Nation Night Out in Irondequoit Reinforces Commitment to Community Policing

Week of August 20, 2018

Philosopher John Locke argued government exists solely for the well-being of the community, and that government has a moral obligation to uphold its end of the bargain. Indeed, the relationship between law enforcement and the community it is sworn to protect is among one of the most important bonds that exists in our society.

Community policing is a central principle within the Irondequoit Police Department, as it helps foster an understanding and trust between citizens and their law enforcement. I am proud that these principals are on display, year-round. It is not uncommon to see our police officers playing kickball with campers or participating in wonderful events like “Shop with a Cop” during the holiday season.

In that spirit, the Town of Irondequoit joins communities across the nation every August in recognizing National Night Out, a community celebration of the relationship between law enforcement and residents. Now held under the Big Tent at Camp Eastman, Irondequoit’s event continues to be the biggest in the region - a claim I can validate as in my previous experience working as a Regional representative for the Governor, I visited dozens of such events throughout Upstate New York. Just like so many other things, Irondequoit likes to think big.

It certainly doesn’t end with National Night Out. Chief Richard Tantalo continues to lead the way in engaging in dialogue and building trust - not just within the Town of Irondequoit, but with neighboring communities as well - as part of the Greater Rochester Regional Community Police Relations Summit. This is all done in alignment with the principals of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, which was spearheaded several years ago by the Obama Administration.

You will see additional efforts to continue to build on that trust, including an upcoming local summit for the Irondequoit community on September 17th at the Irondequoit Library, which will continue to build stronger communication between residents and our police department. In the coming months, we hope to finalize the roll-out of our body worn cameras for officers, something that will continue to ensure transparency and accountability within the IPD. In summary: we’ve made good strides but look to continue to build on that good work.

On a slightly different note, on Friday August 10th, I had the honor of attending the graduation ceremony of the 65th Police Recruit Class. Please join me in congratulating the newest members of the Irondequoit Police Department: Officers David Gramlich, Kyle Phelan and Timothy Zawiski.