



Community Policing Initiatives & Juvenile Detective

The Haverford Township Police Department Community Policing Initiatives and the Juvenile Detective was responsible for the majority of the education and investigation of juvenile matters. The Community Policing Initiatives and the Juvenile Investigator is under the Detective Division Commander Lt. Michael Glenn. Detective Sergeant Dennis Donnelly oversees and assists with Juvenile Investigations as a secondary assignment.

The community-policing mission is to provide information to the public so it can be informed of current crime trends and have a basic understanding of how to reduce their risk of victimization. Detective Flynn is a Certified Crime Prevention Specialist and is tasked with instructing citizens of the township, adults and school aged children, in methods and strategies to reduce victimization. Crime prevention officers work closely with the residential, commercial and industrial communities to develop strategies that promote proactive community problem solving and crime prevention.

The foundation of a successful community policing strategy is the close, interactive relationship between officers and community members working toward the goal of reducing crime and its effects. Efforts focus on the underlying causes of crime by assessing the characteristics of problems in specific neighborhoods and the application of appropriate, mutually supported problem-solving remedies in a partnership role.



Crime prevention officers work closely with all community groups such as Local Civic Associations, Optimist Clubs, Rotary Club, Church groups, Boys and Girl Scout troops and neighborhood organizations with Community based safety presentations and programs. Additionally the unit is responsible for presenting a wide range of safety and education programs to students in the Haverford Township School District and Parochial Schools.

In 2019, Detective Flynn was also responsible for the department Community Policing initiatives. He continued to educate the public in 2019 by conducting safety and awareness classes for local groups. One such talk was given to the parents of students at the Haverford Middle School and several Elementary Schools. The educational program provided the group with information about cyber safety, sexting and other new laws that affect both them and their children in the digital

environment. Officers also highlighted the need to always be conscious of their personal safety and how to report crime to the police department. Any group that has an interest in an educational program offered by the police department please contact Detective Michael Flynn at 610 853 1298 ext 1225 or mflynn@havpd.org.



Detective Flynn along with members of the Detective Division continued the effort to reduce underage drinking and dangerous behavior by conducting park checks and saturation patrol of problem areas throughout the township. The Detectives conducted seven (7) Law Enforcement Details. These details targeted known areas for underage and problematic drinking. The department also conducted ninety (90) elementary school classes through our R.E.A.C.H. program that targets the concerns of alcohol abuse, underage and problematic drinking.

These classes were given in the parochial elementary schools within the township. These classes included 15 one hour classes at each school with approximately 25 students per class. This accounted for 1500 total student contacts last year. The Department also created and distributed underage and problematic drinking pamphlets in conjunction with this grant throughout the community.

As a result of the increased efforts of the department to combat underage and dangerous drinking in public areas we have noticed a decrease in the behavior in those public areas. This effort was funded by a grant received from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

Juvenile Investigations

The Juvenile Detective is tasked with investigating criminal activity that substantially involves juveniles as either suspects or victims. During 2019, The Juvenile Detective investigated ninety-four (94) cases involving juveniles. Thirty-one (31) of those cases resulted in the juvenile offender being petitioned to Juvenile Court with charges including Robbery, aggravated and simple assault, theft, weapons violations and drug violations. Eight (8) cases ended with citations being filed and fifty-five (55) of the cases were recommended for diversionary programs (YAP & Task Force).



An additional responsibility of the Juvenile Unit is overseeing the referral of juveniles to the Youth Aid Panel program. This program is designed to divert first time juvenile offenders away from the formal juvenile court system. The program is applicable to any first time offender who has committed a relatively minor offense such as a curfew violation, retail theft, underage drinking, disorderly conduct etc. This past year fifty-five (55) different offenders were reviewed for our diversionary programs. The office reviewed 30 juvenile cases for eligibility in the Youth Aid Panel and there was 25 background investigations conducted by the Juvenile Detective for eligibility in the County Task Force diversionary program. Those background checks led to 11 findings of ineligibility for the applicants out of the fifty-five (55) cases.