

Hello residents of Washington Township,

Welcome to the police section of the Washington Township website. My name is Rick Core and I am the police chief of The Washington Township Police Department. It is a great honor for me and the officers of this department to serve this community. I have been your police chief since April of 1992 I joined this department in September of 1989. Serving this community has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

We have six officers serving the residents of Washington Township. It is my goal to provide you with professional police protection that you can be proud of. We are a community policing oriented police agency. We are actively involved in the community hosting events such as Community Safety Day, Bike Rodeo, Ident- a- Kid, Gun Safety Lock Give Away program. We also have assisted with Safety Town, and are very involved with the schools. We are involved with Neighborhood Watch Groups that have been organized in the township also. Annually we participate in Officers Memorial Week. Ohio is fifth in the nation for the number of officers killed in the line of duty with 743 officers killed as of end of year 2009. The tracking of officers killed in the line of duty has been in place for nearly a century. Texas was first with 1504 followed by California with 1453, New York with 1305 killed, and Illinois with 948 officers slain while serving their communities. It is important for all officers to participate in this national effort to honor those killed in the line of duty. These are just a few examples of our community policing efforts.

Statistics show that violent crime against police officers is on the rise. We train regularly in hopes that increased training will prepare our officers to deal with these acts of violence. Statistical data shows that an officer is more likely to be killed or assaulted on Friday between the hours of 10:00pm to 2:30am. Officers were least exposed on Wednesdays. On average an officer in the United States is killed in the line of duty every 53 hours. Another alarming statistic shows that over 600,000 officers are assaulted each year. In 2009, 133 officers were killed in the line of duty. This was the lowest number killed in a year since 1960.

### **Goals**

Our number one goal above all else is to protect life and property of the citizens we have taken an oath to protect and serve. I always have invited comments from the public. If you would like to speak with me, you can leave a message on our crime tips line at 937-686-8024 or request a call back from the communication desk at 937-592-5731. I will return calls at my earliest convenience.

### **Calls for Service**

Our daily duties are in a constant cycle of change. Our average calls for service per month have been around 200 calls. The statistics seem to support the thought that we are holding the line and that there has not been an increase in crime in Washington Township.

I think that if the community and the police department work together we can force crime out of our area significantly. Watch your neighbor's house. Protect yourself and your property by making it hard for criminals to victimize you and your family.

If you are going to be away from your home for an extended period of time you can have your home placed on a house check list. This department will collect some very basic information and then check your home regularly while you are away. Contact the crime tips line to schedule a house check or obtain a house check information form.

### **Sound Advice**

Criminals are opportunists. Make sure you secure your vehicles by locking the doors and leaving the windows up. Do not leave anything of value visible in your vehicle. Lock valuables in your trunk if you have to leave items in your vehicle. Residents should park in areas that make it harder for a criminal to intrude such as a well lit area, or a high traffic area. Car alarms are also a deterrent.

Keep outdoor lights on at your home. This serves as a deterrent to would be intruders. The lighting also makes it safer traveling to and from your home. Have your keys ready so that you are not standing at the door longer than necessary looking for your keys. Keeping doors and windows locked make it harder for criminals to gain access to your home. If someone does break into your home there is a good chance they could alert neighbors by making noise in the attempt.

If someone does break into your home while you are there and you can't get to the phone, hit the panic button on your vehicle remote. Someone will call to complain about the noise. If you can get to your phone to dial 911 but you can't speak, we will know where the 911 call came from and we will be on our way.

Always be aware of your surroundings. Watch the people around you. Select possible escape routes or areas to retreat to. One area where people are at risk is while at the ATM. You are very vulnerable here. Generally you are in your vehicle with limited mobility. Most people have their vehicle in park and the assailant is upon you before you can react. The criminal knows you have money at that point and many ATM machines are at the rear of the bank or at least out of sight of the main flow of traffic. A criminal will most likely strike when the bank is closed and it is dark. So go during the day while the bank is open. I like to walk up to the ATM where I have better visibility and more control of my surroundings.

These are just a few tips to help you help us in protecting you and your family. Very small changes in your habits can make you safer.

I hope you have enjoyed your visit to our page on the website. Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see or information you need. Feel free to contact me at any time.

Rick Core

Police Chief