



Police Department begins Citizens Academy for the Deaf

Session open to media: Tues., March 19, 6 p.m.

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The Dayton Police Department currently holds an innovative 12-week Citizens Academy session twice during the course of the year, in the spring and fall. Now, the department is reaching out to a specific segment of the community in hopes of opening up lines of communication and engagement.

The Citizens Academy for the Deaf kicked off its 12-week session on Tuesday, March 12. The participants are part of a unique, hands-on and interactive experience, learning more about what police officers do in their day-to-day work. The class covers much of the same curriculum as the traditional Citizens Academy, including:

- Specialized units such as crime scene investigation, detectives, and K9
- Active shooter and personal safety training
- Conflict resolution
- Handling firearms.

Officer Dan Mamula, who spearheaded this Citizens Academy session along with Officer Chris Pawelski, said, "This class offers the opportunity to form a partnership and become better connected with the deaf community in our city, while bringing awareness and educating our officers on how to interact with the deaf to get the best results on a police call or in a personal interaction."

The media is invited to week two of the session, which is Tuesday, March 19, when the class will meet Chief Biehl and the senior command staff. Class begins at 6 p.m. at the Dayton Police Academy (3237 Guthrie Rd.).

