

Police Department History

In June 2000, Union Township officially became West Chester Township, and the police department accordingly became the West Chester Police Department. This necessitated the fourth change in the shoulder patch, and with this came a new design in the breast badge and hat badge worn by officers.

In September 2000, Chief Brown retired, leaving behind one of the most progressive police departments in the state of Ohio. The department employs a contingent of 82 officers, 14 communications officers and 10 civilian police employees. The West Chester police department is currently the largest township police department, in addition to being one of twenty largest police departments overall in the state of Ohio.

Colonel John W. Bruce was named Police Chief in 2000 to meet the challenges of a growing community. Col. Bruce retired in 2005, but stayed on until December 2008 in order to develop depth within the ranks of the department and facilitate a smooth transition.

Erik Niehaus was sworn in as Chief of Police on Dec. 2, 2008.