

Police Chief Update-Winter 2019

Throughout 2018, our police department has remained focused on working closely with our COPS Office technical assistance partners in order to achieve our community stakeholder identified goals and objectives. The Department of Justice Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance (DOJ CRI-TA) site team made monthly visits to our police department to provide technical assistance and connect our personnel with subject matter experts. The ultimate goal was to increase our capacity and bandwidth within our agency as we pursued the development of a department strategic plan which was unveiled to the public this past June (2018) during an open house. *This document, our supporting mission and vision, along with historical information regarding CRI-TA can be found on our website by visiting www.savmn.com.*

A clear vision creates clarity of purpose. A clear mission improves the quality of our service. Our identified goals and objectives must directly tie into our mission and vision. The police department's mission and vision must directly tie into the city mission and vision. All of our police officers must be able to plausibly articulate how any policing action they may take fits into the departments' mission and vision.

I am pleased to report that we continue to make great progress in terms of technology and transparency. We have fully implemented our Panasonic Body Worn Camera (BWC) program as of November 9th, 2018. Officers of the St. Anthony Police Department have embraced this technology and have been diligent in following policy regarding deployment and use. Daily record management reviews are conducted to ensure equipment is being used properly. Department supervisors are required to complete monthly audits to ensure equipment is being used properly and in accordance with policy. Our squad cars have also been outfitted with new Panasonic HD squad cameras that are designed to pair with the BWC technology. We have now begun the last phase of our camera project by addressing upgrades to our facility camera system. This will result in a fully integrated audio and video system that will allow for our staff to have audio/video coverage through multiple phases of contact with the public.

We must remain mindful that audio and video equipment is not a complete end all do all fix for capturing all aspects of police encounters with the public. People who have never seen a police officer's everyday reality up close can easily overlook just how difficult it can be to face the everyday challenges associated with policing. We, as police officers, must adhere to the Pillars of Procedural Justice and Fair and Impartial Policing. In the policing profession, perception is reality, and the most effective tool(s) we have are housed within the framework of these two tenets. By and large, our police officers have big hearts and a service mind set. They endeavor to serve to the best of their ability.

The St. Anthony Police Department will remain committed to the goals and objectives outlined in our police department strategic plan. It will aid in focusing our resources, making data driven decisions and evaluating how we take inputs from community stakeholders and apply them with the goal to improve the overall quality of life by preserving the peace and safety of our community.

Respectfully submitted, Jon Mangseth, Police Chief