

Thursday, Apr 20, 2017

OUPD celebrates 50 years of service

The Oakland University (OU) Department of Public Safety was established in 1967 following the recommendation of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, which stated that nine police officers and twenty firefighters were required to ensure public safety.

The Department of Public Safety started with only six officers. In the face of budget austerity, the question of fire protection was pushed into the distant future.

The six-person Public Safety staff allowed OU to have two officers on duty on each shift for three days a week and one person on duty on each shift for the other four days.

The small staff meant that officers routinely worked sixteen hours straight only having to return for their next regular shift after a break of only eight hours.



Several members of this year's Oakland University Police Department gathered for this 50th anniversary photo on April 19, 2017.

In its first full year of service, the Department of Public Safety responded to 743 calls for service with 10 assault and battery cases logged during a thirteen-day period in July. Other calls that year included breaking and entering, grand larceny, petty larceny, car theft, liquor law violations, disorderly persons, delinquent persons, and drunk driving.

For comparison purposes, OUPD dispatchers handle roughly 30,000 phone calls per year these days and OUPD officers responded to 10,635 calls for service in 2016. Surprisingly, the types of calls last year were very similar and have not changed much in 50 years.

Learn more about the OUPD by visiting their [department timeline page](#).

See photos of OUPD leaders and historical photos at the department's [photo gallery page](#).

More pertinent campus safety information can be found beginning at the homepage of the [OUPD website](#).

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