



## FISHERS POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN'S ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

June 10, 2015

Dear Members of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies,

This letter is written to attest that the Board of Directors and the members of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA) of the Fishers Police Department firmly support the continued CALEA Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation for the Fishers Police Department. It is the intent of this letter to document that the CPAAA is there to support our Police Department, and how the Police Department supports the activities of the CPAAA.

The CPAAA is a non-profit association of Fishers citizens who have graduated the 12 week Fishers Police Department's Citizen's Police Academy. The ability to participate in this program not only helps citizens understand that our police department is there to serve and protect, but how they provide unconditional support to the citizens as well. To reciprocate, the members of the CPAAA focus our efforts to serve, protect, and support our police department. We have a true commitment to and involvement in our community's quality of life.

Police Chief George Kehl and all members of the Fishers Police Department recognize the CPAAA as true and valued contributors to the police department. We provide essential community service, promote positive publicity, and promote the efforts of our police department. To help the CPAAA be recognized and identified as an auxiliary of the department, Chief Kehl provides each member of the Academy and the CPAAA with professionally designed shirts for us to wear at all of our functions and meetings. He and several of his executive officers have been known to attend our quarterly meetings and our annual awards banquet. They don't just attend, but rather they make it a point to personally interact with all members. To demonstrate his personal appreciation for our activities, Chief Kehl has also never missed the opportunity to sponsor our awards banquet at the end of the year and our summer time ice cream social which gives members an opportunity to interact with each other on a more personal level.

During our quarterly meetings, police officers and detectives take personal time to come and provide additional training for us showing us how the police department works. These sessions include but are not limited to: K-9 Demonstration, forensics protocol and practices, identity theft prevention, domestic violence, active shooter, personal safety, traffic stops, narcotics, and school resource officers.

One of our major fund raisers for the Fishers Police Department is operating a dunk tank at the Fishers Freedom Festival. Children purchase 3 balls for a dollar to throw at the target to dunk a

Fishers Police Officer. The officers volunteer to take a one hour shift in the tank. There are 14 hours that need an officer to be in the tank. Even though this sounds like an easy hour, it is physically demanding to drop into the tank of very cold water and crawl back out. Even if the child misses the target, they earned the right to walk up and push the target with their hands, dunking the officer. It is important to note that the space and the dunk tank itself are provided to the CPAAA to raise our funds by a local contributor.

While performing at our various events, the CPAAA routinely receives overwhelmingly positive feedback from citizens commending the Fishers Police Department. The citizens of Fishers are open to working and communicating with the FPD because the FPD has a high level of trust from our community and are always fair when enforcing the law. It is understood that the Fishers Police Department is very open to listening to the needs of the community and they respond to those needs. Citizens have learned that it is OK to call 911 if they feel there is any suspicious activity.

The CPAAA, the Fishers Police Department, and the Fishers Community all have a vested interest and commitment to each other. The exchange of communication that we have with each other is a true testament that these are not just words; it is a demonstration of positive action leading towards continuous improvement. Please feel free to browse the CPAAA website which further details the partnership exchange. The address is: [www.fpdcaaa.org](http://www.fpdcaaa.org).

On behalf of the CPAAA Board of Directors and its members, I thank you for the opportunity to share with you this letter of endorsement for the City of Fishers Police Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis L. Shinault", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis L. Shinault  
President, Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association

## **CPAAA Events Performed to Enhance the Quality of Life for the Fishers Police Department**

- Purchased 2 K-9 training bite suits, and stab and bullet proof K-9 vests
- Lunch for the FPD Annual Inspection is provided by the CPAAA
- Assisted police with safety patrols and parking at community events
- Pay registration fees for various police officer training and events
- Help raise funds for needed police equipment and activities by:
  - Managing and staffing the hot dog and soda concession for a local electronics store customer appreciation week
  - Working the Dunk-A-Cop Tank at the Fishers Freedom Festival
- Provide door prizes for the Annual Police Awards Banquet
- Provide an annual college scholarship for a qualified student studying criminal justice
- Send care packages to deployed Fishers Police Officers in the U.S. Military
- Provide snacks and amenities for Police Appreciation Week
- Teen Academy Involvement
  - Sponsor a lunch for the teens
  - Participate in role playing for felony traffic stop training
- Purchased Fishers Police Explorer Post training handcuffs for the cadets
- During the Annual Police Department Open House, the CPAAA is asked to help guide citizens through the Police HQ and answer questions.
- We have the ability to volunteer at the FPD HQ headquarters and help with community outreach programs which include: Neighborhood Crime Watch, Neighborhood Business Watch, D.A.R.E. Program, Teen Academy, and Safety Link for Seniors.
- We participate in the Cops for Kids during the Holidays to provide needy children with Holiday gifts.
  - Assist with the shopping
  - When the children return to the HQ, we gift wrap all the gifts for the kids
  - Assist with the refreshments
- Assist with Polar Plunge and the Torch Run that police officers participate in to raise money for Special Olympics. We provide financial support towards paying police officer entry fees and additional support by working at the events.