



## Neighborhood Assistance Officer program wins international award ahead of 50th anniversary

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The Dayton Police Department's Neighborhood Assistance Officer (NAO) program has won the prestigious 'Leadership in Volunteer Police Service Programs Award', presented at the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Chicago.

The award recognizes volunteer programs that 'demonstrate innovative, effective practices for augmenting sworn or civilian staff and/or improving service delivery to their communities.'

The award comes just as Dayton's NAO program prepares to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020.



Currently there are 15 neighborhood assistance officers and a full-time program manager, Cindy August. Dayton's NAO program began in 1969 and was fully implemented in 1970 as grant-funded program. When the grant expired, the NAO effort continued because City of Dayton leaders were so impressed by the asset the volunteers had become to the community and the police department, the department decided to continue funding.

"These volunteers selflessly dedicate their time for hundreds of hours every year," said August. "They patrol streets, assist at crash, fire, and other emergency scenes, conduct vacation house checks, provide traffic direction for community events, attend community engagement events, and any other task that is asked of them. The work that these volunteers put in every year saves the City and the police department hundreds of thousands of dollars, not to mention the enormous impact their presence and visibility in the community has on crime prevention."

To become an NAO, a volunteer must complete 60 hours of specialized training and ride six months with a trained NAO. The volunteers are required to work one night a week with a minimum participation of 192 hours per year. Anyone interested in becoming an NAO volunteer may call Cindy August at 937-333-1350.

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