

Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission

Community Policing Program

Annual Report

Agency: St. Michaels Police Department (SMPD)

Region#: IV

Reporting Period: Jan-Dec 2017

Agency contact name: Chief Anthony Smith

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Number of sworn members: 9

Non-sworn members: 1

Population: 1029

Square miles serviced by the agency: 1.25

Instructions: Attach or provide a detailed description of your agency's Community Policing Program. The Program should incorporate the Ten Guiding Principles of Community Policing identified by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing. The principles are provided in the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission, Mandatory Adoption of Community Policing Initiatives for Law Enforcement Agencies, Guidelines and Reporting.

See attached St. Michaels Police Department (SMPD) annual report, with a description of community policing activities for 2017.

January 10, 2018

Commissioners of St. Michaels
300 Mill St.
St. Michaels, Maryland 21663

Subject: St. Michaels Police Department (SMPD), 2017 Year in Review.

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the SMPD, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the Commissioners for your support, which has led to another successful year of the SMPD providing outstanding law enforcement and community service to the citizens of St. Michaels. In 2017 so much was accomplished.

Let's start with Community Policing:

Community Policing should be 90% of what a police department performs. Not only does community policing help to solve community problems. It builds trust and support from the community. For example;

On December 18, 2017 at approximately 4:06 PM the first armed robbery in four years occurred in St. Michaels. The suspect, described by the victim, was quickly and positively identified by a St. Michaels Police Department Community Policing Partner. This partner, who has worked, lived and attended school in St. Michaels her entire life, knew the suspect well. Her clear and concise identification was critical to the case because the suspect has a brother that looks similar to him. Thus, the confident ID of the suspect, by the community partner, quickly directed the investigation towards the appropriate individual.

A search for the known suspect was then conducted throughout the community by police. Citizen after citizen, especially kids, who also knew the suspect, assisted police by providing direction and route of travel of the suspect, who was now fleeing on foot brandishing a knife. The suspect was finally apprehended, but not without the help of the community.

S.M.Y.L.E and Community Policing:

The St. Michaels Youth and Law Enforcement program (S.M.Y.L.E) is another aspect of community policing spearheaded by the SMPD. S.M.Y.L.E, has a goal of improving the quality of life of youth, seniors and families of St. Michaels by sponsoring community service and educational programs that are funded by donations to the program. The

SMPD works closely with Trish Payne, Executive Director of the St. Michaels Community Center (SMCC) and her staff to accomplish the aforementioned goal.

In 2017, over \$12,000.00 in funding from S.M.Y.L.E. was used to provide some of the following experiences for youth and their families. All events are designed to foster family bonding:

- An overnight trip to Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg, Virginia.
- A trip to Six Flags Amusement Park.
- A fishing trip and crab feast for youth and family. Some kids, lifelong residents of St. Michaels had never experienced being on a fishing boat.
- S.M.Y.L.E. sponsored two holiday parties for the St. Michaels at-risk citizenry. One party was for the senior citizens of Hambleton Village and their families, and another holiday party was held for the St. Michaels youth and their families. Karen Moaney and Amy Dewitt from the SMCC was instrumental to the success of these events. A good time was had by all. To Commissioners Myers, Bibb and Town manager, Jean, thanks for attending and helping out. The seniors of Hambleton Village were impressed by the little town meeting held. Your support means so much.
- A trip to see the Shorebirds play. The kids not only enjoyed a baseball game but also enjoyed a family night of eating barbeque and entertainment. The list goes on and on.

In January of 2017, the St. Michaels Police Department once again partnered with the St. Michaels Community Center to conduct its fifth annual Junior Police Academy for children ages 9-12. The recruits participated in a one day-a-week, eight-week after school program of team building, discipline application, physical training and education on all aspects of the police profession.

The program is administered by Amy Dewitt of the SMCC. The recruits learned the effects of substance abuse, conducted mock crime scene investigations and participate in community service activities. Uniforms were issued to support the team concept. A good time was had by all. The most important lesson from this and the other community outreach programs – they are testimony to the value of the Community/Police Partnership.

Let's turn to Law Enforcement Initiatives

The SMPD faces the same challenges in terms of criminal activity that many other municipal police departments of same size and scope face. In fact, with St. Michaels being a tourist town, one could argue that the SMPD challenges are greater. The town is well promoted and has become a tourist destination. Special event permit applications are growing. With tourism comes tourist and where there are tourist there are opportunities

to commit crime. Between the Wine Festival, Beer Festival, Running Festival, and Fourth of July festivities, just to name a few events, well over twenty thousand visitors converge upon St. Michaels for those four events alone. Midnight Madness, Christmas in St. Michaels and numerous other special events create even more tourist.

Thus, in 2017 law enforcement challenges continued to be steep and each of your officers contributing in their own unique way, met or exceeded those challenge in every major statistical category. A review of St. Michaels' crime statistics for 2017 reveal that overall, St. Michaels remains a safe place to live work and play. However, as mentioned above, one armed robbery did occur but was solved and the perpetrator was immediately arrested and is awaiting prosecution.

The SMPD mission statement on the website is long. A shorter and more to the point version. **"The Goal of the SMPD is to make the Town of St. Michaels the Safest Place in America to live work and play. Anything less is unacceptable."**

When analyzing the crime statistics for 2017 it may lead someone to say that crime in St. Michaels is on the rise. However, a note caution must be used. What the statistics truly reflect is that officer effort and proactivity is on the rise. Ninety percent (90%) of all arrest in 2017 were proactive arrest and not reactive arrest. Meaning your officers were on the prowl searching for criminal activity. This proves that criminal activity has always been in St. Michaels. The officers are simply detecting it and reacting by initiating arrest. Thus making the community safer.

Having the crime rate appear benign in spite of crime occurring, is the precise objective. It's all in perception. If people feel safe, even though crime is occurring, like with the armed robbery, then they are safe. Perception is reality.

Patrol checks are a mechanism in small town law enforcement that encourages police officer pro-activity. Pro-activity sends a message to the community that the Police Department is on the job. Several officers of the Department, particularly, **PFC Kakabar** is outstanding putting forth an effort at performing patrol checks and conducting foot patrol. His daily briefing reports are continuously littered with patrol checks and he is front and center at performing foot patrol. His effort at being seen suppresses crime and the businesses and citizens constantly acknowledge his effort. Thanks Scott for a job well done.

Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) arrest were up over 30 % from the previous year. Why? Having a drug sniffing K-9 as a tool for use has made the department more effective in confronting the challenge of illegal drug use and trafficking. Our K-9 handler **PFC Adams** and his companion **Max** are a solid team and they have partnered to make an effective fighting tool against drug trafficking. PFC Adams not only is a leader in drug arrest but he is also a leader in driving while under the influence of alcohol arrest. Thanks Jason for a job well done.

The SMPD continues to make a conscientious effort partnering with the Talbot County Drug Task Force, which has resulted in targeted investigations that have led to more

arrests. Our experience with the Task Force have made SMPD a force to recon with in drug trafficking. **PFC Dwyer** continues to serve as a valuable member of the Drug Task Force. One of PFC Dwyer's investigations since being a member of the drug task force resulted in the largest heroin bust in Talbot County's history. Because of our commitment to partner with the task force the SMPD has access to specialized equipment and manpower when needed. For example, the Task Force will assist with the preparation and service of search and seizure warrants when needed and they also assist with performing saturation patrols to suppress crime. This partnership continues to be a force multiplier, and remember pro-activity produces results. Keep up the good work Bill.

PFC Taylor is now certified as the Department's full time firearms instructor. This is critical because it now allows the SMPD to independently train in firearms instruction, saving valuable time and money. In 2017, PFC Taylor also attended Child Sexual Assault Training in Alabama and is now recognized as our department's specialist in that area. Great job Ben.

In 2017, **Patrolman McMullen** was promoted to Patrol First Class. PFC McMullen has progressed well and is also a leader in CDS and driving while under the influence of alcohol arrest. McMullen's strong point is community policing and connecting with the youth of the community. The kids love him and he will take on almost any assignment when asked. For example, in October of 2017, PFC McMullen attended a week long Bike Patrol School and is now certified as a SMPD bike patrol officer. Great job Chris.

In 2017 three new officers were hired, bringing the department to full staff. PFC Hafer, PFC Allen and Officer Candidate Ja'Haven Johnson.

In June **PFC Hafer** came from the Easton Police Department and he has hit the ground running. His effort thus far reveal that he is a hard worker and committed to maintaining a safe and secure community. PFC Hafer produced four arrest in the first month that he was employed with the department. Awesome job Toby.

PFC **Ben Allen** was hired in September. He has 17 years of law enforcement experience across all aspects of the profession. PFC Allen has already conducted a seminar on personnel safety and active shooter training during a Coffee with a Cop held on 12/01/17. His presentation was excellent. He experience has served him well and he definitely has the qualities of leadership. Good job Ben.

Candidate Ja"Haven Johnson was hired in October and started the Wor-Wic Police Academy on January 5, 2018 with a graduation date of June 14, 2018. Good Luck Ja"Haven with the academy. We look forward to working with you.

Administrative Assistant Sally Bosley continues to be the face of the department. She is the SMPD Point of Contact (POC). Her vast knowledge of how we operate and what we can do is irreplaceable, making her a valuable member of the department. Thanks Sally for a job well done.

And finally, Lt. Oswald. He continues to direct daily operations of the department flawlessly. He is always accessible and can be relied upon to make sound decisions

understanding the full scope of the mission and objective of the department. What you have just read above. Lt. Oswald helped to create. Awesome job Jeff.

With the New Year come new challenges and we look forward to 2018 being another banner year. I could go on and on, but hopefully the picture has been painted. Is there room for improvement? Certainly. Parking enforcement, patrol checks and foot patrol just to name a few areas. But as we all learned in statistics 101. You can analyze statistics and make the result be whatever you want it to be. Statistics are like a rubber band. When you stretch it on one end the other end will contract.

In closing. What I love most about our personnel. They have numerous public contacts on a daily basis. They are constantly exposed to risk, while effecting an arrest and handling very stressful and difficult situations. And to their credit, there are no citizen complaints or investigations lodged against any of our officers. Just read the paper or surf the internet and you will see other departments littered with complaint after complaint. In this day of police scrutiny and criticism that is phenomenal. Your officers are truly second to none and they deserve everything that comes their way.

This is your department. Once again Commissioners, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Anthony T. Smith
Chief

CC. Jean Weisman, Town Manager.