



**Chief**  
Troy Appel

**Captain**  
Kevin Flynn

**Sergeants**  
Tim Gaul  
Nathan Grimmus  
Josh McCuen  
Brett Wiltrout

**Patrol Officers**  
Jacki Bomgaars  
Chris Hillesheim  
Kirk Honius  
Randy Liepold  
Tyler Olson  
Jacob Refsland  
Mark Riley  
Dustin Roemeling  
Gabe Vander Veen  
Jake Walker

**Investigators**  
Shawn Elsing  
Dave Hoffman  
Joe Joswiak  
Brandon Peil

**School Resource**  
Dan Brouillet

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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

## Line of Duty Deaths in 2016

2016 was a rough year for law enforcement across the United States.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, there were 140 officers and 34 K-9 officers who made the ultimate sacrifice last year.

Of the 140 officers killed in the line of duty, 63 were killed by gunfire, which is a 56 percent increase over last year.

Of the 63 gunfire deaths, 21 were killed in ambush attacks.

Twenty-three officers were killed by vehicles (aircraft, motorcycle, car/truck) with 12 of those officers being intentionally struck by the vehicle.

Three officers died from illness attributed to the 9/11 terrorist



attacks in New York City.

Texas lost the most officers in the line of duty with 19. California lost 11 officers, Louisiana lost 9, and Georgia lost 8. Minnesota did not lose any officers in 2016.

Of the K-9 officers lost, 12 died from heat exhaustion and an additional 10 died from gunfire.

Other causes of death for K-9 officers included being struck

by vehicles, stabbing, drowning, assault, asphyxiation and accident deaths.

Let's not forget the 75 fire fighters, untold emergency medical service personal and 19 service members that also gave their lives in performance of their duties.

If it was not for the men and woman who sacrifice their lives, we would not be able to live in peace and harmony.

**Animal Control**  
Virgil Veen

**Community Service**  
Myra Onnen

**Reception**  
Barb Hussong

**Records**  
Shari Droll  
Julie Jeppesen

**TAC/IT**  
Gary Gerdes

**Dispatch Supervisor**  
Nancy Veen

**Dispatch**  
Tonya Aanenson  
Stephanie Evers  
Hannah Huls  
Jodi Mulder  
Larry Rogers

**K-9 Officers**  
Frankee  
Mack

## Excellence and Leadership Award

Worthington Police Chief Troy Appel was awarded the City of Worthington's Excellence and Leadership Award for 2016.

Chief Appel received this award for his tireless work in improving relations between the police department and the community.

Since 2014 when Chief Appel was promoted to Chief of Police, he has worked toward making the police department more cooperative and community-orientated.

Through initiatives such as the Blue in the School Program to

working with the various community outreach groups to officers taking time out of their day to talk with the kids and shoot some hoops, these programs are working.

Worthington has some of the lowest crime rates of comparable sized cities.

When compared to Marshall, our crime rate is approximately 30% lower. When compared to Fairmont, our crime rate is more than 50% lower.

Members of the community are noticing the improved relations as well.



After a meeting at JBS between city staff and the police department, they were quoted as saying the relationship between the police department and the community were at an all-time high.

Everyone at the Worthington Police Department would like to congratulate Chief Appel on his well-deserved award!

**DON'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH**

Text confidential tips to the

**Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force**

**100% Anonymous**



BRDTF Tips available on Apple and Android devices

## Law Review: Obstructing View of Driver

Minnesota State Statute 169.37 prohibits driving a vehicle when it is loaded to obstruct the view of the driver to the front or side of the vehicle. This statute also makes it illegal to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

Additionally this statute makes it unlawful to drive the vehicle when there are more than three people in the front seat of the vehicle.



## Scam Alert: Amazon Gift Card Scam

The United States Federal Trade Commission has a new warning for consumers regarding the use of Amazon gift cards.

A new wave of scammers is asking people to pay for large online items such as cars, motorcycles, boats and RVs with Amazon gift cards.

The scam comes when the gift card is used and the item you purchased never shows up.

According to Amazon, there are cheap vehicles being listed online from people who are seeming in a hurry to sell the vehicle, which are typically sold for well below book value.

The scammer will ask you to purchase the Amazon gift cards in values of up to \$2,000 and give them the number when you purchase the item.

The scammer will then disappear with the

money from the gift card and you will never receive the vehicle.

This type of scam is being used for other items such as electronics, taxes, bail money, and cable bills as well.

According to Amazon, they do not sell cards and Amazon.com gift cards should not be used to make payments to other businesses or individuals.



## Ask an Officer: 3<sup>rd</sup> Brake Light

I was recently stopped because my 3<sup>rd</sup> brake light was not working. Is that a valid reason for a stop?

There is some confusion over this issue and in order to answer your questions, we need to look at Minnesota State Statute 169.57

Minnesota State Statute 169.57, subd. 1(a) requires vehicles to be equipped with at least two stop lamps which shall emit a red or yellow light.

However, if you read further into statute 169.57, there are additional requirements imposed.

When we look at Minnesota State Statute 169.57, subd. 3(a), we find that when a vehicle is

equipped with stop lamps or signal lamps, such lamps shall, at all times, be maintained in good working condition.

This statute includes the 3<sup>rd</sup> brake light that is common on most vehicles today.

In the Minnesota Court of Appeals case, State of Minnesota vs. Justin Curtis Beall, the court stated that the inoperable center brake light constituted an objective, reasonable and articulable suspicion of a violation of law, justifying a traffic stop.

So to answer your question, the 3<sup>rd</sup> brake light is required to be working when you drive your car.

Do you have a question for a police officer, but never had the chance to ask?

Here is your chance! Each month, one question will be selected and answered in this newsletter

Send your comments and questions to:

[chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us](mailto:chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us)



## Worthington Police

1530 Airport Road  
Suite 300  
Worthington, MN 56187

PHONE:  
(507) 295-5400

FAX:  
(507) 372-5977

E-MAIL:  
[bhussong@co.nobles.mn.us](mailto:bhussong@co.nobles.mn.us)

Animal Control

(507) 360-7044

Community Service Officer

(507) 372-8189

We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.ci.worthington.mn.us](http://www.ci.worthington.mn.us)

## Humor in Law Enforcement

Our first story of the new year started out with a traffic stop in Collinsville, Oklahoma.

The Collinsville Police stopped and arrested a woman for driving under suspension and possession of marijuana.

While the traffic stop was relatively uneventful, the posting of the suspect's booking photograph on the department's Facebook page turned this into a dumb criminal story we all enjoy.

As fate would have it, our criminal saw her

photograph on Facebook and just could not help but comment on her photograph.

The comment made by our criminal was a confession that she was in possession of the marijuana, but that the charges would be thrown out because her conduct would have been legal in other states.

The Collinsville Police Department responded by stating "The Collinsville Police Department highly supports our citizen's right to free speech. If anyone else would like



to exercise their rights by coming on our Facebook page and admitting to the very crimes they were charged with, then please feel free to do so".

Credit: Collinsville Police Department Facebook Page

## Mission Statement

**Serving Worthington with honor and integrity  
by working WITH the community  
to provide exceptional public safety.**

**WORTHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
1530 AIRPORT ROAD  
SUITE 300  
WORTHINGTON, MN 56187**