



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor J. Byron Chapman

Chief Robert Herman

KENTUCKY

Mission Statement

Middletown Police Department is a law enforcement agency working in collaboration with the people of Middletown to provide for the safety and security of the community which it serves.

We are committed to fostering an attitude of cooperation based on mutual respect and understanding between our department and those with whom we interact.

Our presence will enhance the quality of life in Middletown by promoting the ideals of a free society while maintaining the highest ethical standards of policing.

We will protect the rights of all individuals and businesses without discrimination, and we will pursue excellence in the performance of our duties.



SAFETY RESPECT ETHICAL EXCELLENCE

A Message From Chief Rob Herman

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report of the Middletown Police Department. This marks the eighth edition of our annual report, yet it feels like only yesterday that our department started with a handful of officers. Today, we are proud to reflect on the significant progress we have made and to share the accomplishments and statistics achieved throughout the past year.



Over the past year, we have continued to expand our resources to better serve the citizens, businesses, and visitors of our city. Our department now consists of 24 officers, including Administration, Investigations, Traffic, and a newly trained police K9. We are excited to be in a position to have expanded our services further, including drones to support search-and-rescue missions, upgrading our in-car mobile data terminals and cameras, having Automatic External Defibrillators and Life Vacs in patrol vehicles, and participating in the Retail Organized Crime Taskforce. The backbone of our department, our Patrol Officers, was also strengthened with the addition of personnel to the mid-watch shift to provide quicker responses to calls for service during our busiest time periods.

None of this progress would have been possible without the continued support of our Mayor, City Commissioners, and the citizens of Middletown. Additional support has been provided by the Middletown Police Foundation. I encourage you to visit their website at www.mpfky.org to learn more about the outstanding projects they supported throughout the year. This spring, the Foundation distributed more than 150 bicycle helmets to area children to help reduce injuries while riding bicycles, skateboards, and scooters. The Foundation also funded several other initiatives, including educational materials for seniors on avoiding scams, financial support for the police K9 program, and research of available grants opportunities for the police department.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain committed to evaluating the evolving needs of our growing city and responding to the challenges that accompany that growth. As new businesses open and our population increases, the demand for additional officers continues to rise. In 2025, we also invested in our employees by providing competitive wages, improving benefits, and equipping officers with the tools necessary to perform their duties safely and effectively. These investments directly translate into better service for our residents.

Police work is a team effort, and our success would not be possible without the partnerships we share with surrounding agencies. We are grateful for the support and guidance provided by the Louisville Metro Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Jeffersontown Police Department, St. Matthews Police Department, Anchorage Police Department, Lyndon Police Department and our many federal and state law enforcement partners.

Lastly, I encourage you to follow us on social media and to reach out if you see something that needs our attention. You can contact us by phone, email, or by stopping by the police station to share your compliments, concerns, or suggestions. We value community involvement and want you to remain engaged with your city and your police department. On behalf of the Middletown Police Department, I thank our citizens, businesses, and visitors for your continued support for our officers, who work tirelessly to provide the highest level of police service possible.

Chief Rob Herman

COMMAND STAFF



Chief of Police
Rob Herman



Major Joe Webb



Lieutenant
Steve Kauffling



Administrator
Barbara Fischer

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT



Detective Sgt Pat Bass



Detective Scott Beck



Detective Scott Russ

SERGEANTS



Sgt Ricky Guffey



Sgt Eric Kemper



Sgt Dale McCormack



Sgt Chris Morris



Sgt Holly Rogers



Sgt Bill Shingleton

TRAFFIC UNIT



Officer Michael Cummins



Officer Sam Rogers

OFFICERS



Officer Chris White



Officer Glenn Simpson



Officer Adam Payne



Officer Trey McKnight



Officer Chad Ledington



Officer AJ James



Officer Mike Holston



Officer Mark Hord



Officer Nathan Benge

K-9 UNIT



K9 Officer Zach Prichard



K9 Onyx

CHAPLAINS



John Abel



Jay Kustes



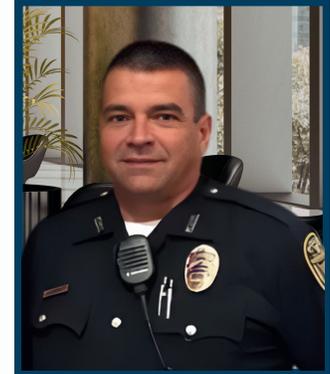
Greg Gitschier

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

2025 Year in Review

From January 1 to December 31, 2025, Middletown Detectives investigated 456 cases. During this same period, the detectives and officers were able to close or clear 182 cases. Some of the cases we investigate include criminal mischief, theft, domestic violence, narcotics, robbery, and other criminal activity. Of that total, 126 of the clearances were generated by arrests being made on the suspect. Below is a list of clearances:

- Closed By Arrest: 126
- Closed By Exception: 45
- Unfounded (Originally reported but did not occur): 8
- Inactive: 171 *Cases are not closed but waiting for new information for follow up.



Do Not Become a Victim!

- Know Your Surroundings
- Keep Valuables Secure
- Light is Your Friend

Let's face it, there are times when you can do everything right and still become a victim but, in most instances, you can prevent being targeted! Be observant. If you have a sixth sense telling you something is not right, then you need to re-evaluate your next move. Most criminal activity occurs because there is an opportunity to commit the crime, so if you take away the opportunity you have greatly increased your odds of becoming a victim. You wouldn't believe the amount of valuable property taken from an unlocked vehicle. You also would be concerned about the quantity of firearms taken out of vehicles (locked and unlocked). Please do not leave firearms in vehicles! I understand that there are going to be times you cannot prevent keeping valuables in a vehicle, so park in a well-lit area, lock your doors and keep valuables out of sight. Do your part in taking the opportunity to make Middletown a safer place to live.

Do You Know the Serial Number on Your Valuables?

Many items have identifying numbers that make that item unique and one of a kind. Logging and keeping that information is very helpful to us when a report is made about an item being stolen. Having a serial number listed on your report increases the odds of getting the property back. It takes all of us to stop or deter criminal activity. If you see something suspicious, please call us at the appropriate phone number. You can contact Middletown Police by calling our dispatch on the following numbers: Emergency, dial 9-1-1 or non-emergency, dial (502) 574-5471. If you have a general question for the police, call (502) 365-1900. For anonymous tips, call (502)755-4MPD.

Have a wonderful year in 2026!

Sincerely,
Sgt. Pat Bass



Det Scott Russ, Det Scott Beck and Det Sgt Pat Bass



L-R: Det Sgt Pat Bass, Major Joey Webb with teammates Bill Bass and Marc Laytham at the Middletown Chamber Golf Scramble



Lt Back Row: Det Scott Russ, Chief Rob Herman, Major Joey Webb
R Side Row L-R: Detective Scott Beck and Detective Sgt Pat Bass

TRAFFIC UNIT



Rollover collision on Shelbyville Rd
Traffic Officers Sam Rogers and Michael Cummins

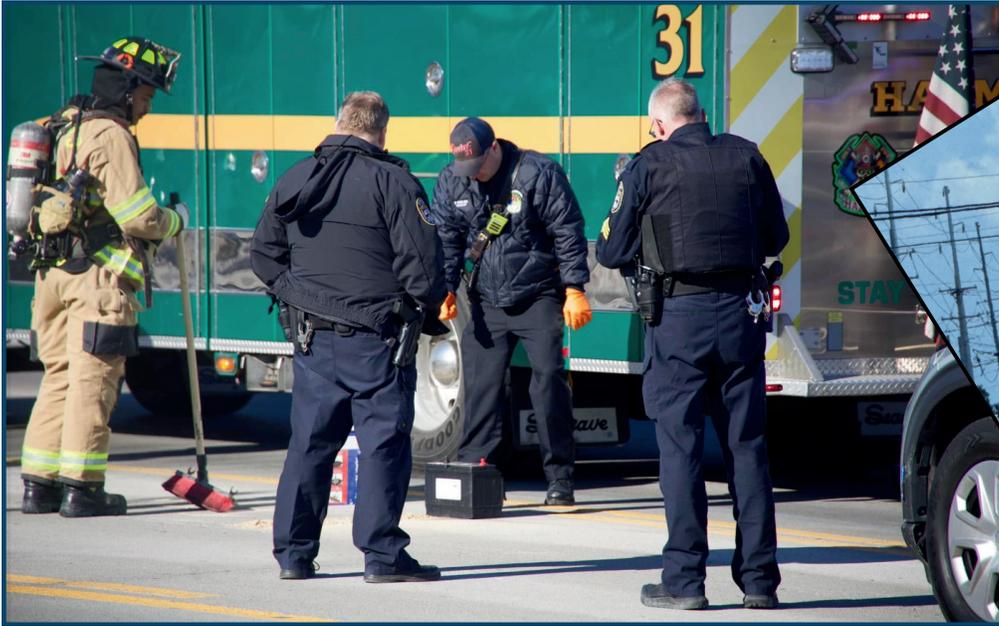
Our city continues to grow at an astounding pace. New residents continue to move into Middletown to take advantage of our wide array of shopping opportunities, fabulous restaurants, and top-notch schools. Middletown has been seen as a safe area for the longest time, where not only the local populace can congregate but also where many others from the region can come to dine, shop, and play.

With the area's growing popularity, an issue that continues to increase is traffic and congestion. Along with increased traffic comes increased frustration, and with frustration comes aggressive and unsafe driving. The Middletown Police Traffic Unit prides itself on being visible and conducting enforcement in a proactive manner. Through this proactive approach, we are frequently seen and just the increased presence of the police conducting stops will curb some of the aggressive driving, speeding, and unnecessary disregard of traffic signals. In 2025, enforcement activity from our traffic unit resulted in 662 citations, as well as 393 warnings that were issued in lieu of citations.

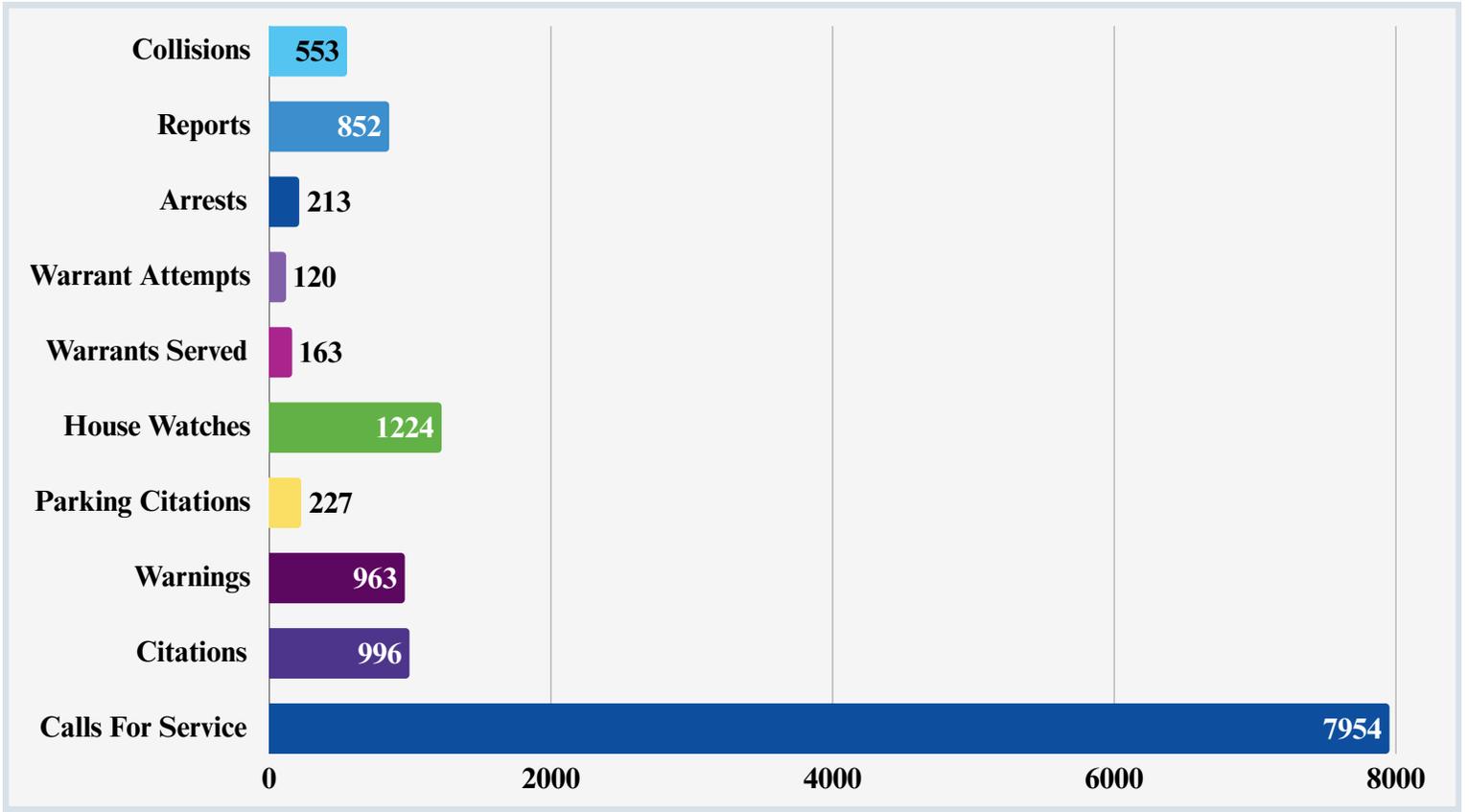
In 2025, the MPD Traffic Unit alone investigated 273 of the 553 collisions. As a reminder, per KRS 189.580, state law requires drivers to move vehicles off the roadway after minor collisions (no serious injuries or hazardous materials) to the shoulder or nearby safe spot to clear traffic; if not possible, it's recommended to stay in the vehicle with flashers on, or if unsafe, stand away from the car. Another tip, if you are the victim of a hit and run collision, if practical and safe to do so, capture a photo of the license plate and operator. Never approach a vehicle attempting to flee, and do not attempt to stop or chase them. Your safety is paramount. Vehicles can be either fixed or replaced; a collision is not worth risking your health and safety.

While traffic enforcement and paperwork from collisions are a large part of our job in the traffic unit, we also pride ourselves on conducting with a reassuring, calm voice during some of the most stressful moments that occur in our citizens' lives. If you see us around the community and we are not conducting police business, feel free to come up and have a casual conversation, ask a question, or just say hello. As always, do not hesitate to call 911 when you are in need of immediate police assistance, or you can contact us for non-emergency police matters at (502)574-5471.

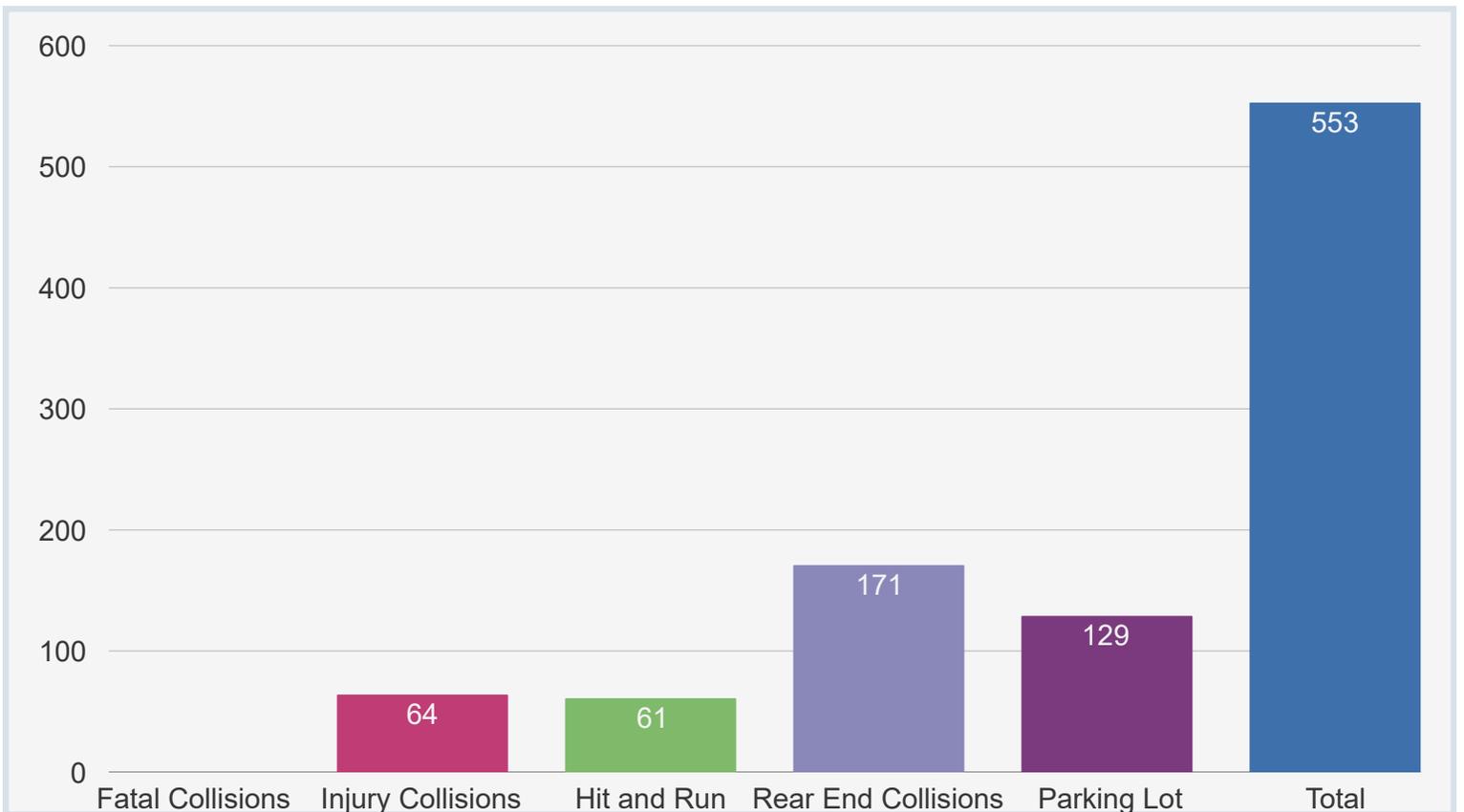
Traffic Officer Michael Cummins



2025 Middletown Police Activity



2025 Middletown Traffic Collision Statistics



DISPATCHERS

“911. What is your emergency?”

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office provides Middletown Police Department with dedicated dispatchers for our city's police and emergency services. Known as the voice behind the thin blue line, we honor their invaluable and unseen work. Their communication center, located in downtown Louisville, is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week including holidays.

We give our sincerest thanks and gratitude to our dispatchers.



Ms. Maranda Evans is our newest Dispatcher! She graduated from DOCJT Telecommunications Academy in 2019. She has worked with Bullitt and Hardin Counties, and the Louisville Metro Police Real Time Crime Center. We are lucky to have Maranda and look forward to future with us at JCSO!

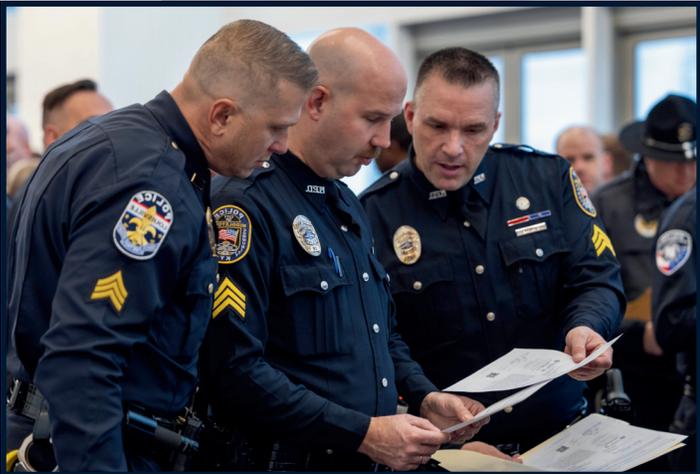
If you're interested in becoming a 911 Dispatcher, please reach out to us! <https://www.jcsoky.org/employment>, or contact JCRAVENS@JCSOKY.ORG



60th Presidential Inauguration Detail
Sgt Ricky Guffey
Sgt Chris Morris



L-R: Sgt Ricky Guffey and Sgt Chris Morris





**Bringing
Honor and Distinction
to Middletown PD**



Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

Sgt Ricky Guffey

Sgt Chris Morris



Volunteering Vehicle Checkpoints in Extreme Cold and Windy Conditions

Photo Credit: LMPD Wales Hunter

K9 UNIT

A New Chapter on Four Legs: Officer and K9 Onyx Take the Lead

For Officer Zach Prichard, policing has never been just a job — it's a calling that has evolved alongside a lifelong passion for working dogs. That journey has now come full circle with the arrival of K9 Onyx, a driven, energetic German Shepherd who will become an invaluable addition to the Middletown Police Department.

K9 Officer Prichard began a law enforcement career in 2014 with Louisville Metro Police Department, serving three years in the First Division, primarily in the Portland neighborhood. In 2017, the officer moved to Indiana and joined the Sellersburg Police Department, before stepping away from policing in 2019. The break didn't last forever. In 2023, Officer Prichard returned to law enforcement, bringing experience, perspective — and a clear goal.

“I knew that becoming a K9 officer was something I had to do.”



Growing up, Officer Prichard enjoyed training dogs and was naturally drawn to working canines. While with LMPD, participation in a K9 in-service class solidified that interest and planted the seed for a future assignment.

The passion followed him to Sellersburg, where efforts were made to start a K9 program from the ground up. Training didn't stop when the shift ended. For an entire year, Officer Prichard trained on personal time with the Jeffersonville PD, learning from their master trainer. Decoy work, laying tracks, and hands-on experience provided invaluable insight into the demands of K9 handling.

Even during time away from traditional policing, the connection to working dogs remained strong. In the private security sector, Officer Prichard worked a single-purpose explosive detection dog for a company called MSA — experience that further reinforced the desire to return to policing as a K9 handler.

That opportunity arrived with Onyx.

Onyx is a three-year-old German Shepherd, born September 1, 2022. He was purchased through a well-known vendor, Tarheel K9 that sources dogs from breeders in Eastern Europe. Louisville Metro Police Department also works with Tarheel K9, and through a partnership between agencies, Onyx was selected jointly by LMPD's head trainer and Officer Prichard.

From the start, it was clear Onyx was special. “He loves to work,” the officer says. “Every time he gets out of the car, he's ready to do something.”

This K9 team is currently enrolled in LMPD's rigorous K9 patrol school — a 16-week program requiring 40 hours of training each week. The curriculum meets state standards and leads to a nationally recognized certification.

Once certified, this K9 team will be qualified in narcotics detection, tracking, suspect apprehension, and article searches.

For a K9 team, success depends on trust, communication, and consistency. Onyx is highly motivated by his ball, which plays a central role in training. “He has to see me as someone who brings him to good things,” Officer Prichard explains. “If he does what I ask, he gets rewarded.” Training is built on repetition, clear expectations, and structure. Onyx quickly learns that obedience leads to positive outcomes — a lesson reinforced every day.

Keeping up with Onyx's drive has been the biggest challenge for the handler. “He's always ready to go. He loves tracking and always wants to be doing something.” For Onyx, his greatest challenge is parting with his ball — something he does reluctantly but reliably when commanded.

Off duty, Onyx shows a softer side. After bathroom breaks, he races to his kennel, jumps onto his bed, and waits patiently for his bone treat. If that treat is delayed, he makes his feelings known with whines and barks until it appears. His personality is best described as motivated, playful, driven, sometimes spastic, a bit needy, and occasionally territorial — all traits that, when properly channeled, make for a strong working dog.

K9 units play a critical role in modern policing. They enhance officer and public safety, access areas officers cannot, and help locate suspects, narcotics, and evidence using abilities no human can replicate.

Once training is complete, K9 Officer Prichard hopes the team will be actively utilized in suspect apprehensions — whether through a bite or a surrender — and in removing narcotics from the streets. Supporting other agencies is also a key goal. Together, Officer Prichard and K9 Onyx represent more than a specialized unit. They are a testament to preparation, dedication, and the powerful bond between handler and dog — a partnership built to serve and protect the community, one track at a time.



K9 Officer Zach Prichard



Hi, I am Onyx.
I am a trained Police K9!



LMPD K9 Officer Matt Koestel with Onyx and Officer Prichard



Coffee with a Cop





Officers Chris White and Zach Prichard

National Night Out





Family Fall Festival



Sgt Shingleton and WDRB's Keith Kaiser



Sgt Shingleton leading the parade





Louisville City Councilman Anthony Piagentini



Chief Rob Herman

Police Drone



Easter Egg Hunt April 19, 2025



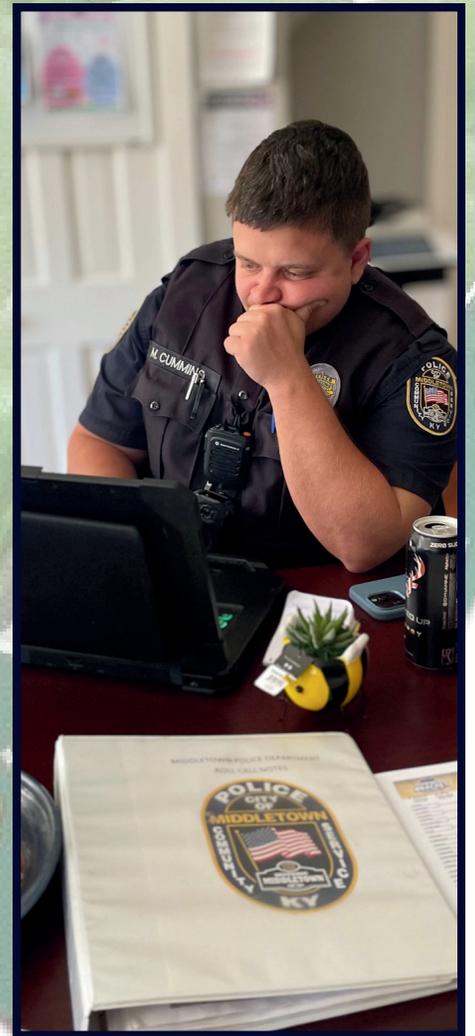
Sgt Bill Shingleton and Charlotte



Officer Michael Cummins and Officer Mark Hord



Detective Scott Russ





Team 2025





L-R Back Row
Eli Rice
Det Scott Beck
Mayor Chapman
Mid:
Chris Mann
Santa Claus
Chief Rob Herman
Major Joey Webb
Det Sgt Pat Bass
Seated:
Mason Dipaola
Det Scott Russ



Middletown PD Christmas Card Contest 1st Place



Officer Trey McKnight's daughter wins 2nd Place



1st and 3rd Place Card Contest Winners
L-R: Cole Kemper and Henry Kemper



Legislative Assistant Chanelle Smith and Sgt Eric Kemper



Chief Herman awards Sgt Guffey and Officer McKnight "Official Cowboy" pins.



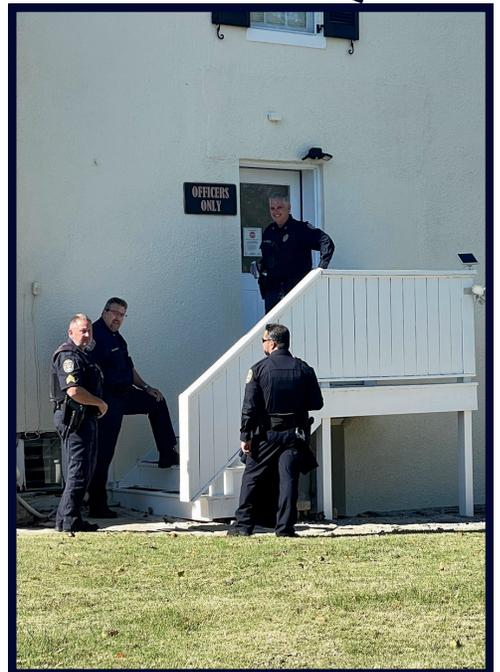
Sgt Ricky Guffey and Officer Trey McKnight rescue horse from pool.



City of Middletown Public Works Crew



L-R: Sgt Bill Shingleton, Eli Rice and Mason DiPaola





Major J Webb, Sgt E Kemper, Chief Herman, Det Sgt P Bass, Sgt B Shingleton and Mayor Byron Chapman



Franchise Owner Vince McClendon and Chief Rob Herman

Welcome New Officers



Officer Adam Payne
Nancy and Sam Rogers



Traffic Officer Sam Rogers



Chief Rob Herman and Mayor Byron Chapman



L-R: Liz and AJ James,
Trey and Ashley McKnight

MIDDLETOWN POLICE FOUNDATION

Strengthening Community Bonds

Founded in 2021, the Middletown Police Foundation is a vital organization dedicated to enhancing the safety and well-being of the citizens, visitors, and businesses of Middletown, Kentucky. With a mission to “Prepare and Support Those Who Protect and Serve,” the foundation plays a crucial role in fostering a strong bond between the Middletown Police Department (MPD) and the community.

Vision and Mission

The foundation’s vision is to ensure that the MPD is well-equipped to maintain a safe environment for everyone in the community. By providing critical resources such as training, equipment, public education, and support for officers, the Middletown Police Foundation aims to enhance the capabilities of the police department.

Community Programs and Initiatives

One of the key initiatives of the Middletown Police Foundation is its focus on child safety. The foundation provides materials to elementary school-age children that includes safety oriented coloring books and crayons. Additionally, the Middletown Police Foundation provides bicycle safety helmets to children from underserved and economically challenged communities. These helmets are distributed through partnerships with the Middletown Chamber of Commerce and local vendors. The foundation also invests in crime prevention services for senior community members by providing literature, information, and seminars on financial scams. These educational resources help prevent crime and strengthen relationships between seniors and the police department.

Supporting Law Enforcement

The Middletown Police Foundation supports the officers of the MPD by providing training on various topics, including de-escalation techniques, response to persons in mental crisis, and education on emerging groups of people and their interactions with law enforcement. The foundation brings in subject matter experts and offers small group training sessions to ensure that officers are well-prepared to handle diverse situations.

Financial Assistance and Technology

The Middletown Police Foundation also provides financial assistance to the MPD for researching crime prevention and response technology. This includes investments in tools such as Aerial Drones, Training Equipment, and Mobile Drug Testing Equipment. These resources help the police department to be more effective in preventing and responding to criminal activities.

How to Get Involved

The Middletown Police Foundation welcomes donations and volunteers who are passionate about supporting the safety and well-being of the community. Donations can be directed to specific programs within the foundation, such as honoring fallen or injured officers, supporting senior citizens, youth safety, and K-9 units via our website or by mail. Those interested in volunteering can apply to join the board of directors and contribute their skills and expertise to the foundation’s mission.

Conclusion

The Middletown Police Foundation is a cornerstone of community safety and support in Middletown, Kentucky. Through its various programs and initiatives, the foundation strengthens the bond between the police department and the community, ensuring a safer environment for all. By supporting the MPF, individuals can play a direct role in enhancing the safety and wellbeing of their neighbors and loved ones. The Middletown Police Foundation is both governed and staffed by an unpaid volunteer Board of Directors comprised of individuals who live or work in Middletown. The Middletown Police Foundation operates as a 501(c)3 organization that relies completely upon donations and fundraisers to fund its mission.



Middletown Police Foundation

Support your Middletown Police Department and your community by making a tax-deductible donation to the Middletown Police Foundation.

Any amount helps our foundation to fund much needed training, education and life-saving equipment. Your donation directly impacts these critical resources which enhance our police department ensuring a safer community in which to live, work and visit.

Send your donation to:

Middletown Police Foundation
11803 Old Shelbyville Rd
Middletown, KY 40243

Or visit our website at www.mpfky.org and click on the **Donate Button** to be directed to our donation portal.

It's just that easy to support the men and women (and K9) who support you!

Easter Egg Hunt
National Night Out
Annual Car Show
Family Fall Festival
Trunk or Treat



Foundation President Ann Hurst at National Night Out



Annual Car Show photograph by
Foundation Board Member Patrick O'Leary



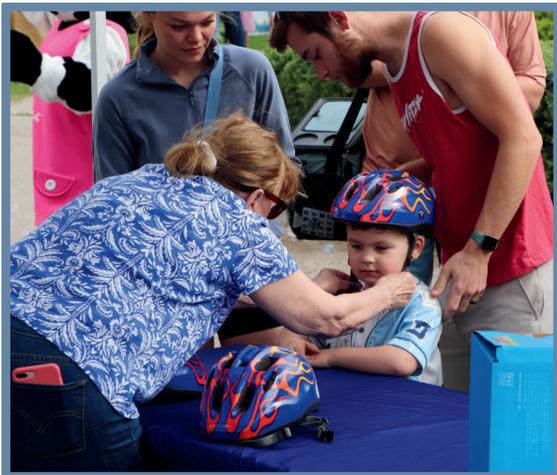
Foundation Board Member Gary Edelen (red shirt)
at Annual Car Show



Foundation Board Member and Photographer Patrick O'Leary and Mayor Bryon Chapman



Gary Edelen sizing helmets for kids at the Easter Egg Hunt



Faryl Edelen sizing helmets at the Easter Egg Hunt



K9 Rizzi Foundation Fundraiser



Foundation Board Member Gary Edelen selling K9 Rizzi's at the Fall Festival

THANK YOU

Our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following individuals and agencies for providing training, guidance, and support to us at the Middletown Police Department:

Mayor J. Byron Chapman
Commissioner Paul Hayden
Commissioner Amy Oliver
Commissioner Mark Stigers
Commissioner Ron Wolf

Louisville Metro Police Department
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Jeffersontown Police Department
Anchorage Police Department
St. Matthews Police Department
Department of Criminal Justice Training
Kentucky League of Cities

Middletown Residents, Business Owners, Churches, and Visitors who have supported us during the year.



Middletown Police Department

11803 Old Shelbyville Rd
Middletown, Kentucky 40243
www.middletownky.gov

Administration: (502)365-1900
Crime Tip Line: (502)755-4MPD