



Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

Rossford Police Department

November 2023

Citizens Police Academy

On September 6th, the Rossford Police Department's 2023 Citizens Police Academy held its week one class. This is the second year that the CPA has been held. In 2022, the CPA graduated 18 citizens, including a city councilman. The 2023 class has 24 participants, including 2 members of city council.

The RPD CPA originated from Chief Todd A. Kitzler's 2022 CLEE capstone project, which was designed to build new partnerships with segments of the community that lacked trust in their police department. It was also built to cement existing partnerships and increase the legitimacy of the Rossford Police Department.

With the assistance of Lieutenant Craig Revill and other members of the department, the 2022 CPA met for 9 weeks for 2 hours each week. Topics covered were: intro to the police department and facility tour; department's mission statement and core values; police recruitment and selection; police use of force; taser demonstration; domestic violence; mental health and addiction strategies; de-escalation laser simulator; traffic enforcement and vehicle pursuits; SRT demo; a case study of a Rossford homicide investigation and conviction; body-worn camera operation; and therapy K-9 introduction. Class participants were given a portfolio and t-shirt. They were also offered to participate in a ride-a-long with the officer of their choice after graduating from the program.

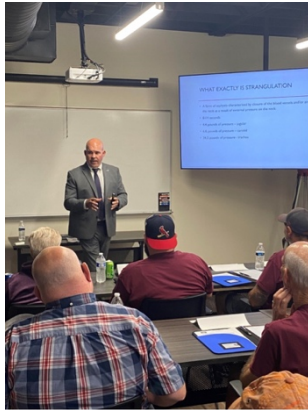
The 2023 CPA structure is much the same as 2022, except that the de-escalation laser simulator has been replaced with a virtual reality simulator. The department has completed 3 weeks of this year's CPA and plans to continue and improve it on a yearly basis.





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Cops and Bobbers

A second community engagement project was initiated in June of 2023 that focused on the youth of the community. Being a city that has marina access to the Maumee River, taking advantage of the local fishing opportunities was an easy choice. Fishing equipment was budgeted for and purchased from the local Bass Pro Shops. Officers were given the opportunity to fish with kids for 4 hours on Thursdays in June and July. Approximately 10-20 kids showed up each week, and even if the fish were not biting, everyone had a great time.



Many kids were able to communicate and interact with officers in a positive way. The child that landed the big fish of the summer was presented with a \$50.00 gift card to Bass Pro and a certificate in his homeroom class at the Rossford Elementary School. As with the CPA, they plan to expand and improve the fishing program on a yearly basis.



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