

Chief Kott outlines her new plans at the budget meeting

The Bethlehem Gadfly Police November 13, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts about the Bethlehem Police* 

Here's the beginning of the Police section of the 2021 Budget book — the narrative section that precedes the line-by-line items.

The Chief selected certain items here and on the following pages to talk about at the Budget meeting on November 9.

BUREAU DETAIL

Bureau: Police

No: 0601

Department: Police

No: 0060

Bureau Description:

The Bethlehem Police Department is an accredited law enforcement agency that strives to enhance the quality of life in the City of Bethlehem by working together with the public to prevent crime, enforce the laws, preserve the peace, and provide a safe environment. The Police Department is comprised of three divisions: patrol, criminal investigations, and professional standards. These divisions include specialized units such as traffic, mounted patrol, school resources officers, community beat officers, detective bureau, forensic services, Bethlehem Housing Authority, and vice.

Goals and Objectives:

- Incorporation of social work into the police department to help identify and address underlying areas of need in our community through the implementation of a social worker liaison that will coordinate efforts between the police department and health bureau to provide enhanced support to individuals with mental illnesses as well as promote connections to health care services and community resources.
- Strengthen the department's relationship with the community through participation in more community engagement activities and events.
- Increase the effectiveness of the department's social media outlets.
- Continue to lower Part 1 crimes (violent crime) and Part II crimes.
- Increase police training related to mental health, crisis intervention, trauma informed care, cultural awareness, and implicit bias.
- Improve Officer Wellness through the resiliency training and the implementation of a peer support network.
- More accurately track and manage employee training records, use of force data, and citizen complaint reports
- Introduction of a comprehensive report management system that will improve our ability to collect and analyze crime statistics as well as transition to the federally mandated National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
- Increase our capability to store physical evidence (i.e. vehicles) long-term.

Prior Year Achievements:

- Completion of the CSI security plan for City Hall and all City employees, which controls access to areas of City Hall and enhances personal safety in the workplace.
- Implementation of a new and updated Website and Facebook page that enables citizens to easily access information about the police department, active criminal investigations, and helpful crime prevention tips.
- Network improvements for body worn camera recording uploads.

Gadfly has selected here the portion of the Chief's presentation dealing with new programs, which are his special interest (5 mins.).

The Chief talks about:

- integration of a social worker
- community engagement events
- collaboration with other departments
- specific kinds of officer training
- record keeping/tracking — complaints, etc.
- foot/bike patrols in low/moderate income areas (Yosko and 5 Points)

- dealing with quality of life issues: abandoned vehicles, grass cutting, house structural issues, etc.
- the goal being to increase community non-enforcement interactions

With each public appearance, the Chief gives more details of her thinking.

Give a listen.

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