

The West Hempfield Township Police Department was established by resolution by the West Hempfield Township Board of Supervisors on September 6, 1960. It was at this time that Lester Myers was appointed as the first part-time police officer for the Township. In March of 1967 a second part-time police officer was hired. The Board appointed Officer Myers as the Township's first Chief of Police on January 2, 1968. During the first several years the Township's officers patrolled in their own vehicles until April 4th, 1967 when the Township purchased their first police cruiser from Wolf Ford for \$2,047.97.

Over the years, the Police Department remained a part-time police department in that officers were on-duty from approximately 6:00 or 7:00 am until anytime between midnight and 2:00 am the next morning. By 1984, the Township Police department consisted of 6 full-time police officers, one full-time and one part-time secretary. In June of 1984, 4 officers were appointed with the intention that, after these officers completed training, the department would begin providing 24 hour protection, 7 days a week to the citizens of West Hempfield Township. In November of 1984, the Department did in fact begin providing 24 hr law enforcement services in West Hempfield Township. The Police Department went from 1 part-time officer in 1960 to 9 full-time officers in 1984.

Today, under the direction of Chief Mark G. Pugliese I, the police department employs 20 full-time police officers and 3 administrative personnel and provides full law enforcement service to West Hempfield Township and Mountville Borough. Officers include the chief of police, 3 sergeants, 2 corporals, 2 detectives and 12 patrol officers. The department is dispatched through Lancaster County-Wide Communications and is part of the county-wide records management system. It is linked to the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network as well as the NCIC national data base.

Several department officers are assigned to various county task forces and teams to include Lancaster County S.E.R.T. team, Lancaster County Major Crimes Unit, Lancaster County Forensics Team, Lancaster County Crisis Intervention Team and the Regional Crash Scene Investigative Unit.

The West Hempfield Township Police Department prides itself in being responsive to the needs of the public it serves as well as being a proactive law enforcement agency.