

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jeffrey Lewis, Director of Public Safety, City of Muskegon, 231 -724-6750
Karen Reynolds, Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Criminal Justice, 231-767-3674
kreynold@muskegonisd.org

Retiring Captain turns keys of police cruiser over to Career Tech Center

MUSKEGON, MI: Muskegon City Police Captain Mark Lewis performed one highly unusual, official act before retiring--turning over the keys of a retired police cruiser to the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center for use in their Criminal Justice program. Captain Mark Lewis and Director of Public Safety Chief Jeffrey Lewis made the presentation to the instructor and uniformed high school students on Thursday, May 30, 2013, in the MACTC parking lot at 200 Harvey Street.

According to MACTC Criminal Justice Instructor Karen Reynolds, the police cruiser will be an awesome real-life teaching tool. She had been actively seeking a retired police vehicle to add realism to the criminal justice and public safety training for high school juniors and seniors from throughout Muskegon County. Students will use the police cruiser in simulated experiences that include approaching another vehicle during traffic and felony stops, pursuing a subject, taking cover during an incident, and assisting motorists. Students will also become familiar with performing a cruiser check prior to going on duty.

Mark Lewis, who will retire tomorrow from the City of Muskegon Police Department after 25 years of service, said that he and other City of Muskegon police and fire officials have been actively involved in the training of MACTC students for many years. Chief Jeffrey Lewis said, "Simply put, this is a well-run program which instills an interest in law enforcement into young people, and gives them some of the basic skills required to 'jump start' their careers. This is the perfect way for the City of Muskegon to invest in our community and have a positive impact on the education and career decisions being made by our youth."

Karen Reynolds, MACTC Instructor began her career with the City of Muskegon Police Department as a part-time police officer back in 1995. Simultaneously she worked as a part-time officer for Spring Lake, Roosevelt Park, and Fruitport Township police departments. She then became a full-time officer with the Wyoming Police Department where she served for 16 years before coming to the MACTC. Reynolds also worked at the Metro High School Police Academy made up of ten police departments that work together to form partnerships with area schools, service organizations and local law enforcement training academies.

"Adding this police cruiser as a teaching tool will make the overall learning experience so much better by allowing students to have hands-on experience and apply what they learn in the classroom," said Reynolds. We are all so excited!"

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