



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

*Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing*



## Agency of the Month

### Cleveland Police Department

August 2025

The Cleveland Division of Police is a full-service, community-focused law enforcement agency dedicated to protecting and serving the residents of Cleveland, Ohio. With a mission rooted in integrity, professionalism, and transparency, our Division works tirelessly to enhance public safety and build trust across all neighborhoods.

We are composed of five neighborhood-based districts and a range of specialized units, including K-9, SWAT, Aviation, Homicide, Narcotics, and more. Each unit plays a vital role in ensuring proactive enforcement, emergency response, and thorough investigations.

Beyond enforcement, our officers are actively engaged with the community through youth programs, school partnerships, neighborhood watch collaborations, and public safety events. We are proud of our continued efforts to evolve through training, technology, and a commitment to service that reflects the values of the city we serve. Together, we strive not just to enforce the law—but to make Cleveland safer, stronger, and more united.

#### ***Explorers Program***

One of the most impactful youth engagement initiatives is the Cleveland Police Explorers Program a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of America. Designed for young people ages 14 to 20 who are interested in a future career in law enforcement, the Explorers Program provides hands-on training, mentorship, and leadership development from Officers in their Community Relations Unit. Participants learn about police procedures, attend ride-alongs, assist with community events, and gain valuable insight into public service.

The program fosters discipline, responsibility, and civic pride—helping shape the next generation of leaders while strengthening relationships between youth and law enforcement. Through the Explorers, they invest in Cleveland's future by guiding young individuals who are passionate about making a difference.





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## ***Fishing with a Cop***

This initiative breaks down barriers by creating positive, one-on-one interactions that go beyond the uniform. Officers from Community Relations, CPOP program, and others spend the day teaching kids how to fish, sharing stories, and building trust through simple, quality time. With the assistance of The Cleveland Police Foundation, they are able to participate in an event that brings police officers and children together from across the city. For many youth, it's their first time fishing—and often, their first opportunity to engage with police in a friendly and supportive environment. By fostering respect, understanding, and mentorship, the officers aim to inspire future leaders and show that officers are not just law enforcers—they are role models, neighbors, and allies.



## ***Shop with a Cop***

Shop with a Cop is one of the Cleveland Division of Police's most cherished annual traditions, bringing holiday joy to children and families in need across our city. This heartwarming event pairs Cleveland police officers from each district and special units with local youth for a special day of holiday shopping, laughter, and connection. The experience is about building trust, creating positive memories, and reminding young people that they are seen, valued, and supported. Selected through schools, community organizations, and social services, participating children are given gift cards and a one-on-one shopping experience with an officer.

## ***CPOP: Community Problem Oriented Policing***

CPOP officers are dedicated to proactive engagement—working directly with residents, businesses, schools, and organizations to identify concerns, develop strategies, and implement lasting change. Rather than focusing solely on enforcement, the CPOP approach emphasizes visibility, accessibility, and collaboration. Officers attend neighborhood meetings, walk foot patrols, and host events that strengthen relationships and open lines of communication. From addressing quality-of-life issues to mediating conflicts and supporting youth programs, CPOP is about meeting people where they are—and working with the community to solve problems before they escalate.

Through CPOP, the Cleveland Division of Police fosters a policing culture rooted in respect, problem-solving, and shared responsibility for safer, healthier neighborhoods.



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## Statistics:

Park, walk, and talk totals in our system YTD district wide 3,528

Community Engagements YTD City wide 7,327

**\*\* As of 07/01/2025 \*\***

## ***Coffee with a Cop***

Coffee with a Cop is a simple yet powerful initiative that brings Cleveland police officers and community members together over a cup of coffee and casual conversation. Hosted at local coffee shops in each district, libraries, and community spaces across the city, the event creates an open, informal environment for residents to meet the officers who serve their neighborhoods.

There's no agenda and no speeches—just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know one another. By breaking down barriers and humanizing the badge, Coffee with a Cop builds trust, strengthens relationships, and opens the door for honest dialogue between the Cleveland Division of Police and the communities we serve.







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## ***Hispanic Senior Center Events – Pancake breakfast / Spaghetti Lunch***

The Cleveland Division of Police proudly participated in a community outreach event at the Hispanic Senior Center, focused on building relationships, sharing resources, and fostering trust with our Hispanic elder community. This gathering highlights the Division's commitment to inclusive community policing and ensuring that every Cleveland resident—regardless of age, background, or language—feels seen, heard, and supported. By engaging with seniors in culturally respectful ways, we strengthen bonds and create safer, more connected communities. Our CPOP 2nd District Coordinator, Officer Costanzo hand made over 200 homemade meatballs, rigatoni, and a tiramisu dessert for the seniors, as well as cooking and serving a pancake breakfast for them on a separate occasion.

