



Community Services Officer (COP's)

The Takoma Park Police Department has fully embraced all six pillars of the 21st Century Report on Policing. We are committed to community policing, collaborative problem-solving with all community stakeholders, and continuing to build partnerships and trust with our constituents.

To coordinate all of our community outreach programs, we are requesting a community orientated police officer (COP's) position. Although community policing is a broad departmental initiative with all staff members participating, we feel having an officer to plan and coordinate all of our community outreach programs would be extremely beneficial to our community policing initiatives.

Most agencies of similar size to the TPPD have at least one Community Services officer. Larger agencies have community services officers assigned to each district/region. The community services officer is the go-to person for community members to address community issues. Having a defined community services officer will help alleviate any confusion amongst community members as to who to go to for problems.

The TPPD has involved in hundreds of community events/programs annually. Some of the more significant events, such as National Night Out, the Community Academy, the Police Explorers program, etc., involve extensive planning and coordination with other city departments and stakeholders. The community services officer would be responsible for planning and coordination of community events/programs. Planning and coordination of these events are typically spread through staff from various sections of the PD. Consistency in planning and coordination by having one central person to coordinate activities will help mainstream the process.

Lieutenant Position

A review of the supervisory structure within the TPPD revealed an incongruent chain of command. The current supervisory structure within the PD has four ranks; Chief (Department Head), Captain (Senior Command Staff/Section Commander), Sergeant (Squad or Team Leader), and Corporal (Assistant Squad or Team Leader). Absent from the chain of command in the rank of Lieutenant. This rank is integral to the smooth operation of the PD.

Captains and sergeants are currently performing duties that aren't typically associated with their ranks. This is putting a strain on staff in both positions. To create a more efficient supervisory flow, we are asking for one lieutenant's position. The assigned lieutenant will oversee our patrol section. The majority of sworn staff, twenty-nine officers, are assigned to the patrol section. Currently the Operations Captain, in addition to managing command of the patrol section, commands the traffic/safe speed section, the honor guard section, and the Canine Unit. A patrol lieutenant will allow for more direct command staff supervision of the largest section of the agency.