

# Columbia Heights Police Department

Annual Report 2016



COMMITTED HELPFUL PROFESSIONAL DEDICATED



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## A Letter from Chief Scott Nadeau

Dear Elected Officials and Community Partners,

Policing in the United States continued to undergo intense scrutiny in 2016 as there continued to be increasing calls for transparency, professionalism, and a more community-centric approach to policing America's cities. These concerns were the focus of news media stories, social media attention, and both national and local protests. Concerns ranged from police use of force, to the perceptions of police militarization, and whether police were targeting people for enforcement based on race, ethnicity, religion, or socio-economic status. Police were often characterized as being bigoted, culturally insensitive, and too quick to use deadly force. At the same time our nation endured a polarizing election cycle which increased tension and seemed to further drive a wedge between many Americans. With all of this tension, and what some called a "War on Police", many police agencies seemed to pull back from community dialogues, resisting the pressures to work within their communities and build effective partnerships through positive relationships and increased understanding. I am proud to say that the CHPD joined the ranks of other agencies that did just the opposite, expanding and strengthening our relationships within our community while continuing to utilize our community policing model to decrease crime, solve problems, and empower our community partners to be an active part of promoting our communities safety.

One of the ways that we increased our understanding of and improved relationships within our diverse community this year was by establishing our Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee (MAC), a group of community members that reflects our diverse community and helped the police department to better understand and respond to the ever-changing issues in our city. The MAC was modeled after similar successful programs which originated in Hennepin County, and meets regularly to advise the police department on issues from the perspectives of all of our residents. After being formed for only a couple of months, the MAC has already made a difference in our community, assisting at community events and helping us to facilitate community dialogues on important but difficult subjects such as policing and racial bias. Our consulting with community partners is essential to our community policing efforts and the MAC is an important advisory resource that we will continue to utilize and expand going into the future.

In 2016, crime continued to decrease in Columbia Heights and Hilltop, marking the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of decreasing crime while bringing crime rates to levels not seen in our community since 1983. Our agency is now well versed in identifying problems early, adopting proactive methods of response, and then working with our community and strategic partners to mitigate crime and community problems promptly and effectively. Whether we are working with schools on a runaway youth, landlords on a problem tenant, neighborhoods on a livability issue, or any of the other situation that gives rise to crime or disorder, we have continued to strengthen and expand our partnerships, both increasing our effectiveness and expanding our community outreach. Understanding that crime is a community issue and not just an issue for the police, we have continued to look for effective and sometimes innovative ways to solve problems. In an example from 2016, we found that we had a number of Somali youth that were having an ongoing dispute that was not diminishing despite some traditional measures such as

sending people to court and contacting parents. Through our community partners we were able to schedule a community meeting where those involved in the dispute, their parents, influential community members, community elders, and religious leaders were able to gather together in a safe and open space where all felt secure enough to exchange information and solve these ongoing issues in a way that immediately and permanently rectified the situation. I cannot overstate how proud I am of the important partnerships we have built, or how effective they have been in helping to make a safer and more connected community.

Also in 2016 we continued to take community partnerships to the next level by working with our elected officials, community development, public works, county officials, Somali community, school district and others on the Circle Terrace Park initiative. This important initiative demonstrates the promise of what community policing can accomplish as an effort to positively and passionately work with strategic and community partners to prevent crime by changing the environment and promise of a neighborhood. After two years of hard work and conversations with neighborhood residents, we began the work of enlarging and redeveloping this park while also building a small community center. In the community center, we will bring together a number of services and community building activities that will provide needed access to education and help our primarily immigrant residents to connect. This project was initiated after this neighborhood had experienced a homicide, and the arrest of a young man who was recruited by a terrorist organization. Our work to build relationships in this neighborhood while instilling a sense of trust and partnerships has now received national attention.

This past year was another year of achievement in Columbia Heights as the city worked collaboratively with our community partners to see that our community, and our youth in particular, thrived and were successful. After submitting a detailed application and then competing with twenty of our nation's most progressive cities, the City of Columbia Heights was selected as one of only ten **2016 All-America Cities** by the National Civic League in June. I was proud that the efforts of our community and strategic partners were recognized with this prestigious award, highlighting the achievements of our community. This award demonstrates all that is possible when a community truly works together in a shared vision to benefit its residents. The Police Department also received recognition in 2016 from the Somali Community, the Trinidad National Police for mentoring a Humphrey Police Fellow, and from our friends and partners in the Polish National Police from our Sister City of Lomianki, Poland. It was our distinct pleasure to host the Mayor and three Polish National Police Officers in August when they traveled here as the second half of our Sister City Police Officer Exchange (see story page 13). We were also honored as I received a **President's Award** from the Minnesota Chiefs of Police in April, Sgt. Justin Pletcher was selected as one of law enforcement's **"40 under 40"** in the world by the IACP in October, and Karen Olson was selected as the **Columbia Heights Employee of the Year** in December.

Although 2016 was a challenging year for law enforcement I would like to thank our elected officials, partners and most importantly our community for their continued support. It is through the amazing partnerships and support that we have received all that allows us to continue in our efforts to reduce crime and build relationships based on trust, compassion, and respect. In 2017 and beyond we will continue to live out our mission and core values as we commit to strengthening our All-America City of Columbia Heights, growing its reputation as a great place to live, work, worship and visit.

*Scott Nadeau*

Chief of Police

# Organizational Structure





## Police Employees in 2016

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Serving From</u>
Scott Nadeau	Chief of Police	04-21-08
Lenny Austin	Captain	02-15-95
Ted Fischer	Sergeant	10-30-92
Matthew Markham	Sergeant	08-31-98
Erik Johnston	Sergeant	12-02-02
Justin Pletcher	Sergeant	05-24-10
Terence Nightingale	Police Officer	04-01-85
Steven Korts	Police Officer	09-13-89 Retired 03-27-16
Paul Bonesteel	DTF Detective	09-08-94
Joe Sturdevant	Police Officer	05-06-96 Last Day 04-21-16
Dale Sorensen	Police Officer/Street Crimes Unit	09-11-97
Matthew Aish	Police Officer	08-30-99
Gregory Sinn	Police Officer	06-05-00
Jason Piehn	High School Liaison	04-04-05
Danielle Pregler	Middle School Liaison	03-19-06
Erik Hanson	Police Officer	02-05-07
Joseph Pikala	Police Officer/Investigator	08-12-08
William Monberg	Police Officer	10-13-08
Timothy Noll	Investigator	11-19-12
Jacob Hilden	Police Officer	05-14-13
Andrew Museus	COP Coordinator	05-13-13
Jacqueline Thurmes	Police Officer	02-24-14
Joshua Huebner	Police Officer	11-17-14
Hashim Abdullahi	Police Officer	01-12-15
Mohammed Farah	Police Officer	01-13-15
Tabitha Wood	Police Officer	09-18-15
Ryan Scheevel	Police Officer	03-21-16
Ibrahim Farah	PT CSO/Police Officer	09-21-15 Promoted 04-27-16
Jacquelyn Urbaniak	Police Officer	11-28-16
Karen Olson	Office Supervisor	02-19-86
Elizabeth O'Brien	Records Technician	08-20-90
Ramon Gomez	Records Technician	11-04-13
Emily Kriesel	Records Technician	09-21-15
Jason Nihart	Information Systems Specialist	06-11-15
Jerry Wellman	Community Service Officer	01-25-06
Richard Vang	PT Community Svc Officer	06-19-15 Last Day 12-28-16
Zahra Almosawi	PT Community Svc Officer	09-21-15
Asiangel Moua	PT Community Svc Officer	01-14-16 Last Day 11-07-16
Tony Miller	PT Community Svc Officer	10-26-16
Kris Ehlert	PT Community Svc Officer	10-26-16 Last Day 12-12-16

## Employee Highlights

### Promotion: Ibrahim Farah

**Ibrahim Farah** started his career with the CHPD as a part-time Community Service Officer in September 2015. In April 2016, he was promoted to police officer. Ibrahim was born in Mogadishu, Somalia and came to the United States at a very young age. His interest in law enforcement stems from his desire to serve the community. He believes in our approach to community policing and looks forward to connecting with the community.



### Retirement: Steven Korts

**Officer Steven Korts** retired from the CHPD after nearly 27 years of service. Steve joined the department in September of 1989 and retired on March 28, 2016. During that time, Steve served in various assignments including two stints in Investigations and as a liaison to the Business Watch program.



### New Employee: Ryan Scheevel

**Ryan Scheevel** started at the CHPD on March 21, 2016, coming to us by way of the Boulder, Colorado Police Department where he worked for five years. He grew up in Minnesota and was looking forward to coming back here to be closer to family. He was the Boulder PD's 2013 Officer of the Year, thanks to his work with their newly created neighborhood impact team. Ryan, who has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Winona State University, cited the CHPD's investment in community policing and outreach programs as reasons for his interest in working here.



### New Employee: Jacquelyn Urbaniak

**Jacquelyn Urbaniak's** first day with the CHPD was November 28, 2016. She worked for over three years as a dispatcher with the Washington County Sheriff's Office. While she was employed there, she completed her Bachelor of Science degree through Metro State University. Jackie interned with the CHPD in the summer of 2016, working on such projects as the Circle Terrace survey and assisting on National Night Out.



### New Employee: PT CSO Tony Miller

**Tony Miller** was a recent graduate of Columbia Heights High School when he began working for the CHPD in October 2016. Tony's goal is to work in law enforcement, and he's currently working on a degree in criminal justice. Officers from CHPD were familiar with Tony because of our contacts with him through youth outreach at the high school.





## Employee Achievements

### Officer Mohammed Farah

On November 2, 2016, Officer Mohammed Farah took part in a panel discussion on cultural understanding and communication at the Willmar, Minnesota Police Department. Officer Farah was asked to join that panel because of his role with the Somali American Police Association (Officer Farah is that group's current President) and because of the Columbia Heights Police Department's active community outreach to the community's diverse populations.



### Team Heights Pride: Pletcher, M. Farah And Museus

On Saturday, August 20, Team Heights Pride - consisting of Sgt. Justin Pletcher and Officers Mohammed Farah and Andy Museus - took 2nd place in the Public Safety Challenge at this year's Shawn Silvera 5k in Lino Lakes. It was a cold and rainy day for a run, but these officers didn't let that stop them!



### Captain Lenny Austin

Also on August 20, Captain Lenny Austin competed in the 2016 USA Powerlifting Wolf Powerlifting Open in Winneconne, WI. Captain Austin won the Bench Press Division with a bench press of 400 pounds. Yes, you read that correctly....400 pounds!



### IACP 40 Under 40: Sergeant Justin Pletcher

Sergeant Justin Pletcher has been named by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as one of this year's "40 Under 40". This award is given by the IACP to 40 young law enforcement professionals who demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment. Justin's passion about service to the community and his work on various outreach programs were cited as reasons for his receiving this prestigious award.



## Department Awards

### Award of Merit: Officer Jacob Hilden



Officer Jake Hilden received an Award of Merit for an incident on September 25, 2016 where he came upon a sexual assault in a vehicle at Silver Lake Beach. Officer Hilden's high degree of professionalism and excellent police work led to an arrest which kept the crime from potentially becoming more serious. He developed a rapport with the juvenile female victim and ensured that she received the appropriate help and that her parents were notified. He also worked with the Anoka County Criminal Investigation Division to ensure the suspect was properly charged.

### City of Columbia Heights Employee of the Year: Karen Olson

Mayor Gary Peterson and City Manager Walt Fehst bestowed the honor of 2016 Columbia Heights Employee of the Year to our Office Manager, Karen Olson. The criteria for this award is; Public Relations, Consistency of Performance, and Significant Accomplishments. Karen exceeds these measures through her knowledge, upbeat personality, humor, and grace. She works with the entire police department, citizens, and different jurisdictions at the state and local levels.



## Citizen Awards

### Brian Jakubowski

Chief Scott Nadeau recognized Brian Jakubowski with a Citizen's Award of Commendation for his actions on September 1st of this year. Mr. Jakubowski found a bank bag containing a large amount of cash that had been lost by another resident. Mr. Jakubowski turned the money into the police department and the owner was located and the money returned to him. We would like to commend Mr. Jakubowski for his integrity, and for setting an example we all can follow.



### Michael Volkman



On August 26, 2016, Michael Volkman observed suspicious behavior at his neighbor's house and believed that criminal activity was afoot. Mr. Volkman called 911 and relayed vital information about the suspects and their behavior. Officers arrived and discovered that a burglary was in progress and were able to arrest three individuals after they had fled the scene on foot. Because of Mr. Volkman's quick response to call 911, and his willingness to get involved and report this suspicious activity, Columbia Heights Police Officers could quickly respond to the location, set up a perimeter, and took all the suspects into custody. All three suspects were later charged with First Degree Burglary. Because of Mr. Volkman's actions, he was presented with the CHPD's Citizen's Award of Commendation.



## Department Awards

### Minnesota Chiefs of Police President's Award: Chief Scott Nadeau



Chief Scott Nadeau received the Minnesota Chiefs of Police President's Award from MN Chiefs of Police President Hugo McPhee (Chief of Police of the Three Rivers Park Police Department) at the 2016 MCPA Executive Training Institute on April 19, 2016.

The award highlighted Chief Nadeau's leadership in bringing community oriented policing to the agency, a transformation that led to important police-community partnerships and resulted in eight straight years of crime reduction and increased community and stakeholder support as evidenced

by active partnerships and survey results. In addition, the community has experienced a sharp decline in youth arrests. Chief Nadeau's work in diversifying the CHPD's workforce was also cited in the award.



### Somali Officers Award: Chief Scott Nadeau

On November 26, 2016 at the Somali American Police Association conference, Chief Nadeau received an award from the group thanking him and expressing "great appreciation for your commitment to the philosophy of community policing."



### Recognition from Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

The CHPD was fortunate to be able to spend some time during 2015 and 2016 with Clint Arthur, who is a police administrator from the country of Trinidad and Tobago. Clint was a visiting fellow with the Humphrey School of Business and graduated in the spring of 2016 after an intensive course of study with other international fellows. In this picture, Clint is presenting the CHPD with a plaque thanking the CHPD for its partnership during his stay in Minnesota.

## 2016 Awards: ALL-AMERICA CITY

The National Civic League selected Columbia Heights as one of ten cities to win the 2016 All-America City Award for outstanding community accomplishments.

To be considered for this prestigious designation, cities across the nation are asked to prepare an application that outlines community solutions that tackle city-wide challenges. This year, the National Civic League centered the criteria for community solutions around cities' ability to ensure that all children are healthy and successful in school and in life. Columbia Heights came through as a shining example of a community that has risen to the occasion of putting children first through collaborative efforts such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, recreation and education outreach programs, the City of Peace Park initiative, building a modern library and a strong City, Police Department and School District partnership. The Police Department was proud that its initiatives played a significant role in the City's application for this prestigious award. Chief Nadeau, Sergeant Pletcher and Officer Mohammed Farah, who traveled with the Columbia Heights contingent to the conference in Denver, Colorado, cited the experience as an amazing and uplifting opportunity.



Counter-clock wise: 1) The entire Columbia Heights set of travelers show their HEIGHTS PRIDE! 2) Mayor Peterson dresses as a traditional Hylander; the school district mascot. 3) Chief Nadeau shares his part of the presentation. 4) Sergeant Pletcher talks about community involvement. 5) Officer M. Farah shows off plans for the upcoming City of Peace Park.





## Police Operations

**Chief of Police:** The Chief of Police is responsible for creating an organizational structure most conducive to maximizing resources for effective and efficient delivery of police services to the Cities of Columbia Heights and Hilltop. The Chief also ensures and maintains a work environment for employees that fosters professional growth, career development and mentoring. Scott Nadeau has been Columbia Heights' Chief of Police since April of 2008.

**Patrol Division:** The Patrol Division responds to all emergency and non-emergency calls for service. There are 14 Patrol Officers who are supervised by four shift Sergeants. The Sergeants are supervised by the Captain. The objectives outlined in the department's Strategic Plan form the guideline for the patrol function including an emphasis on patrol officers acting as problem-solvers, not just report-takers.

**Investigations Division:** The Investigations Division reviews all police reports of criminal incidents, and these cases are assigned based on the type of crime and solvability. The Investigations Sergeant oversees one officer assigned to general investigation, two officers assigned as School Resource Officers at the Columbia Heights High School and Columbia Academy Middle School, and one officer who is assigned to the Anoka Hennepin Drug Task Force. The Investigations Division works closely with the Patrol Division and other law enforcement partners to ensure a successful resolution on cases.

**Street Crimes Unit:** This two officer unit which began operations in mid-2012 is an extension of a detail formerly known as the "Summer Initiative". The SCU is designed to focus on specific areas in the city to target crime and nuisance activity issues using Problem Oriented Policing (POP) strategies.

**Community Service Officers (CSOs):** The Community Service Officers are uniformed civilians who function in a support role to the patrol division. There are one full-time and five part-time CSOs working under the direction of a Sergeant. Their duties include code enforcement, prisoner transports, subpoena service, traffic control details and interacting with the community's youth at Open Gym.

**Support Services:** The Support Services staff provides a variety of technical, clerical and information technology services important to the operation of the department. There are three Records Technicians, an Information Systems Specialist, and a Police Office Supervisor.

4 in 24: On Tuesday, March 8th and Wednesday, March 9th the CHPD attended 4 community events in 24 hours.

1) Community dinner at St Timothy's church, Tuesday evening – We were invited to help serve at St. Timothy's monthly community dinner, and enjoyed visiting with those who attended.

2) Latino Parent Academy, Wednesday morning – Officers participated in an open forum with Latino parents of CH students. The discussion included information on Teen Academy, Neighborhood Watch, and traffic laws.

3) Lunch at Bridgeview, Wednesday noon – Bridgeview, a drop-in center for adults living with mental illness, is a program of the Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well-Being in Fridley. We visited with staff and members about their programs.

4) The Mayor's Music Night and Chili Feed, Wednesday evening – Mayor Peterson invited the community to a fun night of music and fellowship over a bowl of his award-winning chili. Proceeds will go towards renovating the Murzyn Hall flag pole.



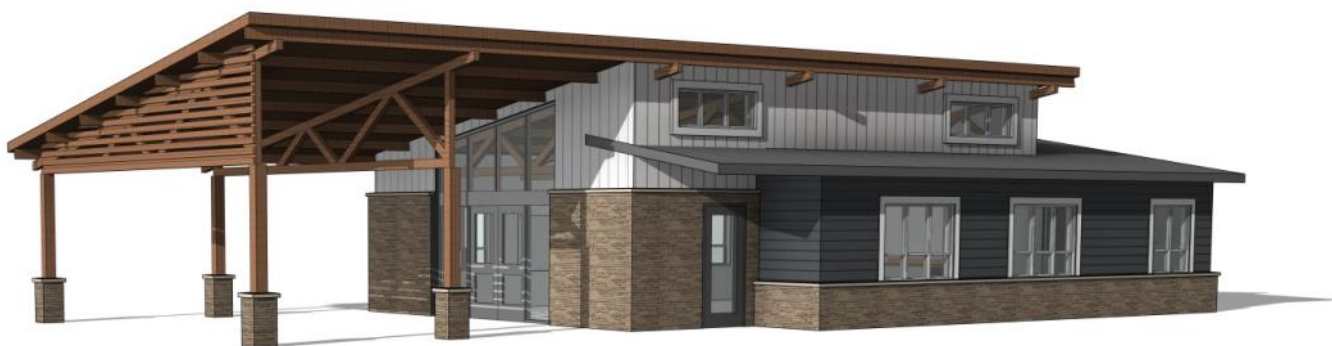
*IS Specialist Nihart and Officer M. Farah serve dinner at St. Timothy's Church.*



## Major Department Initiatives

### Circle Terrace Project

What began as a pipedream in early 2015 has become a reality. When the Columbia Heights Police Department first began its efforts towards building a community and recreation center in the Circle Terrace neighborhood, it was unclear if it would ever come to fruition. However, after meeting with political leaders, community partners, and our local government officials the building was granted funding through federal community development block grants (CDBG) in April of 2016. The funds were not released for use until later in the year, but the city has moved forward in developing the project, meeting with architects and community development. Plans to break ground on the project are a go for 2017 as soon as the ground thaws.



*A 3D Architectural Rendering of Circle Terrace Park Community Room.*

This community building will host a variety of opportunities for our community, along with a new recreational court and playground, the kids from the Circle Terrace neighborhood and all of Columbia Heights will have a clean, safe place to play, learn, and grow. We will offer community outreach, education, parks and recreation, social services, and police interaction to the community by fully realizing the potential that the Circle Terrace Community Recreation Center has to offer. In August of 2016, we held a community picnic in the area where the building is to be erected, and over 200 people came to support the city's efforts and celebrate this positive movement towards community development and unity. We will host another picnic in the summer of 2017 to celebrate the grand opening of this facility and we hope to see even more people there, joining the police department and City of Columbia Heights in our excitement for what we can create when we work together.

### Circle Terrace Study

In 2016, the Columbia Heights Police Department conducted a survey of residents in and around the Circle Terrace Blvd Neighborhood. This survey is a way to measure police effectiveness in a particular neighborhood, create a sampling of the city as a whole, and create a benchmark for future evaluation of police and community efforts. The results of the survey were positive overall, while identifying areas in which there is room for improvement. We invite you to read a summary of the survey results on the city website.

## Major Department Initiatives

### School Resource Officer (SRO) Study

In an effort to evaluate our current programs and work toward continuous improvement, the police department completed a study of our School Resource Officer (SRO) programs at the Columbia Heights High School and Columbia Academy. This study included a literature review, an examination of past practices, as well as information specific to our SRO collaboration with Columbia Heights Public Schools. The report was capped off with a section of recommended best practices that can be put into use in managing and continuing our SRO program in the community. It was a great opportunity to receive feedback from those that work regularly with our School Resource Officers. We encourage you to take a look at the study, which can be found on the city's website.



*Officer Piehn with a group of DARE graduates.*

### Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee (MAC)

Monday, June 27th, 2016 marked the very first Columbia Heights Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting. Informally referred to as the MAC, this committee marks a significant step in the progress of community policing within Columbia Heights. While Columbia Heights has transformed its policing methods over the last several years to better serve our diverse community, this committee will act as a direct line of communication between our community members and the police department that serves them. MAC members live, work, worship, or learn in the city and they have committed themselves to positive efforts towards change and growth in our community. After completing an initial interview and an application process, each MAC member has been carefully chosen for their leadership and communication skills, as well as their dedication to serving our community. MAC meetings take place monthly throughout the city. Information about current events will be discussed and shared so that this can be brought back into the community as a tool for transparency. Ideas for more effective community outreach will be discussed, to ensure that all community programs are tailored to meet the needs of everyone with input by the people who participate.



*Captain Austin listens to the discussion at the first MAC meeting.*

# Major Department Initiatives

## Polish Officer Visit

Lomianki, Poland is a suburb of Warsaw. In August 2015, four Columbia Heights Police Officers, including Chief Nadeau, Sergeants Erik Johnston and Justin Pletcher, and Officer Jason Piehn visited Lomianki in the first part of an officer exchange program.

In August 2016, Columbia Heights welcomed four visitors from our Sister City of Lomianki, Poland, who arrived on Tuesday, August 2, after 26 hours of travel. Lomianki Mayor Tomasz Dabrowski, Police District Chief Tomasz Szachowski, Lomianki Police Chief Tomasz Niedzwiecki and Lomianki Police Sergeant Tomasz Pyra arrived just in time to attend several National Night Out parties held throughout Columbia Heights.

The visit was filled with a variety of activities, including breakfast with city leaders and a tour of City Hall and the community. During a luncheon at the Public Safety Building sponsored by our friends at Northeast Bank, Sergeant Pyra gave a presentation about Lomianki and their police work and answered questions from Columbia Heights officers. Later that day, the group enjoyed a tour of the new Columbia Heights library, as well as a reception sponsored by the Sister Cities group, also held at the new library. The Polish delegation ended that day with a Segway tour of Minneapolis, joined by Mayor Peterson, Chief Nadeau and Sergeants Erik Johnston and Justin Pletcher. Later in the week, they toured the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, with presentations on policing at each location.

A highlight of their visit was a dinner in our visitors' honor at Jax Café, hosted by the Sister Cities group. The officers who visited Lomianki last year were very happy to see their Polish friends again, and were glad to have a chance to teach them about policing in America, and proudly show them what the All-America-City of Columbia Heights has to offer. The events, which were both educational and worked to build an even stronger bond between our two communities, have re-kindled our great sister cities relationship. The CHPD wishes to thank our Sister Cities group as well as all who came to greet and welcome our Polish friends to America!



*The visitors from Poland take a break from their Segway tour to enjoy the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis.*

*Sheriff James Stuart (in white) and Chief Nadeau (far right) with the Polish guests in front of an Anoka County Sheriff's office vehicle.*





# Major Department Initiatives

## Police-Community Dialogue

The CHPD, in partnership with the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC), hosted the first in a series of police-community dialogue events on the evening of September 14 at First Lutheran Church. The forum was an opportunity for community members to bring questions and concerns to police in this structured meeting about police relations. The forum was open to anyone who lives, learns, works, or worships in Columbia Heights. The purpose of these events is to strengthen the Columbia Heights community through increased communication and understanding between police and community members.



*Left: Officer Sorensen listens to community members at the dialogue.*



*Below: All the tables are engaged in discussion as Chief Nadeau goes from group to group.*



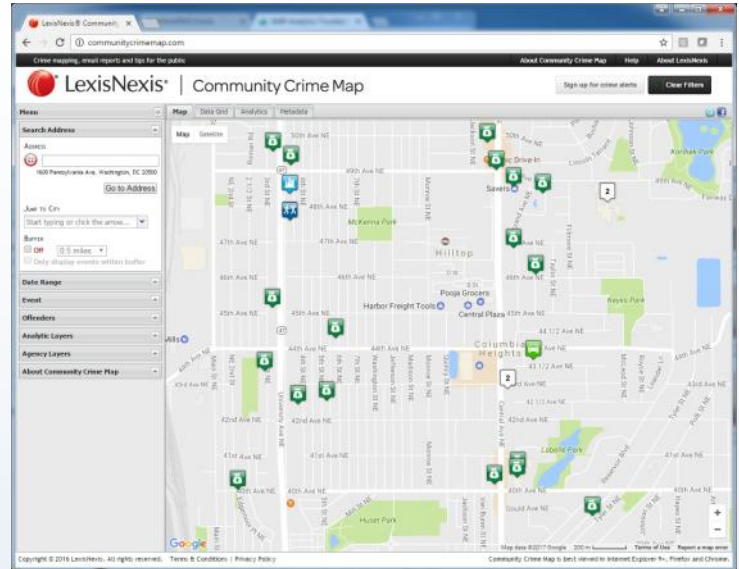
*Winners from the Chili Cook-Off Team get a golden kettle.*

Members of the CHPD, CHFD and Mayor Peterson formed a team for the Lee Carlson Center Chili Cook-off. The event raised money for Bridgeview, which provides exceptional and affordable mental health services for families, children, youth, and adults in our community. The Columbia Heights Team were proud winners of the event!

## 2016 Crime Statistics

### Online Crime Statistics are available at the Click of a Mouse

RAIDS Online has changed their name to LexisNexis Community Crime map. This resource continues to be a powerful tool for any resident wishing to look up crime activity in their neighborhood or the city as a whole. The majority of all incidents are uploaded to the database and available for anyone to view or analyze at [communitycrimemap.com](http://communitycrimemap.com) and by searching under Columbia Heights. An example of the map is shown.



### 2016 – Crime Numbers Continue to Decrease

In 2016, crime numbers continued the downward trend. Burglaries were down 40% from 2015. Theft also dropped by 22% from 2015. Overall, Part 1 crimes went from 673 to 496; a 26% decrease. The total number (Part 1 and Part 2) dropped from 1673 to 1430; a 14% decrease.

Offenses					
	2016	2015	2014	1 yr % Chg	2 yr % Chg
Part 1	496	673	686	-26%	-28%
Part 2	934	1000	1022	-7%	-9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>1673</b>	<b>1708</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-16%</b>

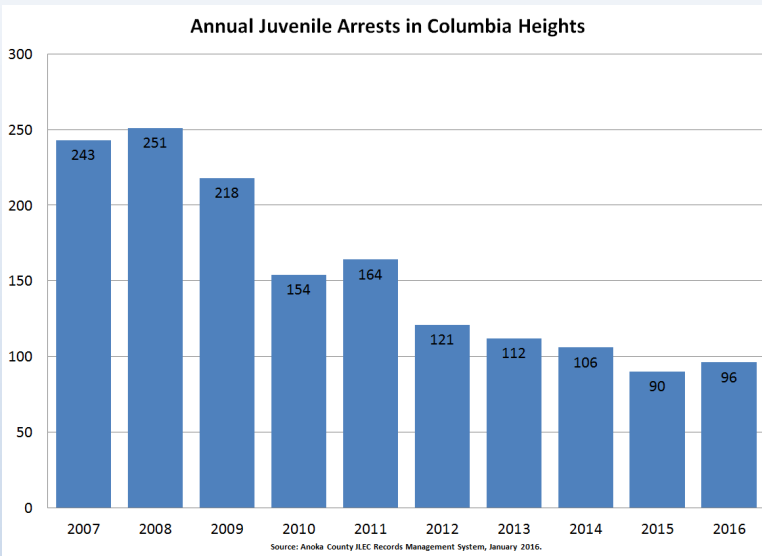
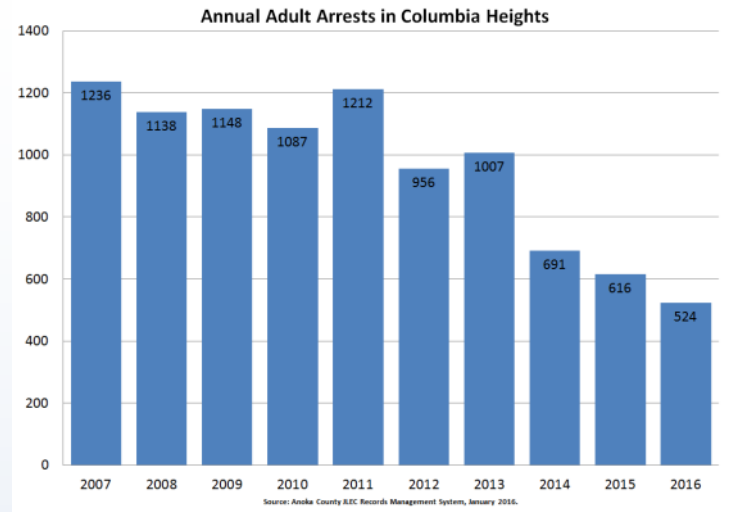
Arrests					
	2016	2015	2014	1 yr % Chg	2 yr % Chg
Part 1	67	119	119	-44%	-44%
Part 2	428	558	624	-23%	-31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>-33%</b>

“Our agency is now well versed in identifying problems early, adopting proactive methods of response, and then working with our community and strategic partners to mitigate crime and community problems promptly and effectively. ”      - Chief Scott Nadeau

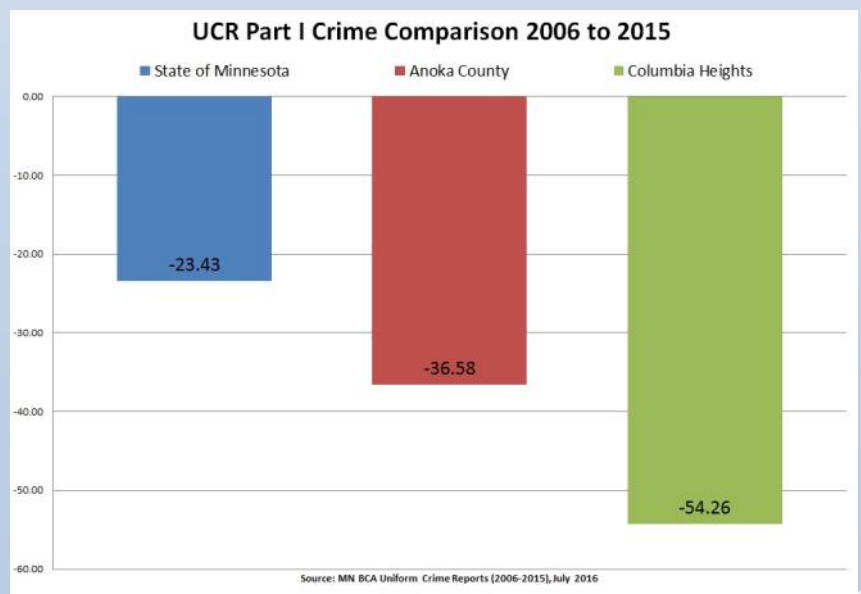


## 2016 Crime Statistics

Arrest data also supports the downward trend of crime. Adult arrests for 2016 dropped to just below 50% of what they were in 2008. Arrests of juveniles are down to almost a third of what it was in 2008.



Crime Rates have been dropping across the State and County. When we compare ourselves to our Anoka County neighbors, crime has been reduced further. When comparing ourselves to the whole state, we see an even bigger drop in Columbia Heights.



## Community Oriented Policing

Community Oriented Policing continues to be a core philosophy of the Columbia Heights Police Department. There was strong media reporting of police and community tensions across our nation in 2016 and there were new challenges presented for connecting with the community during this time. In light of this, the police department is proud to report that our positive relationship with the community is as strong as ever. We have continued to make use of several impactful programs that help us build and maintain that relationship throughout the year, and not just in times of crisis. The result was a great showing of community support during the year. We look forward to continuing this collaboration for years to come.

### Rental Property Outreach

With almost 1,000 licensed rental properties in the city of Columbia Heights, the communication to rental property owners continues to be an important function in order to improve safety and livability in Columbia Heights. Quarterly trainings were held on topics relevant to landlords, in addition to regular contacts involving high contact buildings and properties.

### Business Watch

The Columbia Heights Police Business Watch program continues to hold strong at around 85 members. Efforts were made to update business holder contact lists that can be used in emergency situations during 2016. Officers assigned to the Business Watch spend time during their regular patrol shifts meeting with the business community to share information, troubleshoot problems and provide needed support.

### Neighborhood Watch

The Columbia Heights Police Department has over 160 active Neighborhood Watch groups. These groups help improve safety and quality of life in local neighborhoods by being alert, aiding their neighbors and reporting suspicious activity to the police. An annual training was held for block leaders and covered skills relevant to their role.



*Captain Austin goes over crime stats with the Neighborhood Watch groups.*

*COP Officer Museus leads a Neighborhood Watch meeting at the Public Safety Center.*



## Community Oriented Policing

### Cultural Outreach

The police department continued its relationship with the Adult Education Center in 2016; officers attended several sessions and spoke about policing and answered questions posed by the students. The students are from a variety of cultural backgrounds and many have a limited understanding of American policing and laws.

The Islamic Center again held an appreciation BBQ for police, fire and city officials. It was a great opportunity to connect with members of the center, and have a conversation, while enjoying a grilled burger.



*Officer Abdullahi mingles with attendees of the Islamic Center's BBQ.*



In June, members of the police department attended an Iftar (breaking of fast) dinner hosted by First Lutheran Church. The dinner was held to join people of different faiths together for the purpose of shared understanding. There were prominent representatives from the Muslim and Hindu communities that shared information on their religion and answered questions from those in attendance.

On June 1, 2016 the City of Columbia Heights celebrated the opening of a brand new splash pad at Huset Park.

The Police Department used this exciting occasion to host their annual picnic. This was a great event to partner with multiple other city departments





## Community Oriented Policing

### Community Picnics

In June, the police department participated in a Community Picnic at Huset Park. The picnic included a K-9 demonstration, a Use of Force presentation, as well as a chance to use the department's LaserShot, a deadly-force decision-making simulator. Many community partners joined us in putting together this picnic and providing information on resources available to the community. The picnic also celebrated the grand opening of Huset Park's new splash pad.



*Techs Gomez and Kriesel at the Huset Park Picnic.*



*Officer Hilden waits his turn to get in the back of a squad car.*

The Columbia Heights Police hosted its annual Eat and Greet in the 4600 Block of Tyler Street in July. There was food sponsored by Subway, McDonalds, and \$5 Pizza and there were several partner agencies on hand to share information about programs and resources available.



*Kids loved the chance to try on a uniform.*



*Officer Abdullahi shares a laugh with Degha Shabbeleh at the Tyler Street Eat and Greet.*

# Community Oriented Policing

## Community Picnics

In August, the police department partnered with Safe Summer Nights to hold a picnic in the Circle Terrace Neighborhood and update the residents on the park project that is currently under planning and preparation. The event was well attended and again many partners attended to share information on community resources relevant to adults and children.



*Clockwise: 1) Sergeant Pletcher shakes hands 2) from left to right Officer Pregler, CSO Almosawi and CSO Vang serve dinner at the Circle Terrace Picnic. 3) Officer Thurmes with a group of neighborhood kids.*



*Chief Nadeau with the Humphrey Institute Fellows by the "Always on Guard" statue in front of the Public Safety Center.*

On November 17, the CHPD welcomed the fellows from the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute's Master of Public Affairs program. Their intensive course of study in law enforcement and criminal justice helps to improve policing both in Minnesota and around the world. We appreciate their continued partnership and the opportunity to highlight Columbia Heights' community policing initiatives.



## Community Oriented Policing

### National Night Out

There were 53 National Night Out gatherings in Columbia Heights in 2016. Over 1600 residents participated, and were updated on current crime numbers, police initiatives and crime prevention tips by the 16 officers who attended the gatherings. Officers visiting from Lomianki, Poland were on hand to visit a few of the gatherings.



*Top, Down: 1) Officers from Poland and residents listen to Sgt. Pletcher at a NNO gathering. 2) The Polish visitors relax after a long day of travel and community events. 3) Officer Monberg and Officer Museums look over the SACA donations during NNO.*



The Columbia Heights Police Department partnered with the Minneapolis and St. Anthony Police Departments at this year's Canadian Pacific Holiday Train event. This was a great chance to use the Anoka County Command Center and work with neighboring agencies.



*CSO Almosawi and Sgt. Markham in the Command Center*



*Officer Monberg watches as the Holiday Train stops on the border of Columbia Heights, Minneapolis and St. Anthony.*



## Community Oriented Policing

### Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with a Cop continued on a monthly basis in 2016 with venues ranging from Aldi to an annual favorite at Dairy Queen. This program is a great opportunity for the community to connect with the police department with no speeches, no agendas - just coffee and conversation.

*Right: Officer Scheevel enjoys coffee and a laugh with residents.*

*Below: Officer Noll enjoys the Cone with a Cop event at Dairy Queen.*



### HeartSafe

The Columbia Heights Police Department continued its HeartSafe efforts in 2016. At the end of 2015, the CHPD was recognized as the second HeartSafe community in Anoka County, and in 2016 the police department partnered with the fire department to continue to offer free training and outreach to all community members. The entire Public Works department was trained in first aid, CPR, and AED use, as were many other city employees who requested to be trained as well. The PD assisted at the Columbia Heights High School by testing out students who became certified First Responders, and we offered free training at the police department open to our entire community to attend. We also continue to host HeartSafe booths at all of our community picnics, and hand out valuable information on how everyone can save a life, as well as hands-on training for all those interested.



*Sergeant Pletcher (one of the department's first aid instructors) watches as a child tries out a CPR manikin.*

## Problem Oriented Policing

Problem Oriented Policing is a proactive method of law enforcement that the Columbia Heights Police Department utilizes in multiple ways. By effectively employing department resources, community partnerships, and various enforcement methods, crime continues to decline in Columbia Heights. 2016 was no different, as the police department continues to adapt their methods to the community and its ever-changing issues. The year saw further commitment to positive community partnerships to proactively combat crime and disorder. The Anoka-Hennepin Violent Offender and Drug Task Force continues to be an effective conglomerate of Anoka County and Hennepin County law enforcement agents, working together to combat the ills of drug abuse that can have drastic effects on a community. By utilizing DARE, community outreach, and other proactive methods, the Columbia Heights Police Department uses positive youth outreach to curb drug usage before adulthood as well. The Columbia Heights Police Department also hosted a total of four All Hands Day events, two of which were community picnics, where we partnered with other community departments and social service agencies to inform our community of all that is available to them. The police department did this while sharing food, conversation, and laughs with the diverse community of Columbia Heights. Other programs such as Predatory Offender Checks, Business Watch, Neighborhood Watch, Landlord Outreach, Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, and many more procedures initiated by the Columbia Heights Police Department continue to drive crime down into some of the lowest rates in the last 50 years.

### **Anoka-Hennepin Violent Offender and Drug Task Force (AHVODTF)**

While both heroin usage and abuse continue to rise in Minnesota and nationally, the Columbia Heights Police Department remains committed to combating all drug activity by partnering with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and several other Anoka and Hennepin County agencies. Detective Bonesteel has proven himself very effective as an agent in the Anoka-Hennepin Violent Offender and Drug Task Force. Through the drug operations conducted by this unit, large amounts of methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana, and prescription pills were taken off the streets and out of the hands of the criminals, as well as guns and illegally obtained currency. Detective Bonesteel was also personally involved in the arrest of a known heroin dealer that was charged for 3rd Degree Murder after knowingly selling a pestilent product that resulted in the deaths of many in the metro area.

### **All Hands Day**

The Columbia Heights All Hands Day initiative continues to evolve to better suit the needs of our community. Two All Hands days were scheduled for the last day of school and Homecoming to ensure our youth remain orderly and safe at all times. The CHPD partnered with Anoka County Probations, the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, the Anoka-Hennepin Violent Offender and Drug Task Force, and the State Patrol for a high-conduct/high-visibility initiative that was geared towards combating juvenile activities such as truancy, curfew, and alcohol and tobacco use. Due to these tactics, the number of crimes committed by juveniles decreases and the safety of the community is enhanced.



The Columbia Heights Police Department offers citizens the ability to drop off unused Prescription Drugs. A Prescription Drug Take Back Container is located in the lobby of the Columbia Heights Public Safety Center at 825 41st Avenue.

Prescription drug abuse is the Nation's fastest-growing drug problem. Nearly one-third of people aged 12 and over who have used drugs for the first time began by using a prescription drug non-medically.

There is no fee for this service. The Columbia Heights Police Department only accepts household prescription pills, capsules, caplets, and tablets.

Citizens can drop off their unused prescription drugs during regular business hours Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



## Wellness

The CHPD Wellness committee met quarterly in 2016 to provide all employees of the police department information and activities on being healthier and more active. We partnered with the University of Minnesota and allowed officers the option to have free VO2 testing and body fat analysis, providing officers with specific levels of activity and heartrate that are needed to be obtained to optimize training and effectively lose weight and/or become healthier. Monthly mindfulness trainings were held, offering officers special breathing techniques to combat stress. This was added to the daily stretching activities already being utilized by the department. The Columbia Heights Police Department also sponsored a team of police officers who ran in the Shawn Silvera 5K, benefiting families of officers killed in the line of duty. The "Heights Pride" team came in second place and look to get first in 2017! Finally, the Columbia Heights Police Department and its Wellness Committee have been working on instituting a Chaplain Program to address the spiritual needs of our department, and we look to have that up and running sometime in 2017.



*Sergeant Pletcher and Officer Noll demonstrate our ongoing daily stretching program.*

## Training



*Dr. Isaiah Pickens leads the class through trauma training.*

In 2016 the Columbia Heights Police Department training program stayed committed to being progressive and giving our officers diverse perspectives. In January, CHPD hosted Dr. Isaiah Pickens who instructed a class titled "The Story Behind Trauma and Law Enforcement." The training touched on trauma that officers experience, and how to recognize and treat people who officers come in contact with who have experienced trauma in their life. The training also included a segment on implicit bias. All CHPD staff participated in the 2016 knowledge based exercise, which involved the documentary *Undeclared*.

The documentary was about mentorship, leadership and investing in people who are different than you. New 2016 roll call trainings included crime scene management, human trafficking and *The President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing*. The department also continued to send every officer to the weeklong Crisis Intervention Team training, which teaches officers how to successfully de-escalate incidents involving people in mental health crisis. Finally, several officers became trained in less lethal munitions.



*Officer Huebner practices Use of Force as Officer M. Farah holds on.*

## Youth Outreach

### Anti-Bullying

Seven years ago, the Columbia Heights Police Department teamed up with Highland Elementary to address bullying with kindergarten, first and second graders. Officers and staff members went into the classrooms twice a year and read a book that provided an important message about bullying to the students. Since then, the



*The students look on as Officer Nightingale reads.*

program has expanded to include Valley View Elementary, Immaculate Conception School, and Global Academy. In 2016, we also began visiting third grade classrooms at the request of the schools. We had 21 employees participating in our anti-bullying program. The visits also provide the young students with an opportunity to ask any questions they have and meet with an officer in a positive interaction.

### School Safety

The police department has been providing extra assistance to the traffic congestion at the beginning and end of the school day at Valley View Elementary and Columbia Academy since 2013. The traffic assistance provided by the Police Department has been successful in raising the awareness of the drivers who pick up and drop off students, and make for a safer route to and from school for walking students.



*Officer Thurmes reads an anti-bullying book to her class of attentive students.*



## Youth Outreach

### D.A.R.E.

This was the Columbia Heights Police Department's 26th year of teaching D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) to the 4th and 5th grade students of the Columbia Heights School District. School Resource Officers taught the curriculum at Valley View, Highland and North Park Elementary Schools. The schools produced 259 D.A.R.E graduates. Through the D.A.R.E. curriculum, students learn to avoid drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and how to make responsible choices.

### Open Gym

The two School Liaison Officers are responsible for running the Open Gym program for Columbia Heights School students. The Open Gym is operated in Columbia Academy for middle school aged students on Tuesdays after school. During the year, the Open Gym at the Hylander Center for high school students increased from one day a week – Tuesdays – to three days a week. Our collaboration with the School District and the city's Recreation Department has brought about the expansion of the Open Gym program; with sessions scheduled for high school aged youth on Mondays and Thursdays as well. The Open Gym programs also runs through the summer months. Activities offered consist of basketball, soccer, tutoring, movies, board games, bingo, fitness room, and social time.



*Officer Piehn and CSO Almosawi take a selfie with Open Gym attendees taking a break from basketball.*

### Teen Academy

In the Spring of 2016, the CHPD hosted a Teen Academy for Columbia Heights students who were interested in

criminal justice careers. Speakers from several different agencies teamed up with the CHPD to put on the event. The academy was a one day event that exposed 18 students to various criminal justice careers. Students participated in role play activities and went through a use of force simulator.



*Officers take a group picture with the Teen Academy participants.*

## Youth Outreach

### Big Brothers Big Sisters

2016 was the fifth year of bringing Big Brothers/Big Sisters to Highland Elementary. Columbia Heights is the only department in Anoka County involved in this program. Department staff who volunteer to be a Big Brother or Sister go into the school to meet their matched student. The two will play games, read, make crafts and develop a mentoring relationship. The program has now expanded to Valley View Elementary, and a few Bigs have followed their Littles as they moved on to Columbia Academy. The year ended with 25 BBBS volunteers in Columbia Heights; 16 of those are officers or police department staff members. There were also three more CHPD employees who signed on to be Bigs near the end of the year and were looking forward to being matched in the new year.



*Officer Huebner plots his next Connect Four move with his "Little."*



*Officer Hilden restacks the Jenga blocks after knocking them over.*

### Pizza With a Cop

Pizza with a Cop has become an annual event that gives officers a chance to interact with students in a positive relaxed atmosphere. In 2016, 60 students enjoyed having lunch with officers from the CHPD, Metro Transit, and New Brighton. Some of the conversation was about police work, but the topics varied.



*Students get a chance to ask the officers some questions at the end of lunch.*



## Police Reserves

### Reserves in 2016

Bob Schmidt	02/01/1996
Brian Getty	01/11/2000
Tim Utz	04/16/2007
Kevin Gominsky	10/21/2010
Marco Torunski	10/21/2010
Olutola Ogundare	06/02/2011



Columbia Heights Police  
Department Reserve Badge

The CHPD's 2017 Strategic Plan  
can be found on our website at:  
[www.columbiaheightsmn.gov](http://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov)

The Columbia Heights Reserve Unit is a volunteer organization comprised of members of the Columbia Heights community. These members support the police department and the Columbia Heights-Hilltop community through a variety of services and tasks. Reserve members receive specialized training related to their areas of responsibility which include neighborhood patrol, transports, and special event security. The Reserve Program has been a part of the Columbia Heights Police Department for over half a century, and thousands of hours of volunteer time have been donated. The Columbia Heights Police Department continues to be grateful for their service to their community.

## 2016 Police Department Budget

The Police Department's budget for 2016 was authorized at \$4,191,300. This budget is comprised of three main sections, the first being Personal Services which is by far the largest portion at \$3,643,782. This section includes all the line items related to the payment of the department's personnel. The CHPD has an authorized roster of 27 police officers, one full-time and five part-time Community Service Officers, and five Support Services employees.

The Supplies section is the smallest portion of the Police Department's budget, set at \$175,676 for 2016. Office supplies, uniform items to include protective vests, computer equipment and general supplies are examples of the line items in this section.

Other Services and Charges is the third section of the budget, with a 2016 amount of \$360,322. Other Services and Charges is made up of the line items for things like training, cell phones and building utilities, and maintenance of the department's vehicles.

The 2016 Police Capital Equipment budget was \$140,563, which included funds for the purchase of two marked utility vehicles for patrol use and one unmarked vehicle, along with various equipment for those vehicles and the related set-up costs.

## Strategic Planning

At the end of 2016, members from several areas of the police department met to create the 2017 strategic plan. The strategic plan outlines goals and objectives in support of our mission statement to use active partnerships to have a safe community. Staff met quarterly in 2016 and reviewed the plan as well as the progress that was being made to meet or exceed the set goals. Staff then assigned a grade to each strategy and worked to improve that grade as the year progressed. The 2017 plan continued to include community partners in the planning process. Staff met with members from the Columbia Heights School District, Columbia Heights Fire Department, Faith Based Leaders, Columbia Heights Park and Recreation, Neighborhood Watch, the CHPD Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee and CHPD staff to create a 2017 plan that is transparent, inclusive, and best meets the needs of the community.



## Columbia Heights Police Association

The Columbia Heights Police Association (CHPA), a non-profit organization of current and retired employees of the Columbia Heights Police Department, was founded in 2008. The CHPA is funded through a combination of member dues, fundraising and private donations. The primary mission of the CHPA is to provide support to Columbia Heights law enforcement employees and their families. CHPA donations are made when police officers are killed or injured in the line of duty, or the Police Department is presented with a need that cannot be funded through traditional means.



## Columbia Heights Police Give Back

**Committed. Helpful. Professional. Dedicated.** Those are the core values of the Columbia Heights Police Department. The projects listed below are examples of some of the ways that the men and women of the CHPD made a difference our community during 2016.

There are 21 CHPD employees involved in the Anti-Bullying reading program, where we visit elementary school classes twice each school year to read a book and visit with kids about bullying prevention. This important part of our youth outreach gives us a chance to reinforce the information the students are learning in school about bullying.

For the fifth year, CHPD participated in the “Movember” initiative to raise funds and awareness for men’s health issues by growing facial hair. Officers were allowed to wear mustaches and neatly trimmed beards during the month of November if they were pledging to raise money for this important cause. This year, the CHPD Movember team raised \$1,500, giving us a four-year total of almost \$7,500 raised.

The “Heights Bikes” program returned for a second year. In May of 2016, the CHPD partnered with Behind-Bars Bike Shop in Minneapolis, the Columbia Heights School District, the Columbia Heights Police Association and the Fridley/Columbia Heights Rotary to give away bikes to 14 Columbia Heights students. The bikes were donated by the police department, the bike shop volunteered time to repair the bikes, the Rotary Club donated the helmets and the Police Association donated the locks.

*Left to Right: Kristen Stuenkel (Director of Community Education, CH Schools), Officer Noll, CSO Almosawi, CSO Wellman, Officer Museus, and Sergeant Markham in front of the donated bikes.*



## Columbia Heights Police Give Back

For the second year, the CHPD joined with other community volunteers for the Sheridan Story, a statewide non-profit organization that supports children of families in need with a consistent supply of nutritious food every weekend. Volunteers from the Police Department worked with project organizers and representatives of Highland Elementary to distribute food discretely into participating students' backpacks. Each participating student receives a four to five pound bag of food at the end of each week.

Several of the department's employees are mentoring youth at Highland Elementary, Valley View Elementary, and Columbia Academy through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. We're in our fifth school year participating in this important program, and now there are employees from other city departments and community members involved in mentoring too. We strongly believe that mentoring can make a difference in the life of a child, and we're proud to be partnering with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities in this effort.



*Officer Piehn and Tech Gomez after a successful Shop with a Cop.*



*Tech Kriesel meets with her "Little."*

To cap off the year, members of the CH Police Association participated in the seventh annual Shop With a Cop event. This year, we sponsored a record 17 families, up from 14 last year. We assisted them with gifts, groceries and other holiday related purchases. This event is made possible through the generosity of CHPA members, along with donations from their families and friends, and from our partners in local businesses and the faith community.



*CSO Wellman and Sgt. Johnston get ready to check out after Shop with a Cop.*



*Officer Noll and Officer Supervisor Olson are all smiles following a shopping trip.*



## Out and About



*Proud Members of the Columbia Heights Police Department at your service in the community*



# Defining Values of the Columbia Heights Police

## Mission Statement

**The Columbia Heights Police Department is committed to active partnerships with the community in order to protect lives and property, innovatively solve problems, and enhance the safety and quality of life in the communities we serve.**



## 2012 Recipient & 2015 Finalist

### Core Values:

**Committed:** As a group we are committed to the honest and fair treatment of all our community members, while recognizing that each citizen has different needs and values.

**Helpful:** Employees of the CHPD will strive to meet the needs of our community and the people that we have contact with. We are mindful that we draw our authority from the public, and it is our mandate to assist others whenever possible.

**Professional:** The employees of the CHPD will hold themselves to the highest professional standards, utilizing the best practices in law enforcement to carry out our duties professionally and with integrity

**Dedicated:** The CHPD is dedicated to excellence in its delivery of law enforcement services. We will seek opportunities to serve in a manner that exceeds expectations and adheres to the ideals of the United States Constitution and our professional Oath of Honor.

## THEN AND NOW

The Ford Crown Victoria has been a staple of police department's vehicle fleets since the early 1980s. Ford discontinued the "Crown Vic" in 2011. The Columbia Heights Police Department pulled the last "Crown Vic" out of service on May 13, 2016.



Squad 112 on the last day of service

1986 Ford LTD Crown  
Victoria with 'low  
profile' light bar



1996 Ford Crown  
Victoria

2008 Ford Crown  
Victoria with LED light  
bar



Serving the Columbia Heights Community Since 1921

## Columbia Heights Police Department

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