



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact  
Bryan Heck  
Deputy City Manager  
(937) 324-7300

### **Twelfth Class of Springfield Police Officers Graduates from Crisis Intervention Team Training**

SPRINGFIELD, OH— (November 3, 2017)— A class of Springfield Police Division officers recently graduated from the week-long Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training conducted by the Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB) of Clark, Greene and Madison counties. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> class of officers to graduate from the annual training, which was held from Sept. 25-29, 2017, at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

CIT is an internationally recognized best practice training program for law enforcement officers that teaches them to respond to crisis situations involving individuals with mental health issues. Officers receive both classroom and practical training to hone their skills for responding to these crisis situations. Springfield officers and officers from surrounding jurisdictions that are also covered by the MHRB of Clark, Greene and Madison counties attended the training together.

To date, 55 Springfield Police Division officers have graduated from this program, 38 of whom are still employed in Springfield. The 2017 graduating class consists of officers Cassidy Cantrell, Stephen Henson and Wendy Kibler. Police Division Captain Lee Graf and Tracey Stute, director of treatment, prevention and support for MHRB of Clark, Greene and Madison counties, also attended the graduation ceremony.

During the ceremony, Springfield Police Division Officer Joseph Robinson received the CIT Officer of the Year Award for his exemplary use of the basic principles of CIT when interacting with individuals in severe distress or dealing with issues related to mental illness. One highlighted example was Robinson's handling of a violent, suicidal individual who was armed with a knife and had several self-inflicted knife wounds. Using his CIT training, Robinson was able to establish a rapport with the individual, calm them and convince them to hand over the knife. He was eventually able to convince the individual to go with the officers to the hospital for treatment and to receive help from the MHRB. Captain Lee Graf presented Robinson with the award.

The Springfield Police Division is a strong supporter of this CIT training program and works with MHRB regularly to provide this and other trainings to its officers.

"It is our priority to train our officers to be able to appropriately respond to any situation in a way that will ensure the safety of all involved parties," said Police Chief Stephen Moody. "We are committed to continuing to send officers to this training and other trainings that we believe will help our officers' performance in the field. I thank the Mental Health Recovery Board for their partnership in this effort. Congratulations to the graduates!"

For more information about the City of Springfield, visit [www.springfieldohio.gov](http://www.springfieldohio.gov).

###