



TPD Monthly Community Newsletter

April, 1 2019

TPD tracks officer-initiated citations by demographics

For the first time in Topeka Police Department history, Chief Cochran publicly released data including demographic breakdowns of officer-initiated citations.

The data released breakdowns citations and criminal infractions by race and other demographics in an effort to evaluate bias.

"For me, the data was reassuring in the aspect that our officers are doing the right things for the right reasons," Topeka Police Chief Bill Cochran said.

Since January, 2018 when Chief Cochran began tracking the data, TPD has implemented multiple training enhancements to continue the department's efforts to be unbiased and culturally aware.

These training enhancements include cultural proficiency training for all TPD staff, bias-based policing training, legal updates, cultural awareness panels for Recruit Officers and Topeka Police Explorers as well as the development of a Law Enforcement Bilingual Certification program for Spanish speaking officers at TPD.

The full report can be accessed online [here](#).



TPD's 56th Police Academy Class to graduate

The Topeka Police Department's 56th Police Academy Class is set to graduate fifteen Recruit Officers in April.

TPD is unique in that it hosts its own Police Academy. There are only a handful of agencies in Kansas who have their own academy.

TPD's Police Academy is six months in length and recruits receive more than 890 hours of training in total.

After the 15 recruits graduate from the academy, the training doesn't stop. The recruits will begin working in patrol alongside a seasoned Field Training Officer. The recruits go through three phases, each with a different Field Training Officer before being released on their own.

The Recruit Officers have diverse backgrounds and are committed to making Topeka a safe place to work, live and play.

Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships

Council to travel to all nine Topeka City Council Districts

Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships is a program created by the Department of Justice that engages local law enforcement professionals and community leaders in a dialogue to identify issues and solve problems collaboratively.

The SPCP program came to Topeka in June, 2018. Topeka was the second city in the country to host the program.

The program is designed to improve public safety by strengthening trust and developing partnerships between law enforcement and the diverse communities they serve.

The SPCP Council who is involved in the program is made up of diverse men and women from Topeka and Shawnee County.

Since its start in 2018, the council and Topeka Police Chief Bill Cochran have been meeting to discuss current issues throughout the community.

The council is now traveling to all nine Topeka City Council Districts to discuss what has been accomplished since June, 2018 and to also receive feedback from the community.

The SPCP Council traveled and met with citizens from both District 1 and District 2 in February and March.

The council will travel to District 3 on April 15. The District 3 discussion will be at 6:30 p.m. at the CRC CARE Center located at Avondale East.

Future discussions will be posted [here](#).

You can reach out to the SPCP Council by emailing them at spcp@topeka.org.

Local and state law enforcement agencies participate in panel discussion with youth

The Topeka Police Department and several area agencies participated in a panel in March focusing on fostering positive relationships with youth and law enforcement.



"We are extremely proud of our partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka. We are honored that the Boys & Girls Clubs Kansas Alliance invited us and so many other remarkable agencies to gather in Topeka to participate in this important discussion with Kansas youth," said Topeka Police Chief Bill Cochran. "By investing in the youth in our communities, we are setting ourselves up for a successful future that we all can be proud of."

Participating agencies included: the Coffeyville Police Department, the Hutchinson Police Department, the Junction City Police Department, the Kansas Attorney General, the Kansas Bureau of Investigations, the Lawrence Police Department, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department, the Riley County Police Department, the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office, the Topeka Police Department and the Wichita Police Department.

Participating Boys & Girls Clubs included: Boys & Girls Club of Coffeyville, Boys & Girls Club of Hutchinson, Boys & Girls Club of Junction City/Geary County, Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan, Boys & Girls Club of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Boys & Girls Club of South Central KS, Boys & Girls Club of Topeka and McConnell AFB Youth Services.

How to be a good witness and assist TPD

A note from Topeka Police Lieutenant Robbie Simmons:

The Topeka Police Department has a very difficult job and we could not do it without the help of the fine citizens we serve in Topeka. I am Lieutenant Robbie Simmons with the Topeka Police Department and currently oversee 2nd shift Field Operations. One of our primary functions in Field Operations is to respond to calls for service which are typically generated by citizens calling Dispatch. First, I want to commend you all for calling us when you see criminal activity or maybe just something suspicious. The fact that you take the time to call us means you care about this community and we appreciate that more than you know. Secondly, I want to take a moment to discuss some of the information that is very helpful to our officers when you call dispatch about criminal or suspicious activity:

· Location

- o The location is the first thing you should tell dispatch when you talk to them. If your call is dropped or your phone is taken away from you, we will know where to go.
- o The more specific you can be with the location, the better. If you have a physical address, please give that to dispatch.

· What is happening

o When a call comes into dispatch, they are prioritized before being sent to our officers. The more significant the call is, the quicker it will be dispatched to our officers. When you call, make sure the dispatcher has all of the important details they need pertaining to what is happening. Remember the information is being relayed over the phone so you are our eyes. If you don't tell us what you see, we won't have that information to figure out how we will respond to the call. Is anyone hurt? Is there an active physical altercation? Are there weapons involved? How many people are involved? These are some of the things that may determine where the call is prioritized.

• Descriptions

o The more details you can provide on subjects and vehicles involved, the better.

o When describing people, explain the gender, race, type and color of clothing, type and color of shoes, hair style and color, approximate height and weight, tattoos or other characteristics that may be unique, etc. If they are armed with a weapon it is extremely important for us to know what they are armed with as it may change how we respond and approach the subject.

o When describing vehicles, try to get the make, model, license plate number, color, approximate year, whether the windows are tinted, if there are decals on the windows or bumpers, if there is damage to the car anywhere, if the vehicle has a special type of wheels, a loud muffler, etc. If you can, try your best to get an accurate tag number. Write down the tag number as soon as you can to ensure it is accurate when given to the police.

In the end, what matters most is that you call us and tell us what is happening. You, the citizens of Topeka, are our eyes and ears in the community. With under 300 sworn officers in a community of over 120,000 citizens, we can't be everywhere and we need your help. Thank you for being part of the solution in making Topeka the best it can be.

Sharps container located in TPD lobby Med Safe located in TPD lobby

The Topeka Police Department is home to a sharps container in the Law Enforcement Center lobby, allowing citizens to dispose of approved sharps 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Approved medical sharp objects include but are not limited to, syringes, needles, needle connectors, lancets, auto injectors and infusion sets. Once collected, the sharps will be disposed by the Shawnee County Solid Waste Department.

In 2018 the Topeka Police Department placed a drug safe called "Med Safe" in the lobby of the Law Enforcement Center.

The drug safe allows citizens to bring in and dispose of old or unwanted prescription drugs in a completely safe manner. As is the case for the sharps container, citizens are able to drop off unused medications in the Med Safe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in our lobby.

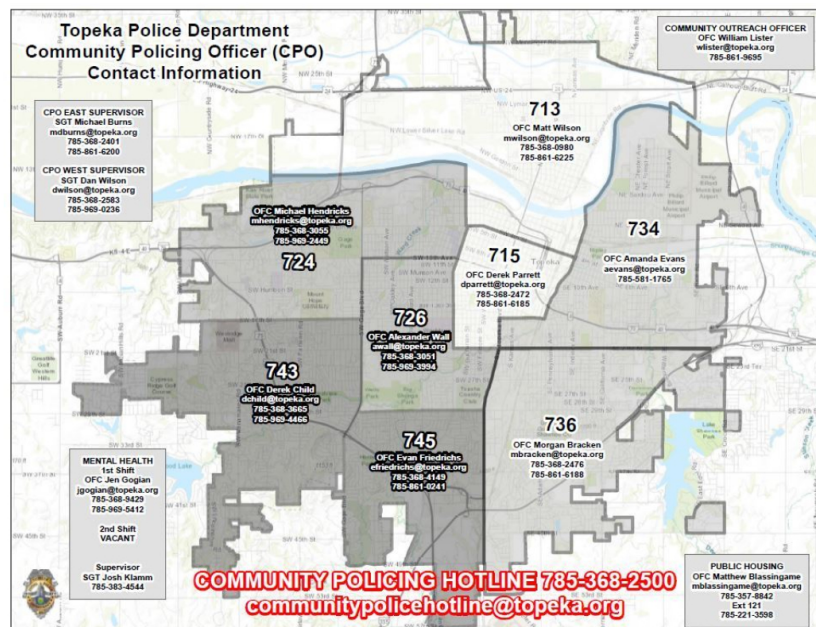


April Community Events/Meetings

- **April 1:** 6:30 p.m. - Highland Acres NIA Meeting - Highland Park High School - 2424 SE California Ave.
- **April 1:** 7:00 p.m. - North Topeka West NIA Meeting - Papan's Landing Senior Center - 621 NW Paramore St.
- **April 3:** 11:45 a.m. - Safe Streets Coalition Meeting - Great Overland Station - 701 N Kansas Ave.
- **April 3:** 4:15 p.m. - Police Athletic League Chess League - Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka - 550 SE 27th St.
- **April 4:** 6:30 p.m. - East Topeka North NIA Meeting - Salvation Army - 1320 SE 6th St.
- **April 4:** 6:30 p.m. - Likins Foster NIA Meeting - Countryside Methodist Church - 3221 SW Burlingame Rd.
- **April 8:** 6:00 p.m. - Quinton Heights-Steele NIA Meeting - Grace United Methodist Church - 2627 SW Western
- **April 8:** 6:00 p.m. - Historic North Topeka East NIA Meeting - Garfield Community Center -1600 N Quincy St.
- **April 8:** 7:00 p.m. - NOTOMA Meeting - Garfield Community Center -1600 N Quincy St.
- **April 9:** 12:00 p.m. - North Topeka Business Alliance Meeting - Great Overland Station - 701 N Kansas Ave.
- **April 9:** 6:00 p.m. - One Topeka Family Coalition Meeting - Lighthouse Center - 2020 SE 21st St.
- **April 9:** 6:30 p.m. - Elmhurst NA Meeting - Topeka Shawnee County Public Library - 1515 SW 10th Ave.
- **April 10:** 4:15 p.m. - Police Athletic League Chess League - Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka - 550 SE 27th St.
- **April 10:** 6:30 p.m. - Historic Old Town NIA Meeting - Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - 725 SW Buchanan St
- **April 11:** 6:30 p.m. - East End NIA Meeting - Rice Community Center - 432 NE Norwood St.
- **April 11:** 6:30 p.m. - Chesney Park NIA Meeting - Red Cross - 17th & Lincoln, 1st Floor

- **April 15:** 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships (SPCP) - District 3 Discussion - CRC CARE Center @ Avondale East - 455 SE Golf Park Blvd.
- **April 15:** 6:30 p.m. - Oakland NIA Meeting - Oakland Community Center - 801 NE Poplar St.
- **April 15:** 6:30 p.m. - Rolling Meadows NA - American Legion - 3800 SE Michigan Ave.
- **April 15:** 7:00 p.m. - College Hill NA Meeting - Westminster Presbyterian Church - 1275 SW Boswell Ave.
- **April 17:** 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Police Athletic League Chess League - Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka - 550 SE 27th St.
- **April 17:** 6:30 p.m. National Night Out Planning Meeting - Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library - 1515 SW 10th Ave.
- **April 18:** 6:00 p.m. - Monroe NIA Meeting - Brown vs. Board - 1515 SE Monroe St.
- **April 18:** 6:30 p.m. - Central Highland Park NIA Meeting - Hillcrest Community Center - 1800 SE 21st St.
- **April 18:** 6:30 p.m. - Central Park NIA Meeting - Central Park Community Center - 1534 SW Clay St.
- **April 20:** 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - North Central Regional Track and Field Competition - Special Olympics of Kansas - Shawnee Heights High School - 4201 SE Shawnee Heights Rd.
- **April 20:** 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Easter Egg Hunt - SE 12th & SE Washington
- **April 22:** 7:00 p.m. - East Topeka South NIA Meeting - Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka Teen Center - 1112 SE 10th Ave.
- **April 23:** 6:00 p.m. - One Topeka Family Coalition Meeting - Lighthouse Center - 2020 SE 21st St.
- **April 23:** 7:00 p.m. - Crestview NA Meeting - Crestview United Methodist Church - 2245 SW Eveningside Dr.
- **April 24:** 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Police Athletic League Chess League - Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka - 550 SE 27th St.
- **April 25:** 6:00 p.m. - Hi-Crest NIA Meeting - Avondale East School - 455 SE Golf Park Blvd.
- **April 25:** 6:30 p.m. - Ward Meade NIA Meeting - Westside Baptist Church - 1008 SW 4th St.

Find out who your Community Police Officer is



Crisis Intervention Team Officer

Officer Jennifer Gogian

The Crisis Intervention Team model encourages communities, families, law enforcement officers and mental health professionals to act as a compass for persons with mental illness. Officer Gogian responds to calls involving those who have mental health challenges or those who are experiencing a crisis.

Officer Gogian be reached at jgogian@topeka.org.

Important Numbers

Shawnee County Crime Stoppers/Gun Stoppers Tip Line: (785) 234-0007

Community Policing Hotline: (785) 368-2500



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