



Gun Buy Back Program Needs Your Help!

The Cleveland Police Foundation (CPF) has announced its annual Public Safety Gun Buy Back Program Fundraising Campaign. This is an important and even critical initiative that protects our citizens and police officers.

The CPF raises the money and the Cleveland Division of Police collects, inspects, catalogues and prepares firearms for eventual disposal typically at a local steel plant to be

recycled into new steel. The firearms are exchanged for gift cards purchased from or donated by local companies and individuals. This program continues to make Cleveland a safer city. To date, the Gun Buy Back program has removed over 3,300 operable firearms from Cleveland's neighborhoods.

The goal for this campaign is \$15,000. There are several ways to support the Gun Buy Back Program. The first is through the donation of gift cards. Of course, cash donations will help tremendously. Your consideration of these opportunities will be greatly appreciated! The CPF is looking for a naming sponsor for this important initiative. Details about this sponsorship are available from the Cleveland Police Foundation.

More information about this program can be found at www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org or contact CPF Executive Director Rick DeChant at 216-536-6776. Please note that the Cleveland Police Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with both the IRS and the State of Ohio, so your donation is tax-deductible.

Support the Cleveland Police Foundation Gun Buy Back Program today!



The Cleveland Police Foundation is honored to recognize Patrol Officer Hassan Ali, Sergeant Patrick Becka, Detective Zachary New, and Detective Mark Jelenich as the January 2022 Police Officers of the Month.

Last summer (2021), members of the Cleveland Division of Police Second District demonstrated how a positive attitude in a team effort can really make a difference when applied to police work.

A woman reported to the Second District Police Headquarters that a friend had beaten her up and stolen her vehicle with her six-week-old son inside. An investigation was initiated by **Patrol Officer Hassan Ali, Sergeant Patrick Becka, and Detectives Zachary New and Mark Jelenich.**

Working as a team, they were able to identify the offender using a list of past addresses and establish a positive make and model of the stolen vehicle along with the license plate number. The investigation eventually led the officers to Youngstown, Ohio where they met with the Youngstown FBI Field Office Agents. Through a joint effort, the officers and agents were able to locate both the child (thankfully unharmed) and the vehicle. However, the offender had fled the scene.

When contacted about this incident, Second District Lieutenant Tim Maffo-Judd stated, "This is a prime example of excellent police work by four outstanding CPD Officers working as a team to ensure a positive outcome to a serious situation. They are all very much worthy of this award."

It is because of their dedication and devotion to their profession that the Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to name Patrol Officer Hassan Ali, Sergeant Patrick Becka, Detective Zachary New, and Detective Mark Jelenich as their **Police Officers of the Month for January 2022**.

[More about the Police Officer of the Month Program...](#)



The Cleveland Police Foundation proudly announces that the recipients of our Community Partner of the Month Award for January 2022 are Officer Kevin Watts, Officer Sean Lawlor, and Officer Kevin Rodriguez of Richmond Heights.

On New Year's Eve 2021, the Cleveland Division of Police lost a true Hero in Blue when off-duty Fifth District **Patrol Officer Shane Bartek** was shot and killed in a carjacking near Rocky River Drive on the city's west side.

As the suspects drove off in P.O. Bartek's car, a description of the vehicle went out to all law enforcement. It was subsequently spotted by **Richmond Heights Officers Kevin Watts, Sean Lawlor, and Kevin Rodriguez**, who began a pursuit.

These three officers followed the vehicle, often at high speeds as they put their lives at risk to stop these suspects implicated in Officer Bartek's death. The chase ended in an apartment complex in Euclid where an adult male was arrested and eventually an 18-year-old female, who was indeed the killer of CPD Officer Shane Bartek.

Cleveland Police Foundation Community Outreach Coordinator Bob Guttu recently visited the Richmond Heights Police Department to honor these three officers. He asked Chief Wetzel about this incident who stated, "These officers whose lives were put at very serious risk demonstrated courage and firm resolve while maintaining a calm professionalism. They performed extremely well and I'm proud of all they did that day." After meeting with the officers, Guttu (Retired CPD) felt that they were on a mission that night and failure was not an option. We thank these officers for a job well done!

It is because of their dedication and willingness to assist their Partners in Blue that the Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to name Richmond Heights Officer Kevin Watts, Officer Sean Lawlor, and Officer Kevin Rodriguez as their **Community Partners of the Month for January 2022**.

[More about the Community Partner of the Month Program . . .](#)

How you can help: The Heroes Fund

The Cleveland Police Foundation has designated funds from its Heroes Fund to the family of Patrolman Shane Bartek, who was shot and died this past January. Now, the Foundation welcomes support from the community, according to Dick Clough, Foundation Chair.

"Here is a chance for everyone in Cleveland and the County to support the Heroes Fund which assists families such as the Barteks," says Clough. "When police officers lose their lives—no matter what the cause—the Cleveland Police Foundation is there for the families. The Heroes Fund also helps families and police officers when they are critically injured in the line of duty."

The Cleveland Police Foundation is a recognized 501 (c) (3) and all contributions are tax deductible.

For more information, visit www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org/heroes-fund/. You may donate online or mail your check to: Cleveland Police Foundation, Heroes Fund, 2301 Payne Avenue, Suite 201, Cleveland OH 44114.

Engage. Invest. Implement.

PLEASE HELP US...

transform police culture to improve police community relations, and achieve a safer community for you and your family or business.



VISION '21 CAMPAIGN

CONSIDER BECOMING A FRIEND

of the Cleveland Police Foundation, and receive some "cool" perks in appreciation for the support.



Vision '21: Help the Police Help the Community

Our mission is to strengthen the bonds between the Cleveland Division of Police and the citizens it serves, working together to make our city safer for all. To accomplish that goal, the CPF works proactively to support and invest in programs, community policing initiatives and engagement, events that foster stronger relationships between citizens and police officers, and police charities.

Your participation will make a direct impact on the future of our community and give you sense of pride knowing you are an official FRIEND of the Cleveland Police Foundation.

[More about the Friends program . . .](#)

BOLO

FEB 26

**[Reverse Raffle Benefit for Cleveland
Tattoo](#)**

MAY 14-21

**[37th Annual Police Memorial
Commemoration](#)** and Police Week 2022

MAR 5

[Fifth Annual Badges & Bagpipes](#)

MAY 21

[Cleveland Tattoo](#)

MAR 8

[Women in Law Enforcement Roundtable](#)

In the News Around Town



Leading Beyond the Badge: Women in Law Enforcement

ROUNDTABLE

Hear from women leaders in law enforcement
discussing opportunities and challenges in their careers.

March 8, 2022 | 10-11:30 a.m.

Free event and open to the public, and current and future law enforcement.

[In-Person Event Registration](#)

Register today.

[Virtual Event Registration](#)

[Western Campus Theatre](#) | Cuyahoga Community College
11000 West Pleasant Valley Road | Parma, OH 44130



Ohio

Office of
Law Enforcement
Recruitment

Attend this free event on **March 8, 2022** from 10:00 to 11:30 at the Western Campus Theatre at Cuyahoga Community College. The round table will feature discussions from women in law enforcement and the challenges and opportunities that come along with it. You can register in person and online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2Z2ZBJJ>.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE



Jovan Larkin

Larkin has served the Cleveland Division of Police for 14 years. She is currently a Patrol Officer in the Bureau of Community Relations. In 2016, she was a member of the Bike Unit that covered the Republican National Convention. In 2019-2020, Larkin became a certified Active Intruder Instructor and an Ohio Peace Officer Training Instructor.

Why did you choose a career in public safety?

In 2007, I chose a career in public safety to improve my quality of life and to use this platform to show other single parents in the inner city that it is possible to overcome adversity regardless to your life challenges.



HIGHLIGHTING OUR HEROES

Congratulations Officer Jovan Larkin and Officer TJ Powell!

Kudos to the Cleveland Division of Police for highlighting Officer Jovan Larkin as a #BlackHistoryMonth honoree. She has served #CLE Police for fourteen years and is currently assigned to the Bureau of Community Relations.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE



TJ Powell

Powell has served the Cleveland Division of Police for 14 years. He is currently a Detective in the Homicide Unit. He is the youngest African-American to be assigned to the Homicide Unit.

Powell was recognized as the Cleveland Police Foundation Police Officer of the Month for October 2021. He has also received awards for designing the Cleveland Police recruitment van and the Black Shield Police Association challenge coin.

In August 2020, he and his family gave away 100 backpacks containing school supplies to kids from his childhood neighborhood. Powell was also highlighted on Fox 8 News for coordinating a surprise giveback to help a grandmother who was raising her five grandchildren on her own.



HIGHLIGHTING OUR HEROES

Detective TJ Powell has serviced the Cleveland Division of Police for fourteen years. Powell selflessly gives back to his community through volunteering and hosting donation drives.



Cleveland PAL Mark Price Meet & Greet

CLE PAL staff members and youngsters had the opportunity to meet NBA superstar and Cleveland Cavaliers Legend **Mark Price** during All-Star weekend. Everyone got the chance to talk to Mark, take photos with him, and get some autographs. Mark was very kind and gracious and took the time to interact with everyone that came to see him on a personal level. Each person received a special edition Mark Price t-shirt before they left.

Mark is one of the very few NBA players to be a member of the very elite 50-40-90 club (50% field goal percentage, 40% 3 pt. field goal percentage, and 90% free throw percentage). Only a very few players from the NBA can lay claim to that achievement. The CAVS retired Mark's jersey in 1999. A special thanks to PAL board member Ron Warner, Cleveland Clothing Company owner and founder Mike Kubinski, and of course, Mr. Mark Price.



35th Annual Chili Bowl Classic

After years of practicing in the Fire Station, the Cleveland Fire Department finally got a win for best chili in the Chili Bowl Classic 5k Saturday, February 12, 2022. The Cleveland Division of Police conceded *this* year, but not without asking a couple more folk **which chili they liked better**.

Challenge Coins Still Available

Detective James Skernivitz

A 22-year veteran of the Cleveland Division of Police, Detective James Skernivitz was a victim of gun violence during an undercover drug operation ambush on September 3, 2020. "Skern" was also a member of the Honor Guard for 20 years and these coins honor his sacrifice.



The challenge coins are \$10 each. Please contact Bob Guttu at rguttu@clevelandpolicefoundation.org.

Thank you for remembering Detective Skernivitz and for supporting the Cleveland Police Honor Guard!

Cleveland Police Mounted Unit

The tradition of the Cleveland Police Mounted Unit has always been dear to the hearts of the community, as demonstrated by the outpouring of support over the past few decades. Officially established in 1911, the team has been in several presidential inaugural parades, helped with crowd control, and spreads good cheer and PR throughout the City of Cleveland.



To further reinforce the future of the Cleveland Police Mounted Unit, the Challenge Coins are for sale at the stables at 1150 East 38th St. in Cleveland for \$10. If you choose to have them shipped, the cost is \$15. Please message the unit with your information via their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandPoliceMountedUnit>

Thank you for your support of this Cleveland tradition!

Safety and Crime Prevention Tips

The Cleveland Police Foundation in partnership with the Cleveland Division of Police and the Ohio Crime Prevention Association presents these tips so residents can help to make our community safer.

Winter Driving Tips

Winter driving can be treacherous and stressful. Snow, ice, freezing rain and sub-zero temperatures all combine to make driving in the winter dangerous and, potentially, life threatening. The good news is that there are steps people can take to protect themselves when behind the wheel in winter. Here are a few safety tips to help you lessen the chances of having an accident or getting stuck in frigid conditions.

- Check weather and road conditions frequently.
- Use your G.P.S. when necessary.
- Keep a survival kit in your vehicle.
- Travel with a charged cell phone and keep emergency numbers within reach.
- Clear all snow and ice from your car.
- Keep an assured clear distance from snow plows.
- Always allow extra time to get where you are going.
- Dress in layers and wear comfortable clothes.
- Keep your gas tank full.
- Never use cruise control on slippery roads.
- Learn how to use your car's anti-lock braking system and four wheel drive.

By following these tips you can keep you and your car safe while driving in the winter.

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Safety is everyone's business. Practice good safety measures. Stay alert; if you see something, say something.

Seen Around Town



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Keep in touch with what's happening. Join our social community on Facebook! News, videos, photos and other items of interest.

CPF on Facebook

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The February 2022 *Partner*

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Forward

The Cleveland Police Foundation is the official charity for the Cleveland Division of Police and the only organization authorized to solicit charitable contributions on its behalf.

In addition to providing funding for youth and community outreach programs, community policing and engagement initiatives, safety & crime prevention programs, and supporting the members of the Cleveland Division of Police to help them better perform their duties, the CPF proudly supports the following charities in accomplishing their mission.



Contributions to the CPF are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

Donate Here

Thank you for supporting the mission of the CPF.

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