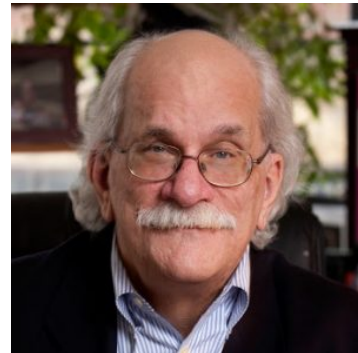




The Foundation's New Board Chair, Dick Clough

It is an honor and privilege to lead the Cleveland Police Foundation in the capacity of Board Chair and President. My term will be the culmination of nine years of service to the Board, and over 40 years of experience launching, leading, marketing, and advising business, political, community and social service organizations. I have some big shoes to fill building on the foundation of my predecessor Grant Dinner.



During these challenging times for the guardians we support and the community they serve, both the police and citizens/businesses really need us to step up. And I fervently believe we have barely scratched the surface of the Foundation's potential.

Striding forward, however, we have more work to complete to get our house in order. Previously as Governance Committee Chair my focus was recruiting a larger, more effective Board. This activity will continue as the first of five goals during the first year of my term in office. We have a good group, but we need to learn how to work together as a team. My role as Chair is to provide the leadership and motivation to make it so.

Other first year goals include:

- *Implement Policies and Practices.* The Foundation has a ways to go before we can demonstrate to funders and the community that we have the structure, systems, and discipline in place to be trusted recipients of funding and managers of successful programming.
- *Tweak Portfolio of Programs.* We are currently experiencing an issue other non-profits have dealt with...mission creep aka the inability to say no. We don't have the resources to do everything we are asked nor would like, and thus we need a system of metrics and a process to evaluate existing programs and proposed initiatives. We'll learn how to tweak, expand or delete underperforming programs, carefully consider other organizations to take over projects so the Foundation can pursue new initiatives. We'll be exploring partnerships and collaborations to achieve "more bang for the buck" and expand our reach.
- *Facilitate Fundraising.* The lifeblood of the Foundation is money and we need to continually develop new sources of funding. I will continue to be heavily engaged with our sponsorship and business membership initiatives, and pitching heavy-hitters. And the engagement with the immediate task of achieving the lofty goal of our Vision '21 Campaign by Memorial Day.
- *Leadership Succession Planning.* Finally, I will be investing time to identify my successor and working to groom her or him for the rigors of the position. Elected leadership will not be a popularity contest but a process of succession.

Needless to say I have my work cut out for me to achieve all that has been described. I'll circle back from time to time to provide a progress report in this space. And your questions, comments, and ideas are welcome via my email at cloughcleveland@gmail.com.



Foundation Salutes February Police Officers of the Month

Four outstanding officers from the Second District are the February Police Officers of the month, according to Dick Clough, Cleveland Police Foundation

Chair.

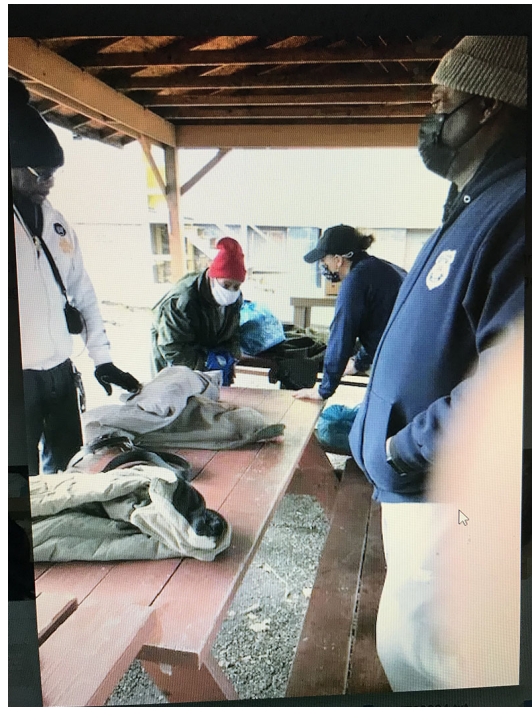
Cleveland Police Division Second District Police Officers Heather Popovich, Charles McNamara, and Ryan Miranda along with **Police Sgt. Greg Williams** are true believers in the concept of Community Policing. During their assigned patrol duties, they often take time to interact with members of the community not only to build relationships, but also to learn whether the individual neighborhoods have any concerns.

During this past Christmas season, these officers volunteered their time to assist in distributing socks and underwear received from the Second District Annual Sock and Underwear Drive to benefit the homeless community.

This is what their immediate supervisor, Lt. Tim Maffo-Judd had to say about these officers: "These officers are always willing to go the extra mile to assist those in need and to build a better community. That is why I recommended them for the Cleveland Police Foundation's Officer(s) of the Month Program. Their dedication and devotion to their profession and the community make them more than worthy of this recognition."

For more information about the Cleveland Police Foundation's **Police Officer of the Month Program**, visit www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org or call 216-623-3333.

The February Police Officers of Month were nominated by Lt. Tim Maffo-Judd.





Cassandra Bledsoe Is February Partner of the Month

“It is a great pleasure for me to announce that the Cleveland Police Foundation Partner of the Month for February is a valued City of Cleveland employee who is a definite asset to the Cleveland Division of Police,” said Dick Clough, Foundation Chair. “**Cassandra Bledsoe** is the Police Chief’s Community Liaison and connects the Chief with a myriad of community groups through events that make dialogue about community issues possible.”

In addition, every March Cassandra plans events honoring women in law enforcement and invites female officers from across Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio to participate as part of Women’s History month.

“Because of Ms. Bledsoe’s dedication and devotion to her position with the City of Cleveland, she deserves this award,” Clough stated.

For more information about the Cleveland Police Foundation’s **Partner of the Month Program**, visit www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org, or call 216-623-3333.

The February Partner of the Month was nominated by Deputy Police Chief Joellen O’Neill.

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**APRIL 9****["Fill the Truck"](#)***Donate shoes for the homeless***MAY 21****[Cleveland Tattoo](#)****MAY 14-21****[37th Annual Police Memorial](#)****[Commemoration](#) and Police Week
2022****JUNE 6-14****CLE PAL Nike Summer Basketball
League****In the News Around Town****Ripepi Family Grant = 5 New K9's!**

March 14, the Ripepi Family
announced the recipients of SRT K9

Unit - Police K9 Grants. The following Police Departments will each receive a Police K9 Officer (dog), complete six-week training course at Excel K-9 Services located in Hiram, Ohio, K9 equipment, and a tactical K9 vest: Brunswick Police Department, Cleveland Division of Police, Euclid Police Department, MetroHeath Medical Center Police Department, and Parma Heights Police Department.



The goal was to purchase four K-9 Units. With the success of the first concert, SRT K9 Unit and the A. Ripepi & Sons Funeral Homes, Inc. were able to purchase five police dogs for the Greater Cleveland area.

The grant was made possible by funds raised during The Danny Ripepi Memorial Concert, a charity event which took place last September at Jacobs Pavilion at Nautica on the West Bank of the Flats, and featured multi-platinum recording artist Night Ranger, Cleveland's own Beau Coup and High Voltage, the nation's premier AC/DC tribute band.

Planning for the 2nd Annual Danny Ripepi Memorial Concert is currently in the works for late fall of 2022. Details regarding this year's charity recipient and concert will be announced soon.

While Danny was heading to work on September 24, 2020, he was tragically killed in a freak accident when a dump truck caused a highway sign to crash onto his vehicle. Sadly, he died at the scene on I-480. He is survived by his wife, three children and three stepchildren.

In true Danny fashion, the memorial concerts are not to serve as a family fundraiser, but as an opportunity to give back to the community he loved so much. Danny believed in three things: family, faith and friendship. His gentle demeanor, kind heart and his love as a devoted husband, dad, brother and friend to many, is the legacy he leaves behind. Now is our time to continue his legacy in the most poignant way, by giving back.



PAL Awards

Two of the CLE PAL football and cheerleading teams had their sports banquets this month. All the players and cheerleaders, totaling several hundred, received some beautiful awards and trophies. Some delicious food and beverages were also served. The PAL Reddogs and Bombers each had their own banquets.

Ted Ginn Jr., a 14-year NFL wide receiver, was a special guest. Ted played with the Bombers when he was just a youngster. A very special thank you to all our PAL coaches who dedicate their time and efforts to help our community's youngsters have fun and give them the chance to play organized sports. Many life lessons are learned playing competitive sports, such as sportsmanship, discipline, teamwork, and tenacity, to name a few. Congratulations to all our young athletes!



Congratulations New First District Officers!

The First District welcomes 10 new officers who graduated from the Cleveland

Police Academy on Monday, March 7, 2022. These officers will be assigned to the First District during their probationary period. Welcome to the best Police District in the City and have a great career!



FILL THE TRUCK

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 9,
2022
11:30 AM -
2:30 PM**



DONATE SHOES

to help the community
.....



The Cleveland Division of Police
Bureau of Community Relations has
partnered with Business Volunteers
Unlimited to provide new or gently used
shoes for the homeless.
**PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF
#3000SHOES**

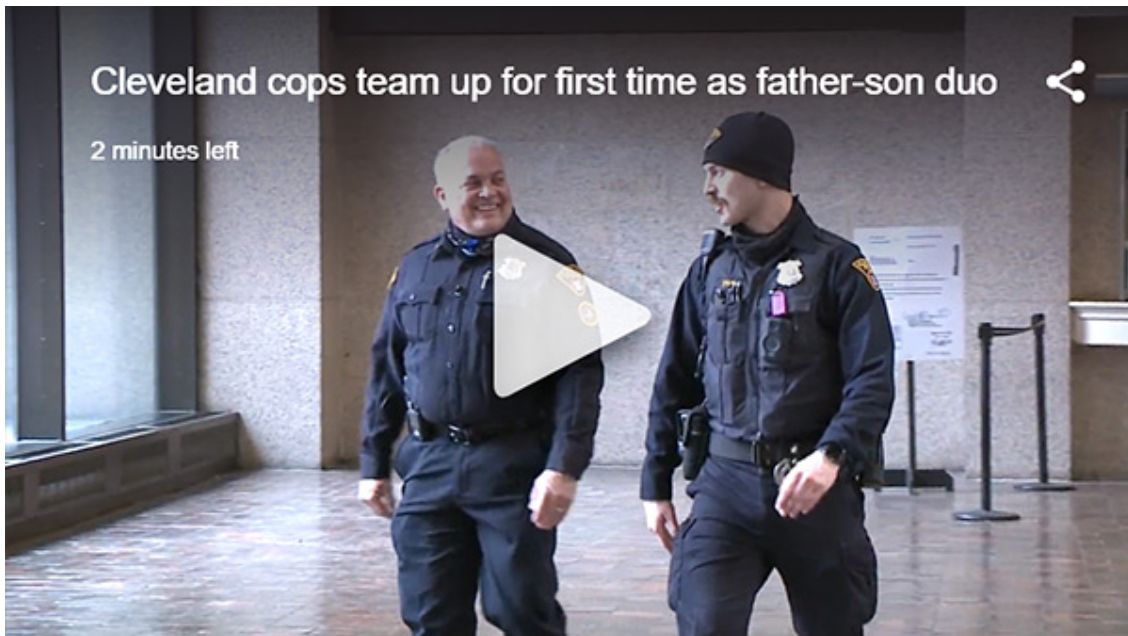


PORTION OF PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED

COMPLIMENTARY ICE CREAM

**@ The Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association
1303 W. 58th St. Cleveland, OH 44102**

Contact P.O. Wilfredo "Freddy" Diaz #350 for more info
wdiaz@clevelandohio.gov



Father-Son First Time Teamup

Thanks to Fox 8 for this fun piece about Officer Estremera... and Officer Estremera... [read/watch here.](#)



New Mounted Unit Groundbreaking

Thank you to all the stakeholders who came together to make this project happen. Here we take a look back at the December 2021 groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mounted Unit facility in the E. 55th/Thackeray area.

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.

How to Develop the Situational Awareness of Jason Bourne!

That superhuman ability to observe his surroundings and make detailed assessments about his environment? It's not just a trait of top secret operatives; it's a skill known as situational awareness, and you can possess it too.

As the names implies, situational awareness is simply knowing what's going on around you. It sounds easy in principle, but in reality requires much practice. And while it is taught to soldiers, law enforcement officers, and yes, government-trained assassins, it's an important skill for civilians to learn as well. In a dangerous situation, being aware of a threat even seconds before everyone else can keep you and your loved ones safe.

[Continue reading...](#)

—

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

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CPF on Facebook 

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The March 2022 Partner

Contributors: Angela Thi Bennett, Robert M. Guttu, Cleveland Division of Police and the Ohio Crime Prevention Association

Co-editors: Ed Stevens, Kathy Smith



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Tweet



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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