



# MAYFIELD VILLAGE

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**Brenda T. Bodnar**  
*Mayor*

**Paul J. Matias**  
*Chief of Police*

This past Sunday, February 16th, 2020, the Cleveland Plain Dealer published an article titled *Training critical, payment lacking*. The main topic of the article discusses how the State of Ohio fails to fund training for Law Enforcement and how this lack of funding is a safety issue for officers and the public. In a section of the article titled "A Muddied Picture," the Plain Dealer describes how Officers who failed to complete past mandatory training are placed in a "cease-function" status, where they cannot perform the functions of a Police Officer.

"In 2017, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O'Malley's office received at least 55 letters from the training commission about officers in cease-function status. The office provided the letters to The Plain Dealer in response to a public record request, but a spokesman said the office couldn't be sure that was the total number of letters for that year. All of the letters stemmed from officers who failed to meet the hours for continued professional training, the records show. At least 23 of the officers also failed to get the statutorily mandatory training. The officers worked in large departments — Cleveland police and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department — and suburban offices such as Linndale, North Royalton and Mayfield Village" (Caniglia & Dissell, Cleveland Plain Dealer February 16, 2020).

It could be implied from the article that there are, or have been, Officers working at the Mayfield Village Police Department in "cease-function" status. I can assure you this is not true. All Officers, past and present, have always been in full compliance with all training requirements.

If the Plain Dealer reporters had contacted me for more information, they would have learned the following:

- The Mayfield Village Officers referred to in the 2017 letters to Prosecutor O'Malley's Office are former Officers who retired or resigned several years before 2017. The training commission still had the Officers on an active roster, which is an administrative error that has been corrected.
- The Mayfield Village Police Department makes training a priority. So far this year, 20 of our 23 Officers have attended or are scheduled for 27 different training classes, which is in addition to the biannual legal update from our Village Prosecutor. The training includes Advanced Search and Seizure, Police leadership training, and counter-ambush tactics. We also have two Officers scheduled to become certified Crime Prevention Specialists.
- 14 of the 27 classes are free, which shows how the Police Department can still train their Officers without the need for State funding. These free classes include Active Shooter training, FEMA incident command training, and training on Amber Alerts.

I take great pride in the dedication and professionalism of the Mayfield Village Police Department. While Mayfield Village is only mentioned in a small paragraph on the back page of the article, I feel it is essential to illuminate the situation and provide details to correct the implications from the Plain Dealer's story.

Chief Paul Matias

February 18, 2020