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Springfield Community Police Programs Brace for Potential Changes Post-Election

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO – (Oct. 25, 2016) – The Springfield Police Division is preparing for potential changes to its Community Police Programs following the upcoming election. On November 8, residents will vote on the City of Springfield’s Issue 2.

The Springfield Police Division implemented the Community Oriented Policing Philosophy in July of 1992. Teams of officers were assigned to specific sectors of the city to build needed relationships and to create programs that would address true concerns of the residents, not just the problems perceived by police. Currently, community-policing programs include the Citizens Police Academy and Alumni Association, Neighborhood Crime Watches, Community Outreach Trainings, Bike/Law Camp, and the part-time Bicycle Unit. The Police Division also hosts Operation Thanksgiving and Operation Santa that provide needy families and children in the community with a traditional holiday experience that may have not been possible without assistance.

The Community Police Programs and the officers assigned to the Community Response Team are housed in the Johnny Lytle Police Substation.

The City of Springfield has placed a 5-year, temporary 0.4% (4/10 of one percent) earned income tax on the November 8th ballot. The passage of Issue 2 will allow the city to reestablish the Neighborhood Streets Improvement Program, reinstate the Safe Streets Task Force to combat violent crime and heroin, cover its \$1 million annual shortfall, as well as rebuild the depleted rainy day fund.

If the issue fails, cuts will be made to police, fire and EMS services, among others. Cuts to police services would include shutting down the Johnny Lytle Community Police Substation and the community policing programs would no longer be funded.

“Our organization takes its relationship with the community seriously,” said Police Chief Steve Moody. “The loss of the Johnny Lytle Community Police Substation, along with the officers assigned to those duties and the programs and relationships they foster, will essentially eviscerate community policing efforts in the City of Springfield. As peace officers in today’s society, we absolutely want to prevent that from occurring.”

For more information about the City of Springfield, visit www.springfieldohio.gov.