

# **VFH Off Duty Police Overview / Report**

**Time Period: March 2023 – March 2024**

## **Program Overview:**

The Village of Friendship Heights established a Montgomery County Police Off Duty Police Officer program within the village limits. This program has one officer working exclusively in the village between Monday through Friday. The program hours initially were 8AM-4PM each day. Currently, the hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8AM-4PM with Tuesday and Thursday hours being 12P-8P. The change of hours were at the request of the Village after resident engagement wanted some later police visibility.

The duties of these officers within the Village are as follows:

- High visibility and active patrol – Vehicle patrols. Foot patrols are also encouraged when weather permits.
- High Visibility stationary posts with, at times, police lights activated at certain areas as identified by the Village. This is for traffic calming and also community visibility.
- Community engagement. Officers interact with residents, businesses, property managers, etc.
- Listening to MCPD dispatch radio and respond to calls within the village assisting any on-duty MCPD units.
- Assist the village parking enforcement (Monica) as needed.
- Take action as needed when criminal, traffic and/or parking violations are observed.

The program falls under the Village Manager who has a program coordinator (Jason Cokinos) to help with the following:

- Recruit and maintain a recommended staff of high quality, customer service friendly officers.
  - Includes oversight, ensuring all of the county ethics and MCPD administrative paperwork is handled. Serve as the single point of contact for the program.
- Monthly scheduling of officers/shifts.
- Shift tracking and coordination (ensure shifts are filled in the event someone has a conflict).
- Prepare reports of officer/hours worked for village payroll staff.
- Collection of statistics and prepare reports as requested.
- Dedicated point of contact for all law enforcement questions, concerns, etc.

- Provide crime data and other information for council and/or community members as requested.
- Attend village meetings.
- Assist community members directly with police reporting if needed.

**Year in review:**

This past year was very busy for the officers working the detail. The officers are proactive about community engagement and with being on the lookout for ways to be busy. Below is a snapshot of different activities the officers have done / do:

- Stop sign enforcement and visibility.
- School bus stop monitoring and enforcement.
- Speed calming at fixed locations such as on Willard Avenue.
- **Officers have made over 800 traffic violation stops over the year.**
- **Assist parking enforcement 63 times with registration information.**
- **Handled 13 parking disputes, towed 17 vehicles.**
- **Handled 15 car accidents.**
- Community engagement – provided crime prevention tips and other information to residents. Foot patrol interactions, attended community events.
- Business engagement. Assisted with provided guidance and advice on problems and security concerns.
- **Helped change flat tires, jump started resident vehicles (4 times).**
- **Taken 21 police reports for businesses and residents.**
  - 11 thefts from businesses (shoplifting)
  - 7 thefts from auto (work vans)
  - 1 fraud
  - 1 lost property
  - 1 assault
- Towed 6 vehicles specifically for keeping construction crane areas clear (special circumstance).
- Patrolled and cleared the park under construction on N. Park.
- Collected and assist Hector when the crosswalk signs get damaged at intersections.
- Quick response to emergency calls.
  - **Responsible for quickly responding and arresting a carjacking suspect (crime was within VFH)**
  - **Quick response to 142 police emergency calls within the Village:**
    - 14 – 911 disconnects
    - 11- thefts
    - 7- theft from auto

- 4- commercial alarms
- 1- carjacking
- 1- robbery
- 3- assaults
- 16- trespassing complaints
- 9- assist fire department
- 2- gas leaks
- 1- lost property
- 1- fraud
- 4- motorist assistance
- 2- threats
- 1- suicide
- 13- parking disputes
- 1- burglary
- 9- welfare checks
- 4- mental health
- 1- vandalism
- 4- suspicious situations
- 4- missing persons
- 3- disorderly conduct
- 9- disputes
- 4- injury car collisions
- 11- non injury car collisions
- 2- assist another agency
  - Crisis center for mental health evaluation
  - Metro Police chasing a suspect on foot towards the village
- Deal with crime trends with visibility and prevention:
  - Work van thefts of tools. Detail engagement to get workers to lock their vehicles has helped achieve the result of that crime trend stopping. **We had 7 thefts and there have been zero since December.**