

Message from the Chief: If you have an interest in helping persons in need and protecting and serving a community you are encouraged to consider an exciting and rewarding career as a State College Police Officer. I made that decision more than 30 years ago and could not have selected a better profession or a better department for which to work. The State College Police Department is a very professional, progressive state-accredited police department which values and cares about our employees. State College, along with the other Centre County communities, is one of the best locales in the country to live and raise a family.

Currently our police department has an authorized sworn compliment of 65 police officers and 13 civilian personnel. We not only provide full police service to the Borough of State College, but also provide full police services to two neighboring townships: College and Harris Townships. The population of our police service area is more than 56,000 with more than 42 square miles to patrol.

The Borough of State College is home to The Pennsylvania State University. Being the host community to a major higher education institution provides many exciting opportunities as well as unique challenges. Seventy percent of the State College Borough's population is between the ages of 18 to 24. With the youthfulness and vibrancy of our population, along with the State College/Penn State community being a "destination town," our police officers are involved in policing many large events such as the summer Central PA Festival of the Arts and Penn State home football games.

State College boasts a vitality seen in few communities. The downtown specialty shops, ethnic and fine-dining restaurants, coffee shops, taverns, nightclubs, and theaters offer many attractions and interests. The community draws visitors from across the country and around the world. Additionally, the State College Area School District is recognized nationally for its excellence in academics, athletics, and more.

Our police department and the entire community take great pride in making the State College area a very safe place to live, work, and visit. In 2011, the State College Metropolitan Statistical Area received state recognition for being ranked the third safest place to live by the CQ Press' 2010 edition of its City Crime Rankings based on the rate of violent crime reported in metro areas with more than 75,000 people. State College has been ranked in the top 3 of 350 communities for the past five years.

If you are considering a career as a State College Police Officer it is critical to know the basic beliefs and responsibilities of all police officers. All officers must be committed to being responsive to and building professional relationships with all segments of the community. To accomplish this, the following are expectations and considered essential:

- engage in strategies that reduce crime and enhance the quality of life for the citizens;
- recognize that for the police to perform their work effectively the public must approve of their existence, actions, and behaviors, and the ability to maintain public trust; and
- develop positive public relations by providing fair and equitable police services regardless of personal opinion, offering services to all persons regardless of their standing in the community, responding courteously under all circumstances, and willing to offer sacrifices in protecting and preserving life and property.

Our police team is looking for those who have a keen interest in law enforcement and who are honest, dependable, adaptable, respectful, communicate effectively, enjoy problem-solving, enjoy helping others, can be both a team player and work independently as the circumstances dictate, and would enjoy an exciting and rewarding challenge. If you possess these attributes, you are urged to apply and begin the testing process for the position of a State College Police Officer.

Thomas R. King
Chief of Police

