

Copley Police Department Levy 2021

The Copley Police Department is supported by two levies, a 4.5 mill continuous levy and a 3.5 mill temporary levy. The 3.5 mill temporary levy expires this year. We are asking for your support to replace the expiring levy by passing a 3.5 mill continuous levy.

The Copley Board of Trustees decided to place a continuous levy on the ballot this year, rather than a temporary, for the following reasons.

- The temporary levy expires every three years.
- Replacing the expiring temporary levy usually resulted in a small tax increase, due to changes in property valuation.
- Historically, the voters were given a choice of turning down the levy, which would result in eliminating a significant portion of police department operations, or approving a replacement levy that contained a small tax increase.
- By passing a continuous levy, the Township will no longer have these scheduled “built in” revenue increases associated with replacement levies every three years.
- A continuous levy will help the Township achieve lower borrowing costs because with its passage, all of our revenue will be permanent. As the Township contemplates possible debt for sewer, water, broadband, and other infrastructure costs, we would like the lowest interest rates possible.

Copley Township is the ninth largest community in Summit County by population. In Copley Township there are 18,403 residents and 6,900 housing units. The Police Department has 30 officers that patrol the community in marked police vehicles, unmarked cars, and by bicycle.

The Copley Police Department has expanded the traditional police mandate of fighting crime to include forming partnerships with our citizens that

endorse mutual support and participation. This “Community Policing” philosophy can be seen in the many programs our police department offers to the community.

COPLEY POLICE PROGRAMS

The Copley Police Department serves the community through a variety of programs and policing initiatives.

- **DARE PROGRAM:** Many communities have discontinued their DARE Programs. Chief Michael Mier has continued to provided DARE, not only because the program provides our school students with lessons to help them avoid drug and alcohol use, and encourages them to make wise decisions with regard to violence, gang activity, and risky behavior, but also because of the relationships developed between our officers and the youth of the community. Chief Mier has personally observed how the DARE Program has brought youth and the police together and broken down the traditional barriers between the police and the communities they serve.
- **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ALLOW OUR OFFICERS TO ENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THE YOUTH:**
 - **The Annual Bicycle Safety Rodeo** held in June each year.
 - **The Halloween in the Park** event, which provides a safe setting for our children to “Trick or Treat” in the Community Park.
 - **The Winterfest**, an event offered, weather permitting, which includes games and events for our youth during the winter snow season.
 - **Share a Christmas & Christmas with a Cop:** Events which help our officers to provide a Christmas to families in need.
- **SAFETY TOWN:** Each spring, our officers provide Safety Town instruction to kindergarten-aged children. Instruction includes traffic safety, calling 9-1-1, electrical safety, water safety, and skills to avoid stranger danger.

- **COFFEE WITH A COP:** A monthly get together with police officers at the Montrose Chick-fil-A in which citizens can meet their police officers, ask questions, and learn safety tips.
- **SENIOR CITIZEN WATCH PROGRAM:** The department offers this program to check on our senior citizens daily. The program is designed to allow those senior citizens living by themselves to call in each day. Officers personally check on the participants that do not call in, to make certain they are safe and secure in their homes.
- **CRIME PREVENTION:** Police Officers offer free home inspections to help our residents discover safety issues in their home and provide suggestions to help them make their homes more secure.
- **VACATION HOUSE CHECKS:** When going on vacation, our residents can schedule our officers to check their homes periodically while they are away and contact them if we discover anything unusual or out of place.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS:** Some neighborhoods have asked to start a neighborhood watch program. Our officers work with residents in those neighborhoods to help neighbors look out for each other. Our officers provide safety classes and remain in contact with neighborhood representatives so we can work together to keep Copley one of the safest communities in northeast Ohio in which to live, go to school, and work.
- **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS:** The Copley-Fairlawn Schools have asked our officers to frequent the school buildings in our community to enhance school safety. Our officers train in the schools on a regular basis in the unlikely event an intruder should find their way into one of our schools. Our officers are specially equipped and trained to provide school security. Having an officer in the schools also allows our students the opportunity to approach an officer in an informal manner to discuss safety concerns.

REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTICIPATION

The Copley Police Department participates in several regional law enforcement efforts, to more effectively handle criminal matters and save you money.

- **METRO SWAT:** Three Copley Police Officers are assigned to the Metro SWAT Team. In the event a serious incident takes place, the Metro SWAT Team can respond to Copley with additional police officers and specialized equipment, including an armored vehicle, rescue equipment, and the ability to handle crowd control. One Copley Police Officer is specially trained in negotiation skills in order to defuse barricaded subjects and bring serious incidents to a beneficial conclusion without having to use force.
- **SUMMIT COUNTY DRUG UNIT:** One detective is assigned to the Summit County Drug Unit. This unit investigates drug trafficking throughout the county to take drugs off the streets so they don't make their way into the hands of our youth.
- **ONSET TASK FORCE:** One detective is assigned to the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission ONSET Task Force. This task force investigates drug couriers that bring large quantities of drugs into northeast Ohio and investigates Human Trafficking Complaints.
- **SWSCOM DISPATCH CENTER:** The Copley Police Department was one of the agencies that created the SWSCOM Joint Dispatch Center that provides dispatching services to four communities. The dispatch center provides several trained and professional communication specialists who take calls and dispatch police officers to calls. This regional dispatch center combines resources to provide a more professional and cost effective solution to emergency call taking and communications. In addition, through this regional effort, the Dispatch Center qualifies for 9-1-1 funding that helps defray the cost of communication services.
- **SOUTHWEST CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY:** The Copley Police Department works with the police departments in Barberton and Norton to provide a Citizens Police Academy for our residents. The Citizens Police Academy is an opportunity for interested residents to learn about their police department, the challenges police officers face, and solutions police and citizens can utilize to make our communities safer. It also puts citizens in contact with the officers that serve their community, another way we engage our residents so we can work together to keep Copley safe.

- **UNITED STATES MARSHAL'S VIOLENT FUGITIVE TASK FORCE:** Two Copley Police officers work with this Task Force to locate persons who are fugitives to keep Copley and the greater Summit County area safe. When someone has been identified as a suspect in a violent crime, the Task Force combines the resources of several area police departments to get that person into custody quickly.
- **MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MOBILE FIELD FORCE UNIT:** This is a cooperative effort of several Summit County Police Departments to provide mutual aid to each other when responding to major spontaneous incidents, special events, or other emergency situations that could tax the resources of an individual police department. The officers from the participating agencies train together and respond to partner communities to assist police departments with major incidents, in order to better protect the community.

COPLEY COMMUNITY

The recent census shows that Copley has grown steadily, now with a population of 18,400. There are 6,900 housing units in Copley, 78% are owner occupied and 22 % are rental units. Copley Police officers patrol 61 miles of Township roads, 57 additional private streets, Summit County roadways, as well as, Interstate and Ohio freeways.

The Copley Police jurisdiction includes a large portion of the Montrose Business District that is shared with Bath Township and Fairlawn. There are numerous restaurants, office buildings, and retail businesses in Montrose. Copley Township has most of the hotels in this area.

At one time, there were ten hotels in Copley Township. Your Police Department and Township officials worked very hard to close two of those hotels, declaring them as nuisances, due to the criminal activity and poor management. One of those properties is being considered for development into another business use and the other is being remodeled for use as apartments. The developers of the apartments have pledged to seek long term leases and utilize strict background checks for prospective residents,

which should eliminate many of the critical issues identified by the Police Department.

Although Copley Township typically enjoys a low crime rate, and in particular a very low violent crime rate, the trend on the national level has seen crime rates ticking upward. Many large cities in the nation have seen increases in crime and the activity has pushed outward into communities that have typically been very safe.

A national movement started in 2020 to substantially change the way some communities deal with crime. This movement to “defund” the police was not well thought out and its proponents have offered few real solutions other than anti police rhetoric. That movement seems to have emboldened the criminal element. The resulting rise in crime has run over into the suburbs and Copley Township has responded accordingly.

Crime in neighboring Akron has clearly risen. Gun related crimes in that community have reportedly increased about 78% in 2020, even though their police have seized numerous firearms and engaged in anti-violence initiatives. Unfortunately persons involved in criminal activity move about and do not limit themselves to any one political subdivision.

The Copley Police Department needs your support to continue fighting crime and protecting our citizens. We need your support on November at the ballot box. We also need your support in our community. Our officers work with our citizens to keep our community safe. We benefit when the police and the community work as a team

The many programs and events developed by the Copley Police Department are designed to increase our interaction with the community. It is our hope that through that interaction, the historical barriers between the police and the citizens will dissipate and we can continue to work together for the good of all residents of Copley Township.

Should you any questions or comments about the Police Levy, your Police Department, or the safety of your neighborhood, please feel free to contact Chief Michael Mier directly at 330-666-4260 or through email at MMIER@copley.oh.us.

Let's keep Copley Township one of the safest communities in northeast Ohio in which to live, attend school, and work! We are "committed to our community" and we appreciate your commitment to us.



COPLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT, "Committed to Our Community"

