



# DALLAS TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2919 State Route 309, DALLAS PA 18612 ♦ (570) 674-2003 FAX (570) 675-7877

To the Residents of Dallas Township,

I would like to take the opportunity to express my thanks to all the residents, visitors and commuters during this unprecedented time. Your patience, understanding and composure are above reproach. For that, I thank you again.

During these times and at all times the Dallas Township Police Department strives to be progressive while protecting our community while being accountable to our community.

In 2007, the Dallas Township Police Department became the first municipal police department in Luzerne County to become accredited through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. The following is an excerpt from the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Accreditation web site.

*Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating administrators then conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals is assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.*

The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost-effective plan for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. This process takes about three years to complete and once a department has earned the Accreditation status there is a three year reassessment. In 2019, the Dallas Township Police Department successfully completed our fourth reaccreditation.

Some of the benefits of the accreditation program are that it establishes a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures. It reduces agency risks and exposure to lawsuits and decreases some liability insurance expenditures. The program increases employee input and interaction and confidence in the agency. It enlarges the outlook and viewpoints of managers, officers and employees. Additionally, it identifies and highlights the capabilities and competence of the agency and furnishes a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress. Finally, it provides reliable methods to improve essential management procedures and extends agency accountability to the public and elected officials.

The Dallas Township Police Department is a progressive police department. Some of our accomplishments include the following;

- Reassessment of our Accreditation status
- Implemented a Chaplaincy Program lead by our Chaplin, Pastor Matt Tarr
- Organized the first ever National Night Out in Dallas Township





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- Developed a Neighborhood Watch
- Created social media/web pages
- Added an additional School Resource Officer
- Promoted two officers to the position of Sergeant
- Assigned an officer to the Luzerne County Drug Task Force
- Currently in the testing phase for a detective position
- Developed a physical fitness program which was done by one of our officers who was recently certified by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police as a physical fitness instructor, this same officer is also nationally certified in defensive tactics and a taser instructor.
- Developed a new hiring process. We now advertise nationally for open positions.
- Certified our Administrative Assistant as a Press Information Officer (PIO)
- Two officers were recently certified as trainers in ALEERT (active shooter) through the FBI
- Currently have four officers trained in the Field Training Officer program. These officers train new hires.
- Provided birthday parades for children during Covid-19
- Have a drug K-9
- Installed a drug drop box
- Enjoy a great working relationship with our partners in the FBI, ATF, DEA, PSP and local departments
- Enjoy a great working relationship with our local Fire Department and EMS Agencies
- Enjoy a great working relationship with the Dallas School District and Misericordia University
- Frequently engage in continuing education both on line, in house and in person training sessions
- All officers are trained in Crisis Intervention (CIT), 40 hours of training designed to improve the outcomes of police interactions with individuals with a mental illness. Information on this training can be found at:  
<https://namiluzernewyomingcounties.org/crisis-intervention-training/>

Thank You for your continued support.

Chief Douglas Higgins

