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City of Springfield's Citizen's Police Academy

SPRINGFIELD, OH — (October 6, 2016) – The 21st Citizen's Police Academy began last week on Tuesday, September 20. The goal of this 13-week program is to foster a relationship between citizens and police by educating the public on police division operations and practices.

"With a growing divide in the nation between communities and police forces, programs like this are very beneficial," said Police Chief Steve Moody, "A lot of the issues we face as communities can be solved by a better understanding of each other."

There are two Citizen's Police Academy courses held each year, with one in the spring and one in the fall. Participants must be at least 21 years of age, have no felony convictions, have no misdemeanor convictions involving drugs or violence, have no misdemeanor convictions of any kind in the past three years and submit to a background check. Class sizes are limited to 20 people.

The course is broken up into multiple sections, each focusing on a different area of policing. For instance, some of the classes include K-9 operation, special operations teams or traffic enforcement, with special presentations from Clark County Prosecutor Andy Wilson, Municipal Court Judge Denise Moody, and City Manager Jim Bodenmiller. The academy is not intended to serve as an accredited law enforcement course.

Participants in the program are encouraged to ask tough questions. The open and honest dialogue creates mutual respect, trust and cooperation for all individuals involved. Participants are also encouraged to ride along with officers during the program to get a first hand view of an officer's day-to-day operations.

"I would encourage anyone who wants to learn more about police work in our community to join the program," said City Manager Jim Bodenmiller. "This is an important opportunity to not only bring citizens and police together, but to strengthen that relationship over time."

To learn more about what the Springfield Police Division does for the community visit the city website at www.springfieldohio.gov.

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