



Citizens Police Academy



Overview

What is it?

The Sterling Heights Police Department's Citizen's Academy is a 30 hour block of instruction designed to give the public a working knowledge of the police department's personnel and policies. It consists of a series of classes, held once each week for 3 hours. The instruction is comprehensive, covering a different area of the police department each week. Officers, supervisors and personnel assigned to that particular division conduct each instructional block.

Who May Attend?

The class is made up of a cross-section of the community. Doctors, architects, homemakers, laborers, students, secretaries, salespersons and others are encouraged to apply for admission. The minimum age of enrollment is 18 and priority is given to applicants who live or work in the City of Sterling Heights.

The Purpose

The Sterling Heights Police Department's Citizen's Academy was created in order to provide enough information to the citizens that attend so that they may better understand the operation of the police department and police activity. It is further hoped that the instruction will increase police awareness while dispelling suspicions and misconceptions along with increasing police/community rapport through the educative process. The department, in turn, becomes more aware of the feelings and concerns of the community from the students' interaction and input. It is, indeed, a two-way learning experience.

Topics

The Sterling Heights Police Department's Citizen's Academy cover such diverse topics as training, communications, criminal investigations, drunk driving procedures, crime prevention, family violence and juvenile law. Emphasis is placed on the patrol division, as that is the segment of the police department that the public most often comes in contact with. Instruction in these and other topics will consist of lectures, demonstrations, tours and hands-on experiences.



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Schedule Overview

Students attending the academy will be exposed to a multitude of police functions and operations:

- Department Structure
- Station Tour
- Traffic Safety Bureau
- Detective and Youth Bureau
- Evidence Techs / K9 Units
- Communications / Animal Control
- Undercover Units
- Bike Patrol
- Citizen volunteers
- SRT (Special Response Team)
- Prosecuting Attorney / 41-A Court
- MILO (Military Integrated Laser Operations)
- Firearms Range