

2018 In Review

January 25

The first in a series of TPD VLOGs on YouTube was released in a continuing effort to engage the community through social media. The short video introduced the five department members who created monthly, behind-the-scenes videos that were shared with the community throughout 2018. Members of the department's part-time "Social Media Team" met once a month to create and edit the VLOGs. Citizens are encouraged to subscribe to the department's YouTube channel and provide input on what they would like to see next. TPD VLOGS can be accessed by clicking on the VLOG Geer on the main page of this report. You will be directed to the Home page of the Toledo Police Museum where links to the VLOGS are listed.

January 31

The Toledo Police Department continued the tradition of welcoming citizens to learn more about the department and police work while attending a ten-week Citizen Police Academy. Participants met over the course of ten consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning January 31, 2018, through April 4, 2018. Upon completion of the Citizens Police Academy, the department honored participants with a graduation ceremony. Citizens Police Academy participating guidelines are:

- Resident of the city of Toledo
- Over 21 years of age
- Must complete and submit written application
- Must pass criminal history background check
- Must attend 80% of the sessions
- Participants will be selected for maximum community diversity
- Class size is limited to 25 participants

February 2

The 64th Toledo Police Academy class graduation was the culmination of six months of hard work and training for 38 new officers and one Toledo Fire and Rescue Department firefighter (who was assigned to the combined TFRD & TPD Fire Investigation Unit). The graduation ceremony included the presentation of the Keith Dressel Memorial Award of Excellence, which is awarded to the cadet with the highest overall score based upon academics, physical conditioning, driving and firearms. The academy class began on July 10, 2017. All newly sworn patrolmen were assigned to the Operations Division where they continued their training with Field Training Officers for the next four months. With the 38 academy graduates, the Toledo Police Department was at a strength of 618 officers.

February 5

After evaluating replacement costs, efficiency, and safety, Toledo Police Chief George Kral disbanded the department's Motorcycle Unit. The unit, which was formed in 2012, focused on traffic enforcement and special events. The decision to disband the Motorcycle Unit came as the ten Harley Davidson motorcycles, purchased for the unit in 2012, were in need of replacement. Additionally, personnel changes had left only five officers on the unit. For the unit to have continued, the department would have needed to spend nearly \$200,000 on motorcycles and training for new officers. For safety reasons, motorcycle officers were not permitted to engage in pursuits or respond to calls "code 3," with lights and siren, which limited their capability. Motorcycle officers are also more likely to suffer serious injury if involved in a traffic accident. The restricted use of motorcycles in the Toledo area due to climate was also a factor in the decision. The Department's motorcycles will be kept in storage and consideration will be given for their periodic use during special community events.

March 26

TPD was awarded our sixth reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). CALEA accreditation is a mark of law enforcement excellence and recognizes state-of-the-art police practices and departmental professionalism. A team of assessors from CALEA had reviewed the department in 2017 to ensure we were meeting the Commission's state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services. The Toledo Police Department has held CALEA accreditation since 2003.

Chief Kral and members of the department's Accreditation and Inspections Unit traveled to Frisco Texas in order to appear in front of the Commission as the final step in the reaccreditation process. "This is another great testament to the professionalism and dedication of the men and women of Toledo's outstanding police department," said Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "I'm proud to report that TPD has received full re-accreditation by CALEA. This is a testament to the hard work put forth by all," said Toledo Police Chief George Kral. "I want to especially thank Sergeant Jill Mannebach and Officer Sandy Ceglarek of our Accreditation and Inspections Unit."

April 21

The Toledo Police Hockey Team faced-off against Detroit Red Wings Alumni at Sylvania Tam-O-Shanter to raise awareness and funds for the Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center. April is National Child Abuse Prevention month, and at the point the game was played, Toledo had experienced two infant homicides. "This event is a great opportunity to raise awareness for National Child Abuse Prevention month" said Toledo Police Chief George Kral. "Any officer will tell you that the worst days in police work are when a child has been harmed. I am proud of my TPD hockey players for organizing this event and for their work with the community both on and off the ice." Event organizer, player and Toledo Police Officer Stephen Bates said "We love playing hockey. If we can go out there, put on our TPD jersey and raise some money for a great cause - it doesn't get much better than that." Though TPD "lost" with a score of 10-4, this big-hearted team of winners raised \$9,300 for the Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center. For a good look at what the TPD Hockey team accomplished in 2018, click on the link on the main page of this report!

April 26

October 20, 2017, the department announced that it had fulfilled the goal of outfitting all patrol officers with body-worn cameras. Unforeseen challenges with technological compatibility, however, led to the return of all 304 body-worn cameras for a full refund, roughly \$228,000. No changes were made to the in-car dash cameras or interview room cameras, and all Operations vehicles remained equipped with video and audio recording. After field testing new body-worn camera systems, patrol officers were once again outfitted with cameras on November 20, 2018. The \$228,000 Capital Improvement and JAG grant funds were reallocated to purchase 311 new Getac body-worn cameras.

May 2

The Toledo Police Department Forensic Laboratory received accreditation in the field of Forensic Science Testing by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB). The accreditation verifies that the department's Forensic Laboratory meets and/or exceeds the strict standard in forensic science testing set forth by ANAB. The accreditation process involved an on-site visit by assessors, as well as off-site examination of laboratory records and procedure. This is the first time the Toledo Police Department has sought national accreditation in Forensic Science Testing from ANAB. Currently, the laboratory specializes in firearms forensics and drug chemistry. Four civilian criminalists are employed in the Forensic Laboratory. "ANAB accreditation adds an additional layer of credibility and expertise to our Forensic Lab. It demonstrates the commitment we have to providing our best to the citizens of Toledo" said Toledo Police Chief George Kral. "I am very proud of our employees who work in the Forensic Lab. Attaining this accreditation was a rigorous endeavor and I commend all involved." The roots of the Toledo Police Forensic Laboratory can be traced back to the 1930s.

May 10

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Toledo Police Assistant Chief James O'Bryant, and Lucas County prosecutor Julia Bates, with Criminal Division Chief Jeff Lingo, announced the start of the "Not in My House" program at the Frederick Douglass Community Center. TPD Community Services Officers canvassed the neighborhood following the news conference to speak with residents about the program. The concept is simple - your house, your rules. Any responsible party may call Toledo Police to report guns or drugs inside their own home. TPD will respond and remove the contraband without fear of arrest or prosecution. The exception is, all firearms must be forensically tested per department policy. In the event the firearm has been involved in a violent crime, follow up will be conducted within the full extent of the law. The Toledo Police Department is actively engaged in a variety of ongoing proactive efforts with the goal of reducing violence in our city. From the STOP program to Friday Night Hoops, from Special Operations Bureau and Federal Task Force gang sweeps, to the Brains and Bodies program. Ultimately, reducing violence in our city hinges greatly on cooperation and collaboration with the community. Residents are encouraged to get involved and engage with their police department. Those interested in learning more about the "Not in My House" program should contact the Toledo Police Community Services Section at 419-245-1119.

May 14

Chief George Kral and members of the Investigative Services Division debuted the Special Victims Unit "soft interview room" at Northwest Neighborhood Station. A soft interview room is designed to make victims feel more comfortable through the use of different furniture, room color, and other items. SVU detectives secured donations and spent their own time and resources on making the room possible. Traditionally, interview rooms are plain with a small table and plastic chairs and can create a sense that victims themselves are being interrogated. Research has found that victims are more willing to share information with detectives when a soft interview room is used. Providing soft interview rooms for adult victims is becoming a law enforcement best practice.

May 18

The Toledo Police Department has been proudly serving the citizens of Toledo for over 150 years, and in that time we have lost thirty officers in the line of duty. Every year in May we honor our fallen, along with the fallen officers from area agencies, in the Toledo Area Police Memorial Service. After each name read, the TPD officer with the highest seniority tolls a bell in solemn respect for the sacrifice. Officer Randall Navarro was honored to be the first to use the new bell acquired in 2018 for the event.

June 6, 2018

Each TPD officer was provided access to the LexisNexis Accurant Virtual Crime Center, a web-based, next-generation policing platform used for COMPSTAT, analytics, crime analysis and investigations. The solution links billions of public records to agency-provided data in a cross-jurisdictional data exchange to provide law enforcement with unprecedented visibility into crime in their own jurisdiction and around the country. Linking across data types delivers a more comprehensive view into an identity, helping law enforcement to target investigations, identify patterns, predict upcoming events and deploy resources more efficiently.

June 15, 2018

This year marks the 32nd year of the Ohio Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. According to the Ohio Special Olympics, over 2,000 law enforcement officers run or bike in one of five main leg routes or one of several satellite community runs throughout the state. Toledo ran two legs, from Northwest Neighborhood Station to the University of Toledo Police Department and from the Safety Building to Fifth Third Field, where officers and athletes ran onto the field prior to a Mud Hens game. The torch run concluded with a final leg from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy to the Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium at The Ohio State University for the opening ceremonies of the State Summer Games on June 22nd. Officers carried the torch into the stadium and passed it to Special Olympics athletes who lit the cauldron, signifying the official start of the State Summer Games. The Ohio Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest grass roots fundraiser for Special Olympics Ohio.

July 12

The Toledo Police Department made good on a social media challenge that began in March. Following a tweet from Toledo Fire and Rescue Department Assistant Chief Karen Marquardt, Toledo Police Chief George Kral promised to swear-in the department's first "police cat" if TPD Twitter hit 20k followers. The @toledopolice Twitter page surpassed the goal and now has over 23k followers. The 2-month-old black and white kitten was adopted from the Toledo Area Humane Society, and after more than 1,000 citizens voted, he was named "Cuffs." Cuffs lives full-time with the family of Danielle Dressel and Toledo Police Sgt. Don Comes. Daniele is a civilian employee at the Toledo Police Academy while Don is a sergeant and canine handler with the Toledo Police Canine Unit. Toledo Police K9 Luke is excited for his new roommate. The purpose of fulfilling this social media challenge is to show the lighter side of law enforcement, promote animal adoptions at the Toledo Area Humane Society, and increase the Toledo Police Department's social media following.

July 27

Forty new police cadets entered the Toledo Police Academy as members of the 65th Toledo Police Academy class. It is the most diverse police class since the early 1980s. More than 40 percent of the class is female - the highest percentage of female cadets in a single class in department history. Additionally, more than 30 percent of the class are people of color. The cadets will undergo six months of challenging training on the path to graduation and distinction as Toledo Police officers. "While I am always happy to add new officers, I am especially pleased with our upcoming class as it is one of the most diverse, in gender and race, in decades," Police Chief George Kral said. "I have said publicly countless times that TPD needs to better represent the demographics of the city of Toledo. As long as I am Chief of Police, we will work diligently to make your department more diverse, at both the patrol and command ranks. I want to thank, again, Mayor Kapszukiewicz for his commitment to the citizens of Toledo and the Toledo Police Department. Without his leadership, this class may not have been possible."

August 21

The United States Marshal Service awarded the Toledo Division the Susan Graves Task Force Division of the Year Award. During 2017, the Toledo Division arrested 471 dangerous fugitives in twenty counties. The Task Force responded to and apprehended three violent criminals in two separate inmate escapes. One fugitive escaped during a transport, assaulting and injuring the officer. The other two fugitives escaped a county jail by scaling a fence. The Task Force worked around the clock until all three were apprehended. The Toledo Division was also involved in the apprehension of a fugitive who led police on a high speed chase covering 37 miles. During the pursuit, the fugitive threw homemade bombs at officers and attempted to ram law enforcement vehicles off the road. This fugitive was safely taken into custody with no injuries and is facing 30 years to life in prison.

Sergeant Kevin Korsog, who recently left the Task Force for a new position, was also given an honorable mention for the Wayne Leon Task Force Officer of the Year. He was praised for his knowledge, investigative skills, leadership and willingness to go the extra mile.

September 5

Operations personnel were issued overdose response kits after several officers were exposed to the powerful and dangerous synthetic drug, fentanyl. The kits contain equipment to help officers reduce the risk of exposure. The kits also contain four doses of Narcan nasal spray, used for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose.

October 3

The Toledo Police Department offered a second, ten-week Citizen Police Academy beginning October 3, 2018 through December 19, 2018. The purpose of the Toledo Citizen Police Academy is to enhance relations between the police and the community. Any community member meeting the criteria (See January 31) may apply to attend the academy to learn more about policing and the department. The success of crime prevention and detection lies primarily with a strong partnership between the police and the community. The better we get to know each other, the more we can accomplish together.

October 30

Toledo City Council members Exhibit Early Toledo History Documents

Toledo City Council members unveiled copies of some of Toledo's earliest and most important documents during a news conference in the first floor lobby of One Government Center. "The original documents were located two years ago in the attic of the Safety Building, which once served as city hall," Toledo City Council President Matt Cherry said. "These documents are an amazing part of our history in Toledo and I am so grateful that they were found and will be preserved for future generations. Displaying these documents is important so all will be able to appreciate the vivid history of our great city." The 10 documents, dating back to the founding of Toledo, are exhibited in Toledo City Council chambers thanks to a collaborative effort between the Council Clerk's office, the Arts Commission of Toledo, and the Ward M. Canaday Center at the University of Toledo. Among the documents is the poll book for the Township of Port Lawrence from October 1836. It predates the city's founding in 1837. The high-quality scans of the original documents will allow everyone to see and read the documents and gain an appreciation for the city's early history in a venue where the current history of the city continues to be shaped.

December 17

Early in the morning, the 11th Annual "Twelve Kids of Christmas" charity event started at the University of Toledo's Savage Arena with breakfast and a photo-opportunity with Santa. Officers paired with over 200 kids and caravanned to the Meijer store on Alexis Road for a shopping excursion before returning to the Savage Arena for lunch. The "12 Kids of Christmas" program is established to build positive relationships between police officers and the children of the community. Toledo area police officers and Toledo area children spend a day together celebrating Christmas. Often a child will buy presents for everyone in the family, but have to be coached by the officer to purchase a present of their own. It is a very positive experience not only for the kids that are involved, but also for the officers.

December 20

Warren Police Department detectives had taken 23-year-old Damon Barstad into custody around 3:30 a.m. at the Days Inn, 1800 Miami Street. Barstad was wanted in relation to the homicide of his 68-year-old grandmother, Rene Morrissette, who was stabbed and her body stuffed in a recycling bin in the garage of her Detroit-area home. Barstad had been transported to the Safety Building where he was being temporarily detained when, at about 12:30 p.m., he charged officers as they opened the door to his holding cell. During the struggle, Barstad was shot once and died at the scene.