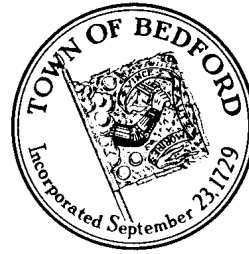


TOWN OF BEDFORD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Robert Bongiorno, *Chief of Police*

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For Immediate Release

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BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS NEW FREE SMARTPHONE APP FOR RESIDENTS

The Bedford Police Department is pleased to announce the availability of a new Police iPhone and Android application for the citizens of Bedford. The app named "My Police Department" or "MyPD" is available now for free in the iTunes and Android marketplace.

This app includes features for checking on the latest news, social media postings, directions, department contacts, submitting feedback & questions, department surveys, submitting crime tips, and more.

The app is available to the public free of charge and for a nominal fee to participating law enforcement agencies. The app is also free of any advertisements or pop ups.

"We are proud to be an early adopter of this technology and provide it to our citizens" said Chief Robert Bongiorno.

The app has the ability to change state and town from the main app page, so app users can also view other police departments on the app by choosing the correct state and town. The app defaults to the last town viewed upon opening, this makes it easy to always open the app to the Town of Bedford Police Department.

"This app was built on the premise of departments sharing the software to make it extremely affordable. It allows departments to have their own custom app while sharing the resource with other departments. This saves the town money and makes the app more useful by allowing someone to change to another town they might be visiting, driving through, etc." said Bedford Police Officer Marc Saucier, also the department's Information Technology Officer.

The department home screen contains a number of functions with more found on the bottom menu which activates upon touch or swipe.

Some features, the survey icon for example, will only appear on the app when a survey is currently running. So not all features are always viewable at all times, it depends on what features the department currently is using.

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“We hope that the citizens of Bedford download and use the app to communicate with the department” said Chief Bongiorno, “There are many topics for tips and questions already built into the app to make things easy for the user. We are attempting to remove much of the guess work and allow the public to conveniently choose a topic and make sure that message gets to the correct Officer. Often times our citizens know what they need or want information about but are unsure who to direct the question or comment to. The app’s questions and feedback feature allows the user to choose a topic from the dropdown menu that best suits them. We have the ability to add more topics at any time and will continue to add topics in the future to give our public as many options as possible.”

All of the forms can be sent anonymously to the department, though we encourage an email address or phone number if you would like a response. Users also have the availability to upload photos and GPS information with the app forms. (For example a traffic issue, parking issue, or graffiti complaint)

As is the case with our other emails, tip sites, and social media, this app is not for any type of emergency situation. The Bedford Police attempt to review all messages in a timely fashion but do not always actively monitor all messages and activity at all times.

The app developer, WiredBlue LLC, has more features planned for future releases. Any suggestions and feedback can be directed to the department by emailing bedfordpolice@police.bedfordma.gov or the app developer at info@wiredblue.co

“We hope the public finds our efforts to utilize the latest technologies helpful and informative. The department is always open to suggestions and feedback” said Chief Bongiorno.

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