

City police nearly fully staffed

Slug: LANNWS-08-02-23 NEW LPD

Print depth: 17.11 (2550 characters)

Start date/time: Jul 27, 2023 04:57 PM

Section tags: nc-lan
nc-lan/news
nc-lan/news/crime
nc-lan/news/government

Authors: hjones@thelancasternews.com

Byline: By Haley Jones
hjones@thelancasternews.com

Content

The Lancaster Police Department is officially at near capacity, according to Police Chief Don Roper.

The department has added 16 new officers and two telecommunications officers since August 2022 to their personnel recently, making staff size history for the first time in a long while.

“I boldly proclaimed that we were going to have a hiring campaign and, at the police department, we started looking at new ways of recruiting folks,” Roper said at the July 25 City Council meeting.

Roper thanked city Human Resources Director Angela Roberson for her department’s help in recruiting new officers, as well as the city administration.

Certified officers

Nelson Bowling is the new LPD captain. He retired from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) after several years, where he had worked with Roper. He came out of retirement to work in Lancaster after speaking with Roper, and has family in the city.

James Howe III is also a retired police officer. Roper said he “still has some service left in him, and that is very commendable.” Roper said Howe has extensive investigation experience and will be the special operations detective.

Joseph Correll is also a certified officer with several years of experience. Lancaster Mayor Alston DeVenny gave Correll a shout-out after saying, “we need somebody who can run somebody down around here.”

“When he catches them, they’re not going to get away,” Roper said, with a laugh.

Roper said he hopes these certified officers will help mentor younger personnel.

“What we’re doing is we’re building a brand,” Roper said. “We’re building the brand of the Lancaster Police Department. We can say we do that, but we need to have the talent in place that’s going to be able to help the new folks that we’re bringing on to learn the Lancaster way.”

Recruits and part time

Roper also introduced five new recruits: Zach Campbell, Marty Tolbert, Jake Walters, Justin Tucker and Johnny Cunningham. Bernice Timmons is the newest part-time employee, and brings experience from both the Solicitor’s Office and law enforcement.

Tucker is the newest recruit, and was applauded for his effort in saving a 7-month-old baby’s life in Lancaster earlier that day. During a traffic stop, Tucker noticed the baby was in distress and rendered life-saving medical aid.

“We’re so happy that you are all here with us; expect great things from you,” DeVenny said. “And just know that this is a wonderful place for you to thrive and grow and have your families, and we look forward to many years of good service with you for our community.”

Child images

LANNWS-08-02-23 NEW LPD

