



Improving police response to persons affected by mental illness

Police officers face special challenges when responding to someone affected by mental illness or is in crisis. Often, they are not only operating as officers of the law, but as social workers and mediators.

The Springfield Police Department has a longstanding relationship with local mental and behavioral health agencies and works regularly with Community Mental Health Liaison Melissa Daugherty to offer help to those who need it – thereby preventing potential tragedies and keeping nonviolent offenders out of jail.



Nearly 70 officers have gone through the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which teaches police officers how to better recognize and deal with these issues.

In addition to the above efforts, the police department recently joined the International Association of Chiefs of Police's One Mind Campaign to help law enforcement agencies improve their responses to persons affected by mental illness and to make communities safer.

To join the campaign, law enforcement agencies commit to implementing the four strategies listed below over a three-year time frame.

- Establish a clearly defined and sustainable partnership with one or more community mental health organization(s).
- Develop and implement a model policy addressing police response to persons affected by mental illness.
- Train and certify all sworn officers (and selected non-sworn staff, such as dispatchers) in mental health first aid.
- Provide crisis intervention team training to a minimum of 20 percent of sworn officers (and selected non-sworn staff, such as dispatchers).

"Every year, our interactions with people suffering from mental illness increase," says Chief Paul Williams. "While the SPD has been active in seeking out and implementing best practices to address these issues, committing to the IACP One Mind Campaign formalizes these efforts. In addition, it provides a benchmark for the department to be measured against and a tool by which we can update the public on our efforts."

Headquarters:

321 E. Chestnut Expressway
Springfield, MO 65802

South District Station:

2620 W. Battlefield Rd.
Springfield, MO 65807

Community Engagement

Springfield Police Department offers a variety of programs and services that engage citizens in public safety initiatives.

- Police Area Representative (PAR) Officers
- Crime Prevention
 - Neighborhood Watch
 - Business Watch
 - Night Watch
 - CPTED
 - Apartment Watch
 - Citizens Alert Patrol
- Targeted awareness campaigns
- Crime Stoppers
- Citizens Police Academy
- Coffee with the Chief
- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

Police Engagement

Springfield Police Department is organized to maximize effective deployment and utilization of resources.

- Highly trained and specialized teams
- Targeted enforcement efforts
 - people
 - places
 - crime
- Annual beat surveys
- Spirit of service
- Commitment to transparency
- Crime trend analysis
- Daily officer deployment based on crime data

See Something. Say Something.

There's no information that's insignificant. Don't hesitate. Call 911.

Report criminal activity anonymously to Crime Stoppers.

(417) 869-TIPS

Text a Tip: Text 417SPD plus your message or photo to CRIMES (274637)

Connect with us: [sgfpolice](#)



Learn more about how you can be involved in crime prevention efforts:

(417) 874-2113 or springfieldmo.gov/spd

Springfield Crime Statistics

Fourth Quarter 2016 (Oct. - Dec.)

↑ 18%

Overall increase
in crime in 4th Qtr.
(Compared to 4th Qtr. 2015)

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

Oct. - Dec.	2015	2016
Homicide	3	2
Rape	66	55
Robbery	121	105
Aggravated Assault	362	354
Total Against Persons	552	516


THERE WAS A **7% TOTAL DECREASE** IN CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS FROM THIS PERIOD IN 2015.

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Oct. - Dec.	2015	2016
Burglary	503	524
Larceny/theft	2,619	3,077
Stolen Vehicle	275	556
Total Against Property	3,397	4,157

THERE WAS A **22% TOTAL INCREASE** IN CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY FROM THIS PERIOD IN 2015.

This quarter,
stolen vehicles
INCREASED BY **102%**



This significant number is "driving" the increase in overall crime this quarter.

Police continue to discover that most of these vehicles were left unlocked, often with keys inside.

ALL CATEGORIES
of violent crime
DECREASED
in 4th Qtr 2016.



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