



Officer Injured in the Line of Duty

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Chief Richard Biehl and the entire Dayton Police Department would like to thank the community for their outpouring of prayers and concern for Officer Byron Branch, who was injured in the line of duty on Friday night.

On December 16 at 11:45pm Officer Byron Branch was investigating a property damage crash on Interstate 75 just north of U.S. 35. As Officer Branch was outside of his cruiser speaking with the driver of the semi involved in the initial crash, a driver lost control of his vehicle while traveling on the highway and struck a Dayton Police cruiser. The cruiser then hit both Officer Branch and the driver of the semi. Multiple Dayton Police crews responded to the scene and rendered aid until Dayton Fire personnel and medics arrived. Officer Branch and the driver of the semi were transported to Miami Valley Hospital.

Both men sustained serious injuries and are currently receiving ongoing medical treatment.

Officer Branch is assigned to the East Patrol Operations Division. He is a graduate of the 104th Dayton Police Recruit Class and was sworn in as a Dayton Police Officer on April 8, 2016. Officer Branch comes from a law enforcement and public service family, his father is retired from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and his mother is still employed by Montgomery County. Officer Branch is both a newlywed and new father. He is also an accomplished athlete.

The Dayton Police Department Senior Command staff, along with the Mayor, City Manager and Deputy City Manager visited Officer Branch and his family in the hospital over the weekend to express their concern and offer support, which we will continue to do throughout his treatment and recovery.

An account has been established by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #44 to help Officer Branch and his family. The community can donate to the Officer Byron Branch Fund at any Key Bank location.

A more detailed account of the accident that injured Officer Branch will be released Tuesday, December 20th at 3 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room at Dayton Police Headquarters.

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