



POLICE DEPARTMENT

James G. Hicks, Chief of Police

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Media Release

“Citizen’s Police Academy”

The Bedford Police Department is holding a Citizen’s Police Academy starting January 14, 2009 and running for 10 consecutive weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 PM. This law enforcement educational program has been developed to provide local citizens and business owners with a behind-the-scenes look at police work. We have implemented a modular format in order to address the 10 week commitment. With the exception of the first night “Welcome and Introduction,” each week will be a stand-a-lone module of study. In the following Academies (usually one per year,) we will open each module to any prior member that attended our program but missed any of the modules. When participants complete six modules, they will be offered the opportunity to ride-a-long with an officer for a couple of hours for first hand observation.

This free academy program is not designed to train participants to perform law enforcement duties, but rather to create a nucleus of citizens and business owners who are well informed about department operations. Beyond this educational intent is a hope to break down barriers that exist in most communities. Chief James Hicks states, “We want to strive for two outcomes; including the recognition and understanding on the part of citizens that police officers are human beings trying to do a tough job and to re-introduce police officers to the ‘good’ citizens – the very same people they chose to protect when becoming an officer.”

Some of the topics the will be introduced during this ten week course will include:

Officer Selection & Training	Communications / 9-1-1	Intro. To Criminal Justice
Constitutional Law	Criminal Law	Motor Vehicle Law
OUI Enforcement and Field Tests	Patrol Procedures	Accident Investigation
NEMLEC Involvement	Use of Force	Intro. To Defensive Tactics
Hazardous Materials	First Aid & Fire Services	Community Policing
Problem Solving	Crime Prevention	Violence Prevention
Drug Abuse	Criminal Investigation	Juvenile Issues
Critical Incident Stress Mgmt.	Interview & Interrogation	Drug ID & Enforcement
Evidence Collection & Preservation		

If you are interested in knowing more about your police department, interested in a law enforcement career, or just curious this program is for you. Applications and Board of Probation Authorizations (BOP) are available online at our website www.bedfordpd.org or in the lobby of the police station.

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The Chief will review applications and a background check through the Massachusetts Criminal System History Board will be performed to insure the appropriateness of the attendees. We hope to keep a good cross section of the public in the class in order to stimulate discussions. Seating will be limited to 20 individuals due to the size of the training room at the police station. Any applicant that is unable to attend due to space requirements will be notified when the next academy is available.

If you have any questions regarding this Citizen's Police Academy or its application process, please feel free to contact the Academy Director, Lt. James F. Graham at (781) 275-1212.

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