

Police evaluation process underway

By Police Superintendent Cheryl C. Clapprood

September 22, 2022

The city and Department of Justice came to agreement on O'Toole and Associates to be our compliance evaluator for the settlement agreement. We have met with them and continue to have weekly conversations about our progress every Wednesday.

I met with the thirty-one graduates from our last academy (graduated in June 2022). The new officers completed a three-month rotation and are ready to go on the shifts they are assigned to according to seniority. All who were involved in their training agreed they are certainly ready. The Academy staff and instructors did an excellent job getting them ready for the difficult job ahead.

Congratulations to retired Sergeant John Delaney and his Ride to Remember volunteers for a successful event September 3rd. It is a bike ride event to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice as first responders, it especially remembered Officer Kevin Ambrose and his family this year on the tenth anniversary of his tragic death. During this year's ride, one of our Academy staff members suffered a medical emergency and thanks to those at the ride, a successful outcome was realized and with time hopefully a full recovery. Thank you to all who rode, volunteered, donated their time or services to an important event for all first responders and their families.

In early October the Springfield Police Department will participate in the Faith and Blue weekend. The meaning of this weekend is a reinforcement between the community we serve as law enforcement through our houses of worship. There is no resource that can match the depth of the faith community in facilitating productive engagement with law enforcement, which is needed now more than ever. The connections are built through different activities that are held in various sections of our city through jointly sponsored events like food drives, games and other interactions. We felt we could best support our community this year with food collections. We are partnering with the Springfield Diocese, Council of Churches of western Massachusetts, Hope CDC and the JCC for several events. Thank you to Bishop Byrne and Archbishop Timothy Paul for your support as all food donations will go back into the community.

Our officers will be having lunch with seniors, we're planning a community kickball game and we'll have conversations with our clergy. The non-perishable food drives will take place all month with officers on hand to collect during these times.

Friday October 7th from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. at Mary, Mother of Hope (840 Page Blvd.)

Sunday October 9th from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Sacred Heart Church (387 Chestnut Street)

Sunday October 9th from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the New Hope Pentecostal Church (364 Central Street)

Sunday October 9th from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel (123 William Street)