

## **Updates from the Police Chief Summer 2019**

A key focus for our department is and has been building relationships. Community Engagement programs provide education, but equally important is instilling confidence in our communities that our police officers are trusted resources that can be counted on to work in their best interests.

We, as police officer's, must keep in mind that every encounter is a community engagement opportunity. It's the lens by which we view all of our activities. It's what marks the difference between a police department that participates in community engagement events versus a department whose driving philosophy is community engagement.

We recently hosted our annual "Summer Survival" camp for kids on June 18th and 19th. The camp is a two-day event for school aged children in which they are presented with different demonstrations from Police, Fire, and EMS organizations. We showcase Police K-9s, water patrol boats, fire trucks, teach safety skills, weather safety, drug/alcohol and tobacco education and prevention, and we even get a visit from the State Patrol helicopter. Events that we will be focusing on as we continue through the busy summer months include MN Night to Unite (August 6th) and Village Fest (August 2nd – 4th).

In relation to Community Engagement programs, we utilize social media to promote transparency and engagement with community stakeholders through the application of various platforms available mainly through mobile applications.

These applications include Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat. We utilize these platforms to disseminate information (sometimes in real time) for recruitment, engaging media outlets, providing crime alerts, press releases, and profiling our officers to increase approachability and create connections. Of note, our Facebook page has over 2200 followers, Instagram has over 1000 followers, and Twitter has nearly 5000 followers.

With regard to transparency, the police department fully implemented our Panasonic Body Worn Camera (BWC) program as of November 9th, 2018. Officers of the St. Anthony Police Department have embraced this technology and have been diligent in following policy regarding deployment and use. Daily record management reviews are conducted to ensure equipment is being used properly. Department supervisors are required to complete monthly audits to ensure equipment is being used properly and in accordance with policy. Our April audit resulted in a 100% compliance rate. Additional upgrades to our audio and video capabilities in both the squad car and the police department facilities now allow us to capture and record coverage of officer contact with the public through multiple phases of the interaction.

As an agency, we will endeavor to maintain a culture of community service and one that embraces the concepts of community orientated policing.

Respectfully,

Jon Mangseth, Police Chief