

Akron Police Department Newsletter

February 12, 2026



330-375-2552



217 S. High St.
Akron, OH 44308



Chief's Message



As we begin the new year, the first quarter gives us an opportunity to reflect on our progress and re-commit to our mission of serving the community with integrity and professionalism. I am proud of the dedication and resilience our officers and professional staff continue to demonstrate every day. Over the past year, we have strengthened community partnerships and worked on initiatives that support public safety and the wellness of our officers. As we move forward, we remain focused on reducing violent crime, building trust, and supporting the men and women who serve this city. Thank you to our officers for your continued commitment and to the community for your partnership and support!

Chief Brian Harding

2025 Year End Violent Crime Statistics

- Murders were down 8% from 2024
- Overdoses were down 43.48% from 2024
- Robberies were down 20%
- Felonious Assault was up by 2%
- Rape was down by 3%
- Burglary was up 8%
- Breaking & Entering was down 7%
- Auto Theft was down 23%
- Reported Use of Force Incidents were down 8%
- Total Assaults on Officer Incidents were up 9%
- Use of Force against Juveniles was down 16%
- Officers injured in Use of Force was down 3%
- There is a use of force incident roughly once every 455 calls
- (127,524 Calls for Service) in 2025



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[Akron Police Department](https://www.facebook.com/AkronPoliceDepartment)

NEWSLETTER

Retirements



- Detective Pam Brown-
January 2
- Detective James Anthony-
January 6
- Sergeant Kevin Williams
January 7
- Sergeant Christopher Davis
January 16
- Sergeant Steven Mara
January 21
- Officer Christopher Schnee
January 30
- Officer Rodney Criss
February 2



Akron Boxing Association (ABA) is a non-profit gym that trains several young boxers in the Akron area. Many of their boxers have gone on to become professionals, and at least three of them recently attended amateur nationals in Texas. The goal of ABA is to emphasize "commitment, dedication and discipline for all their young fighters to help them become not just better in the ring but better people." Sgt. Orrand volunteers assisting in coaching the boxers at least three nights a week on his own time. Sgt. Orrand himself has previously boxed professionally, assisting in serving as a role model for the young men that participate. Pictured is Sgt. Orrand and several of the young boxers at Akron Boxing Association.



Deputy Chief Miller came to visit the students at Leggett CLC to speak with students. He is the Deputy Chief that oversees the Community Engagement subdivision of the Akron Police Department including the SROs. This is a great example of when leaders take the time to lead by example and connect with the children of Akron Public Schools.

Akron Police Officers and Akron Firefighters participated in Garfield CLC's Career Expo. Students had the opportunity to meet with first responders, learn about careers in public safety, and gain insight into the training and dedication required to serve the community



ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Drills

Director of Safety and Security, Officer Al Jones invited School Resource Officers Hall, Pelfrey, Franklin, Pearson, Stiff, and Lt. Brent Bauknecht to Jennings CLC. We had the privilege of conducting an ALICE training seminar for Akron Public Schools staff. The session included classroom instruction and a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation focused on preparing for critical incidents within the school environment. Participants then engaged in multiple realistic scenarios, allowing them to experience firsthand which response techniques are most effective.

Lt. Bauknecht did an ALICE training seminar with Safety Team Members and staff at North High School in September. His training educated the staff about school safety, active threats, and preparing for possible critical incidents in their work environment.



NEWSLETTER

EZ Southside Drive Thru Turkey Giveaway

On November 15, some officers had the privilege to join the owner of EZ's Grant St. Drive Thru to distribute free turkeys to members of the community. This is a perfect example of supporting each other and giving back to the community.



Citizens Academy

The Akron Police Citizen's Academy is an eight-week program to educate citizens on the Akron Police Department. The course is interactive and will include hands on training and scenarios that recreate situations Akron officers could find themselves in. Presentations include:

- Akron Police Department Organizational Structure and History
- Akron Prosecutor's Office
- Taser/Body Worn Cameras/Police Equipment
- Use of Force/ De-Escalation
- Citizen Complaints/Use of Force Investigations
- Firearms Simulator Scenarios
- ALICE Training
- Critical First Aid
- SWAT/ k-9/ Narcotics
- Crimes Against Persons Unit
- Crime Scene Unit



Fall 2025 Citizens Academy Graduates



SWAT Touch a Truck and Shopping

10 deserving students with disabilities from two local Akron schools, Julie Billiard School and Wings of Change, went shopping with the SWAT Team and the Community Engagement Team. The event was made possible by \$1,000 in combined donations from the SWAT team and the CET. Each student received a \$100 gift card for Target. The day also included a tour of the police station museum, SWAG bags, and photo opportunities with the SWAT team and their vehicles. School staff supervised the students throughout the activities.



Non-Emergency Police Phone

Number

330-375-2552

Patrol Operations

330-375-2900

Dispatch

330-375-2181

Traffic

330-375-2506

Community Engagement

330-375-2568

Detective Bureau

330-375-2490

Juvenile, Auto Theft, Missing Persons

330-375-2530

Record Room

330-375-2950

Prosecutor's Office

330-375-2730

Landlord/Tenant Hotline

330-376-0359

Humane Society

330-487-0333

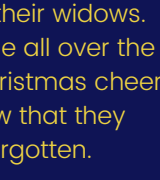
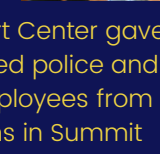
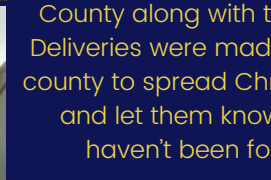
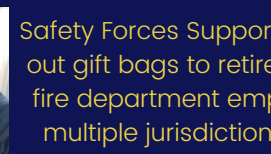
Dog Warden

330-375-2920

On October 21, Officer Clark responded to a high-risk situation involving a barricaded individual who had made violent threats. Recognizing the suspect from previous interactions at Oriana House, Officer Clark drew on that established rapport to build trust and calm tensions. His ability to connect on a personal level was key to negotiating a peaceful surrender—preventing harm to everyone involved. This thoughtful approach highlights Officer Clark's professionalism and commitment to community-focused policing.



Safety Forces Support Center gave out gift bags to retired police and fire department employees from multiple jurisdictions in Summit County along with their widows. Deliveries were made all over the county to spread Christmas cheer and let them know that they haven't been forgotten.



**Holiday Parade
11/28/2025**



NEWSLETTER

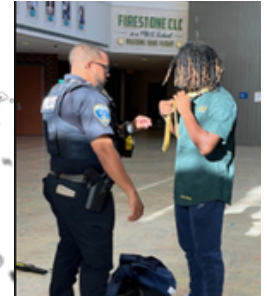
School Resource Officers (SRO)



Meet the new SRO officers
Officer Pearson is currently
assigned to Innes
Community Learning Center



Officer Stiff is currently
assigned to East High
School



Officer Hall at Firestone CLC helped football players with their ties before a big game.



Officer Colabianchi at North CLC



Last year Officer Colabianchi was given a shift level commendation for her lifesaving efforts of a child who was choking while she was working at Litchfield CLC. During this incident she quickly intervened and administered the Heimlich Maneuver to dislodge the obstructed airway. Over the summer break, the Akron Police Department awarded her the Police Life Saving Award.



Officer Franklin was awarded a commendation for his assistance with a Major Crimes investigation. The investigation is ongoing but he was essential to the progress of the investigation. Officer Franklin's actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Akron Police Department. For his outstanding service, youth engagement, mentorship, and community collaboration, Officer Franklin is hereby recognized and commended.



NEWSLETTER

School Resource Officers (SRO) continued



Officer Good



Officer Franklin



Officer Franklin was assigned to Innes CLC on 5/19/25. Innes had been the victim of breaking and entering over the weekend. The school was vandalized, and the suspect had left a bomb threat. Officer Good responded to the school. Officer Franklin and Officer Good recognized the potential danger and coordinated with the head principal to get the students that were already at the building transferred to Garfield CLC. Together the officers and Principal Sims coordinated a full evacuation of both staff and students to ensure everyone's safety.

Over the next few hours, Officer Franklin and Officer Good worked with multiple other agencies to investigate if a bomb was in the building. No explosives were found.

Through Officer Franklin and Officer Good's diligent thorough investigation, the suspect was positively identified and apprehended at his residence prior to the end of the school day. The stolen property from Akron public schools was also recovered and returned. This was not a normal call for service. Despite the rapidly evolving nature of this call for service, Officer Franklin and Officer Good demonstrated excellent adaptability skills and professionalism, and they were commended for ensuring the safety of Akron public schools' students and staff.



The Safety Forces Support Center fed approximately 520 first responders from around Summit County on Dec. 24th. They packaged approximately 300 to go meals for outlying agencies and fed approximately 220 dine in meals to APD and AFD. Dinner was held at the Goodyear headquarters, who graciously donated the space to SFSC. Dinner for the evening was donated by Ken Stewart's Restaurant, Duma Meats, Moe's Restaurant, Sweet Sophies, Town Tavern, Upper Deck, Gardner Pie Company, and Regency Wine Bar (homemade Italian Cream Cheesecakes!) They served from 4pm to 11:30pm. Volunteers from the Safety Forces Support Center board of directors, employees and family helped to serve and package all the meals.

