

City of Independence Police Department founded in 1864; Serves over 6,000 people

by Chief Dustin Dallenbach
Independence Police Department

Located on the Wapsipinicon River at the crossroad of Highway 20 and Highway 150 is the enticing city of Independence. The Independence Police Department was established in 1864 by a City Council gearing up for a rapidly growing community. The mission of this Department was and still is to secure the safety of life and property for generations to come through a professional and vigilant enforcement of the law. Our city has grown to over 6,000 people, and we strive to enforce equally applied laws for all.

At the current time, the Independence Police Department serves the City of Independence with a staff of ten certified officers, one certified K-9 officer, two reserve officers and an administrative secretary who are all ready to do their part in protecting the citizens of Independence. In June, 2016, the Department was relocated from the north side of the Buchanan County Court House to our new office at 2349 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 3, which gives us adequate room of perform our duties.

In the past two years, the Police Department has had other major changes. In



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2015, Officer Cass, with the approval of Chief Randall Miller and the Independence City Council, accepted the mission to raise funds to create a K-9 position for the Police Department. Officer Cass was successful in speaking to members of the community and applying for grants which led to the purchase of the department's K-9. In September of 2015, K-9 Tyton was purchased from Mid-Michigan Kennels, Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

K-9 Officer Tyton is a pure bred, black German Shepherd that was raised in Poland. Officer Cass and K-9 Officer Tyton traveled to Eaton Rapids, Michigan, in September 2015, where they were vigorously trained side-by-side for five weeks.

After the successful completion of K-9 Officer School, Officer Cass and K-9 Officer Tyton returned to Independence where they started their long journey of fighting the war on drugs in our community. To this date, Officer Cass and K-9 Officer Tyton have found substances such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin, LSD, and liquid marijuana on a number of suspects not only in our city, but also in the county area. Officer Cass and K-9 Officer Tyton are dedicated to each other and make a strong united team.

This is the first K-9 Unit the City of Independence has had since the early 1990s. The Independence Police Department K-9 Unit is based solely on grants and community donations, for which we are extremely grateful. They have made wonderful progress in combatting the war on drugs.

In July 2015, the City of Independence also implemented a Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Lau. Officer Lau has been diligently enforcing city ordinances city wide. He is an expert at answering any questions or concerns pertaining to our city ordinances.

In 2015, Chief Randall Miller announced his retirement effective July 1, 2016. The Independence City Council opened the position of Chief and conducted numerous interviews. Chief Dustin Dallenbach was selected to fill this position.

Chief Dallenbach was raised in Arlington, Iowa, a small town north of Independence. He achieved the Eagle Scout Award in 2000 and graduated from Starmont High School in 2001. After graduation from Starmont, Chief Dallenbach received his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Natural Resources at Hawkeye Community College in 2003, and his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Police Science from Hawkeye Community College in 2005. In 2009, Chief Dallenbach was hired by the City of Carroll as Patrol Officer and was sent to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

In 2011, he left the City of Carroll and took the position of Deputy Sheriff for the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, where he served over five years. He applied for the Independence Chief position in 2016 and was honored to accept this office. He is proud to have the opportunity to be a leader in this community of which he and his family live.

In recent months Independence was honored to be selected as 5th in the top 20 safest cities in Iowa. Our dedicated officers are the backbone of our community. They strive to keep our community secure and protected.

The people of Independence can be proud of our Independence Police Department (see photo on page 12).

Join Council Bluffs P.D. and the Pottawattamie Co. S.O. in fighting cancer. Tee-shirt sales benefit Oncology services at CHI Health Mercy Council Bluffs. See information below.

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T-SHIRT SALE

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\$10 (Small - XL) \$12 (XXL - 5XL) \$10 (Children's Sizes)
\$15 (Adult Long Sleeve) Now Offering Wrist Bands \$1 Tea

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Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office 1400 Big Lake Road Council Bluffs, IA 51501	Council Bluffs Police Department 227 S. Sixth Street Council Bluffs, IA 51503	CHI Health Mercy Council Bluffs Gift Shop 800 Mercy Drive Council Bluffs, IA 51503
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For more information please call the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office at (712) 330-2200, or contact with the Council Bluffs Police Department at (712) 330-4500. All items available while supplies last. Facebook: @CouncilBluffsPolice, @CouncilBluffsIA, @CouncilBluffsIA51503