

June 2023

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Worthington Police News



Chief

Troy Appel

Captain

Nathan Grimmus

Patrol Sergeants

Tim Gaul

Josh McCuen

Mark Riley

Detective Sergeant

Brandon Peil

Patrol Officers

Ryan Golombiecki

Chris Hillesheim

Siddney Kounlabout

Randy Liepold

Destini Miller

Tyler Olson

Jacob Refsland

Ernesto Rivera-

Mercado

Bryant Schroeder

Christina Shorter

Investigators

Dave Hoffman

Joe Joswiak

Kyle Schreier

Jake Walker

School Resource

Dan Brouillet

Gabe Vander Veen

Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

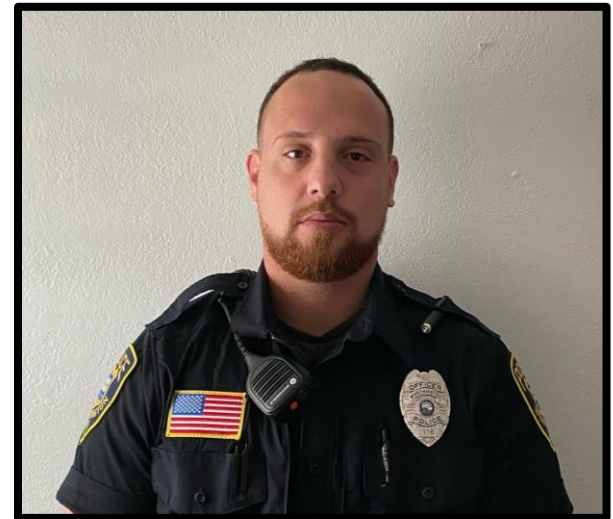
Officer Profile: Ernesto Rivera-Mercado

The Worthington Police Department has a new police officer patrolling the streets, Ernesto Rivera-Mercado.

Ernesto was born and raised in Puerto Rico, living there until he turned 18.

When Ernesto turned 18, he moved to Lismore, Minnesota and then later attended Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington.

After graduation, Ernesto was hired by the Worthington Police Department and spent



several months in the field training program.

Ernesto has successfully completed his training and is now patrolling on his own.

In his free time,

Ernesto enjoys helping people out, hiking, working out, and working on his car and motorcycle.

Please join us in welcoming Ernesto to our community!



Individual Highlights:

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Work Anniversaries

Dave Hoffman	Detective	23 Years
Barb Hussong	Reception	21 Years
Kyle Schreier	Detective	4 Years

Animal Control
Zach Ramerth

Community Service
Kirk Honius

Reception
Barb Hussong

Records
Shari Droll
Julie Jeppesen

TAC/IT
Gary Gerdes

Dispatch Supervisor
Stephanie Evers

Dispatch
Tonya Aanenson
Camryn Baumhoefner
Erin Johnson
Jodi Mulder
Zach Ramerth

K-9 Officers
Winston

New Laws

The 2023 Minnesota legislative session has closed with a number of new laws that will affect Minnesotans.

Universal School Meals

FREE!!

All K-12 students will receive free school lunches, regardless of parental income.

Red Flag Laws

A new provision in the law allows family members, spouses, roommates, or law enforcement to petition a court to suspend someone's access to guns if they are determined to be a danger to themselves or someone else. This law will go into effect next year.

Firearm Background Checks

Firearm background checks will extend to private gun sales and transfers and not just purchases made at a federally licensed firearms dealer.

Driver's Licenses For All

Minnesota residents

will be able to obtain a driver's license regardless of their immigration status.

Recreational Cannabis



Marijuana for recreational use will be legal as early as August 1st.

This change in the law will allow for up to 2 pounds of marijuana in your home and up to 2 ounces in a motor vehicle.

Marijuana is still classified as a Schedule I drug and still illegal at the federal level.

Driving Under the Influence of marijuana is still illegal and has the same penalties as Driving Under the Influence of alcohol.

Minnesota is an "at-will" state so employers can fire someone who shows up at work under the influence of marijuana.

Smoking marijuana in a public place is still prohibited.



Cannabis Management Office

The state will also set up an Office of Cannabis Management that will oversee new legal marketplaces that will allow licensed businesses to cultivate, manufacture, and sell marijuana at retail dispensaries.

Expungement of low-level cannabis convictions

Low level cannabis convictions will be automatically expunged.

A board will be set up to review felony level crimes. The board will have the ability to expunge or resentence felony crimes.

Voting Rights



This law automatically allows felons to vote upon being released from prison.

CRIME STOPPERS
of Minnesota

1-800-222-TIPS

www.crimestoppersmn.org

Crime Doesn't Pay...We Do!

Call Crime Stoppers above to report a Tip or download the P3 Tip APP below.



Pets in Cars

As summer approaches and the temperatures are getting hotter, it is critical to recognize the dangers of leaving your pet in a hot car.

Every year, tragic incidents occur when pets have been left in cars and have suffered from life threatening illness or death.

Temperatures inside a car can easily increase by 30 to 40 degrees in a matter of 30 minutes.

Pets cannot regulate

their body temperatures as efficiently as people can. Their fur coats and limited sweat glands make them more prone to overheating.

Under Minnesota State Statute §346.57, it is illegal to leave a dog or cat inside a standing or parked motor vehicle in a manner that endangers the animals' health or safety.

Under this statute, a police officer, fire fighter, or animal control officer can use



reasonable force to enter a vehicle and remove the animal. Worthington city ordinance 90.13 also makes it illegal to leave a pet in a vehicle for

more than 30 minutes or in a vehicle when the temperature inside the vehicle is more than 90 degrees.

Cellular Telephones and 911

Across the state, there has been a recent increase in unintentional 911 calls being made.

One type of unintentional 911 call has been coming from Samsung cellular telephones after a recent update to their phone software.

Samsung Phones

With a Samsung cellular phone, if you press the power button five times, it will automatically call 911. This can easily occur when you have your phone in your pocket.

If you're concerned your Samsung phone may call 911 accidentally, you can turn off the setting. Go to Settings < Safety and emergency < Emergency SOS and slide the button to turn it off.

Apple iPhones

The Apple iPhone cellular telephones can also call 911 automatically if you hold the side button and the down button for several seconds, which can occur if you leave your cell phone in a cup holder in a car. They can also call 911 by pressing the side button quickly five times as well.

To turn off these features, you can go to Settings < Emergency SOS and slide the "Call with 5 button presses" and the "Call with Hold and Release" button.

Apple iPhones can also call 911 after it detects a severe crash. Under this feature, if the phone detects a crash, it will start a count down and if you do not stop the countdown, it will call 911 with your coordinates and a message that you have been in a crash.

Crash Detection

Recently there were two calls into the Worthington Dispatch Center where cellular telephones were left on top of vehicles and they called 911 when they fell off and hit the ground. This type of call is less frequent, and it is recommended to leave this feature on.

What should you do if your phone accidentally calls 911?

Stay on the line and talk to the dispatcher about what happened.

If you hang up or if dispatch does not receive a response from you, they will send officers to investigate the nature of the call.

Thank you for helping to reduce false 911 calls!

Worthington Police

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PHONE:
(507) 295-5400

FAX:
(507) 372-5977

E-MAIL:
bhussong@co.nobles.mn.us

Animal Control
(507) 329-0070

Community Service Officer
(507) 372-8189

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.ci.worthington.mn.us

**CRIME
STOPPERS**
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Humor in Law Enforcement

Our story this month comes from Springfield, Colorado where on May 13, 2023, a local officer stopped a car for driving 52 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone.

As the officer approached the vehicle, he watched the male driver quickly switch places with his passenger, his dog.

Now with the dog behind the wheel, the male jumped out of the passenger side of the car and claimed he was not driving.

The male, who appeared to be intoxicated, ran from the scene when the officer

asked about his alcohol consumption.

The male only made it about 20 yards before the officer caught him.

After further investigation, it was discovered the male also had two warrants out for his arrest.

The male was arrested for Driving While Impaired (DWI), Resisting Arrest, and for Speeding.

The dog is not currently facing any charges and was let go with a warning. He was turned over to a friend of the driver.



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**