement Monuments and the Peace Officer Memorial Wall where the names of those who died in the line of duty are memorialized. There is no better place to learn how to perform as an Honor Guard than observing some of the best in the nation competing. Our newly formed Honor Guard may return some day in the future as a competitor.



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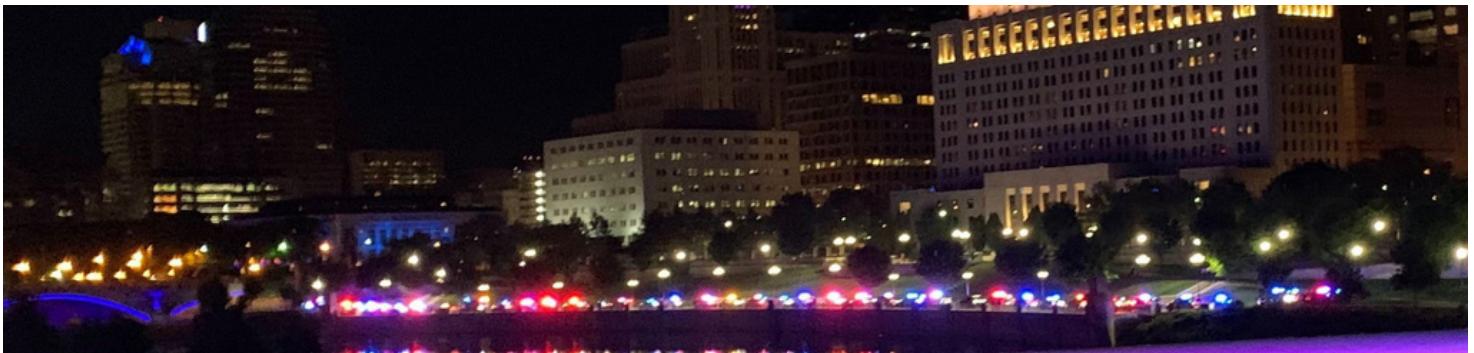


National Police Week



Light Ohio Blue 2022

On May 17, 2022, a cruiser from Gahanna and many communities throughout Ohio participated in a cruiser caravan in support of the Light Ohio Blue Campaign which began in Central Ohio in 2016. Light Ohio Blue is a collaboration between law enforcement, businesses, and government stakeholders to light the Columbus skyline blue for one week in May. The Light Ohio Blue Campaign is designed to honor and support law enforcement who protect their communities and honor and pay respect to the officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. The campaign encourages residents who want to show support for law enforcement to display a blue light as part to their exterior illumination. #LightOhioBlue2022!



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Accreditation Update



The Gahanna Division of Police is very excited to announce that we have begun the process to become certified through The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). CALEA provides the highest standards for law enforcement agencies to abide by, has been in existence since 1979, and is internationally known. By being accredited, the Gahanna Division of Police will ensure the agency is adhering to the highest possible standards, reduce the risk of liability, and solicit greater community involvement.

CALEA accreditation involves a three-step process. The first of which is to develop internal policies and procedures that comply with CALEA's 458 standards. Once we have completed the first phase, the Division will engage in a self-assessment and conduct an internal audit to determine compliance with CALEA standards. During the final phase, a CALEA assessor will do an on-site audit to determine compliance. During this audit, division facilities will be inspected, employees interviewed, and comments will be solicited from the public and other key community stakeholders. The Division is currently involved in phase one of the process and is actively developing and revising the internal policies. We hope to start the self-assessment phase within the next year, and ultimately gain CALEA accreditation in the next three years. It is a great accomplishment to become CALEA accredited as there are only 52 police departments in the State of Ohio that have achieved this honor. The City of Gahanna Division of Police is committed to being the next.

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Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE
"To Serve and Protect"



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."

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