

**PUBLIC RECORDS (APRA) REQUEST  
CITY OF SOUTH BEND**

Name of Requesting Party: Redress South Bend		Organization:		
Address of Requesting Party: 1138 College Street		City: South Bend	State: Indiana	Zip: 46628
Telephone: (574) 261-1180	Email of Requesting Party: info@RedressSouthBend.com			Submitted via: Online Form
Date and Time of Request: 02/13/2025	I Request to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inspect Records <input type="checkbox"/> Buy Records	Receive Records by: <input type="checkbox"/> In Person Pick-Up <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-Mail		
Property Address for Information Requested:		Months Requested:		

**Department:** Other/I'm Not Sure

Records Requested:

Department Comments:

**Department:**

Records Requested:

Department Comments:

**Department:**

Records Requested:

Department Comments:

**Department:**

Records Requested:

Department Comments:

**FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMS**

Date of Incident:	Incident Location:
EMS Patient Name:	DOB:
Records Requested:	
Relationship to Case:	
Department Notes:	

Requesting Party: Redress South Bend  
Date of Request: 02/13/2025

APRA ID: AR25-0198

**CITY OF SOUTH BEND  
PUBLIC RECORDS (APRA) REQUEST**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Date of Incident:	Incident Location:
Person of Interest:	POI DOB:
Records Requested:	
Relationship to Case:	
Department Notes:	

Additional Information About this Request:

See Attached - \*\*Please email copy of this submission and attached document back to requestor as receipt

Signature of Requesting Party: Logan

Foster

02/13/2025 01:27 pm

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Request Received By:	Department:	Date and Time Received:
Acknowledged Via: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> USPS Mail		

Notes:

**ATTORNEY COMMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS:**

Information is:  DISCLOSABLE     NON-DISCLOSABLE    Letter needed:

Attorney Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter (if applicable):    Decision sent to:  Requestor  Department to release:    Date:    By:

Letter (if applicable):    Decision sent to:  Requestor  Department to release:    Date:    By:

Informed requesting Party that information is \_\_\_\_\_ DISCLOSABLE or \_\_\_\_\_ NON-DISCLOSABLE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  In Person     By Email     By USPS Mail

I am writing to formally request access to public records pursuant to the Indiana Access to Public Records Act. The details of my request are as follows:

**Requested Records:**

1. Emails sent from "chap@southbendin.gov" to any of these addresses:  
"ituray@gannett.com", "jparrott@wvpe.org", "News57@abc57.com",  
"newscenter16@wndu.com", "wvpe@wvpe.org", "bmontgomery@wsbt.com",

**Requested Timeline:** July 1st, 2024 - February 13, 2025

**Requested Keywords:** "For Immediate Release" "Release", "News", "event", "Mueller", "South Bend" "Schedule", "Scheduled", "Invite", "Invitation", "Media", "Press", "Meeting", "Conference"

Please advise if there are any fees associated with fulfilling this request prior to processing. If any part of my request is unclear or requires further clarification, feel free to contact me via [info@RedressSouthBend.com](mailto:info@RedressSouthBend.com).

I would appreciate your swift assistance and look forward to your response within the timeline stipulated by applicable public records law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Logan Foster

Redress South Bend

**From:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**To:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**Bcc:** [ABC 57 News Desk](#); [Allison Zeithammer](#); [Brandi Miller](#); [Jeff Parrott](#); [Jon Zimney](#); [Josh Short](#); [Kent Fulmer](#); [Mike Pease](#); [Outreach](#); [Shawn McGrath](#); [Shay Davis](#); [Shelli Baker](#); [South Bend Tribune News Desk](#); [Troy Warner](#); [WNNDU News Desk](#); [WSBT News Desk](#); [WVPE Newsroom](#)  
**Subject:** Fallen Officer Scholarship Ride  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 9:37:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[scholarship-ride-2024.jpg](#)  
[CORN ROAST 2024-.jpg](#)

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Good morning,

I am sending this email on behalf of South Bend FOP Lodge #36. The FOP is hosting its Fallen Officer Scholarship Ride and Annual Corn Roast this weekend, and its members were hoping you could help spread the word about these events to your audiences. I am attaching flyers to both events for your consideration.

If interested, a member of FOP #36 could provide an interview sometime this week to preview the ride.

Thank you!

--

Each year, the FOP hosts a motorcycle ride in honor of one of SBPD's fallen officers. This year, the ride honors Corporal Nick Polizzotto, who was shot and killed on April 24, 2007, while investigating a report of shots fired in the 1700 block of Lincoln Way East in South Bend.

The ride will be held on Saturday, August 17 at 3 p.m. Registration begins at 12 p.m. at the South Bend Police Department at 701 W. Sample Street. The ride will take off from SBPD and will end at the FOP #36 grounds at 25327 IN-23 in South Bend.

The fee is \$25 for riders and \$40 for a rider + passenger. All riders will receive a t-shirt and entry/food/drink for the annual FOP #36 corn roast, which will also be held Saturday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the FOP grounds.

The money raised goes toward the FOP's scholarship fund, which will be awarded to college-bound students to help further their education.

Participants can pre-register by using the link below or can simply show up in-person on Saturday starting at noon.

**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fop36-fallen-officer-scholarship-ride-tickets-901434704467?aff=erelexpmlt>

**Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department

**Cell:** 574-292-9331

**Office:** 574-235-7527

**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



**From:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**To:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**Bcc:** [ABC 57 News Desk](#); [alane@southbendin.gov](#); [Allison Zeithammer](#); [Brandi Miller](#); [Jeff Parrott](#); [Jon Zimney](#); [Josh Short](#); [Kent Fulmer](#); [Mike Murrell - WVPE](#); [Mike Pease](#); [Outreach](#); [Shawn McGrath](#); [Shay Davis](#); [Shelli Baker](#); [South Bend Tribune News Desk](#); [Troy Warner](#); [WNDU News Desk](#); [WSBT News Desk](#); [WVPE Newsroom](#)  
**Subject:** Cops and Goblins tickets now available  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 11:25:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Cops and Goblins 2024.ipa](#)  
[Cops and Goblins Locations 2024.ipa](#)

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Good morning,

To help ring in October, we are happy to announce that tickets for SBPD's Cops and Goblins are **now available!**

Cops and Goblins will take place on Tuesday, October 29 from 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Century Center.

Free tickets for this event are now available at several locations across the city. I've attached the event flyer AND a flyer listing the pickup locations, but I will also list them below:

**South Bend Police Department Front Desk**

701 W. Sample Street

**South Bend Cubs Den Team Store**

420 S. William Street

**Charles Black Community Center**

3419 W. Washington Street

**Martin's Super Markets – 23 & Ironwood**

2801 South Bend Avenue

**Martin's Super Markets – Mayflower & Western**

525 S. Mayflower Road

**Martin's Super Markets – Erskine Plaza**

926 Erskine Plaza

Tickets are free but supplies are limited... so we encourage people to grab them while they can! One ticket is needed for each person in a family/group that attends. Example: Mom, Dad and two kids = four tickets.

Also, as of this morning, all vendor candy tables have been claimed... so we are no longer accepting additional businesses and organizations to reserve a spot for the event. However, we are still accepting candy donations for this event – those donations can be dropped off at our front desk at 701 W. Sample Street.

Thanks for helping us spread the word!

**Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department

**Cell:** 574-292-9331

**Office:** 574-235-7527

**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



**From:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**To:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**Bcc:** [WSBT Desk](#); [WNDU Desk](#); [ABC Desk](#)  
**Subject:** AM SHOWS: Interview Opportunity  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 7:57:40 AM  
**Attachments:** [image01.png](#) [cid16%253ax%253aRgAAAAADKfJhexB4qO63UShazflDXBwAwwq%252fbZ2o1SakkKTf0v9lmAAAAAEJAAAwwo%252fbZ2o1SakkKTf0v9lmABEBGBeAAJ%253aEAD9xz7XOhLzOrTl6vXhNaBD.png](#)

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Good morning AM newsters,

Michiana Crime Stoppers is hosting its Fall Shredding Event THIS SATURDAY, October 19, from 8 a.m. to noon at Southgate Crossing in Elkhart.

To help talk more about the event and the Michiana Crime Stoppers mission in general, Lt. Kayla Miller has availability this Thursday or Friday to stop by your morning show for an in-studio interview.

Please let me know if you have a spot for us on either morning... and I would be happy to help coordinate.

Even if you don't have space for us this week, we would appreciate the help in reminding your audiences about this upcoming event – I have attached a graphic as well.

Thank you!



Ashley O'Chap  
Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department  
Cell: 574-292-9331  
Office: 574-235-7527  
Email: ao'chap@southbendin.gov



**From:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**To:** Kenneth Cotter; Eric Bellinger; Bohner, Ted A.; Scott Ruszkowski; Aaron Stevens; Sherri Wildes; Robert Borrelli; Mike Pease; William Redman; Havens, Robert; Aris Lee; [jahaferkamp@sbctv.com](#); [Troy Warner](#); Nick Kovatch; [sheadley@mishawaka.in.gov](#); [jtobey@sjc911.com](#); [nbrovold@sjc911.com](#); Suzie Krill; [ITuray@gannett.com](#); Shelli Baker; Brandi Miller; Dan Skibins; Molly Jirasek; Dennis Brown; [Sue Ryan](#); [jimp@iusb.edu](#); Dennis Brown; [Sue Ryan](#); [Kayla Miller](#); Andrew Goetz; Blair Yankey; Scott Ruszkowski  
**Subject:** REMINDER: MESO tomorrow!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 9:45:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Good morning,

As a reminder... the Q3 MESO will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, July 24, at the South Bend Police Department @ 9 a.m.

Please enter through the South Bend Police Department's main entrance and I (or another SBPD employee) will let you in to the meeting room, located in our administration wing.

I look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow! Please come with any questions you may have for the group.

P.S. If you have not yet added your name to our MESO group contact directory, you can feel free to do so at this link: [MESO Group Contact Directory.xlsx](#)

## Ashley O'Chap

Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department

**Cell:** 574-292-9331

**Office:** 574-235-7527

**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



**From:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**To:** Kenneth Cotter; Eric Bellinger; Bohner, Ted A.; Scott Ruszkowski; Aaron Stevens; Sherri Wildes; Robert Borrelli; Mike Pease; William Redman; Havens, Robert; Aris Lee; [jahaferkamp@sbctv.com](#); Troy Warner; Nick Kovatch; sheadley@mishawaka.in.gov; [itobey@sjc911.com](#); [nbrovold@sjc911.com](#); [ITuray@gannett.com](#); Shelli Baker; Brandi Miller; Dan Skibins; Molly Jirasek; Pinkerton, Jim; Kayla Miller; Andrew Goetz; Blair Yankey; Derek Erguhart; [ergettendon@sbcsc.k12.in.us](#); Christine O'Connor SJCPD  
**Subject:** REMINDER: MESO tomorrow  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:06:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

As a reminder, our Q1 MESO meeting will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, January 29, at the South Bend Police Department. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and generally lasts till about 10.

Upon your arrival, please wait in the main lobby and either I or another SBPD employee will let you in and walk you down to the meeting room.

Please come with any questions/concerns you may have for the group.

See you tomorrow!

## **Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department  
**Cell:** 574-292-9331  
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**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



**From:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**To:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**Bcc:** [WSBT News Desk](#); [WNDU News Desk](#); [ABC 57 News Desk](#); [South Bend Tribune News Desk](#); [WVPE General](#); [WVPE Newsroom](#)  
**Subject:** FOP #36 press event  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:56:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

I am sending the following on behalf of South Bend FOP Lodge #36. They do ask you to please hold off on sharing this information publicly until after tomorrow's media event so they can provide all the specifics in terms of how to support the endeavor. Thank you.

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On the heels of its biggest year yet, the FOP #36 Santa's Elficers program is preparing to take a significant step toward helping more children in 2025 and beyond... and the FOP invites your newsroom to learn more about the plan.

In 2024, Santa's Elficers provided more than 680 children with holiday gifts. Children are selected based on a family's stated needs on their application and the program's available resources.

Since its inception in 2016, the Santa's Elficers program has utilized the South Bend Police Department building to store, sort and wrap gifts. However, now that the program is helping more children than ever, the FOP is looking to secure a dedicated building for Santa's Elficers – a workshop, if you will.

The FOP wants to purchase the former South Bend Woodworks building at 707 S. Scott Street— just behind the South Bend Police Department. The additional space will allow the program to assist more families in the future since it will not be bounded by storage limitations.

However, Santa's Elficers, which is a 501(c)(3), is seeking donations from the community to make this dream a reality.

Members of the FOP Santa's Elficers executive board invite the media to stop by the proposed new building **tomorrow, Wednesday, January 15 at 2 p.m.** to hear more about the FOP's plan to purchase the building... and how the community can step up to assist.

**WHAT:** Santa's Elficers media event

**WHERE:** 707 S. Scott Street (don't worry – this will be inside!)

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 15 at 2 p.m.

Thank you,

**Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications

South Bend Police Department

**Cell:** 574-292-9331

**Office:** 574-235-7527

**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



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**Subject:** SBPD: Cops and Goblins 2024  
**Date:** Friday, September 6, 2024 11:57:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

The South Bend Police Department is pleased to announce the return of Cops and Goblins for the 2024 Halloween season –with a twist!

For the past several years, Cops and Goblins has been held at Four Winds Field... but the ongoing stadium renovations has led us to find a new venue for this year.

This year's event will be held on **Tuesday, October 29 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Century Center**. (Indoors).

SBPD is currently accepting reservations from local businesses and organizations to host a candy table. Interested organizations can email [SBPDOOutreach@southbendin.gov](mailto:SBPDOOutreach@southbendin.gov) to inquire further.

Tickets will be available toward the end of September/early October. We will send an additional advisory once those are ready to distribute.

Thank you,

### **Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department  
**Cell:** 574-292-9331  
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**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



**From:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**To:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**Bcc:** [ABC 57 News Desk](#); [alane@southbendin.gov](#); [Allison Zeithammer](#); [Brandi Miller](#); [Christine O'Connor SJCPD](#); [Jeff Parrott](#); [Jon Zimney](#); [Josh Short](#); [Kent Fulmer](#); [Mike Murrell - WVPE](#); [Mike Pease](#); [Outreach](#); [SB City Council](#); [Shawn McGrath](#); [Shay Davis](#); [Shelli Baker](#); [South Bend Tribune News Desk](#); [Troy Warner](#); [WNDU News Desk](#); [WSBT News Desk](#); [WVPE General](#); [WVPE Newsroom](#)  
**Subject:** SBPD: Community crime stat meetings  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:44:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

For planning purposes, I wanted to send along the dates for this year's SBPD Community Crime Stat Meetings.

Since 2023, these meetings have been held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in our auditorium, but I figured it may be easier to list all the dates so you can add them to your calendars. I also do this because our March meeting will be canceled this year due to a separate SBPD event. That change is reflected below.

#### **2025 COMMUNITY CRIME STAT MEETING DATES | 6:30 P.M. | 701 W. SAMPLE STREET**

Wednesday, February 12

~~Wednesday, March 12~~ **CANCELED**

Wednesday, April 9 (Meeting will cover February AND March stats)

Wednesday, May 14

Wednesday, June 11

Wednesday, July 9

Wednesday, August 13

Wednesday, September 10

Wednesday, October 8

Wednesday, November 12

Wednesday, December 10

Please keep in mind that crime data can be requested at any time. These meetings are just specifically designed for residents who may prefer an in-person approach and appreciate the opportunity to speak to an officer and ask questions face-to-face.

Thank you for helping us spread the word,

#### **Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department

**Cell:** 574-292-9331

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**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



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**Bcc:** [ABC 57 News Desk](#); [Allison Zeithammer](#); [Brandi Miller](#); [Jeff Parrott](#); [Jon Zimney](#); [Josh Short](#); [Kent Fulmer](#); [Mike Pease](#); [Outreach](#); [Shawn McGrath](#); [Shay Davis](#); [Shelli Baker](#); [South Bend Tribune News Desk](#); [Troy Warner](#); [WNNDU News Desk](#); [WSBT News Desk](#); [WVPE Newsroom](#)  
**Subject:** SBPD: Application deadline  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 10:37:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

As a reminder, the application deadline is approaching for the South Bend Police Department's next one-day hiring event.

SBPD will hold its 2024 Summer Prospect Day on Saturday, August 24. Those interested in attending/testing must submit their application by this coming Monday, August 19.

Prospect Day allows applicants to complete a majority of our testing process in one day. SBPD rolled out the Prospect Day hiring model in 2022 and has continued the process due to repeated success.

Applicants can access our application by visiting [sbpolicejobs.com](#).

If you have further questions about Prospect Day or are interested in an on-camera interview, please let me know and I can connect you with a member of our Training and Recruitment Division.

Thank you,

## **Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department  
**Cell:** 574-292-9331  
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**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



**From:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
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**Bcc:** [ABC 57 News Desk](#); [alane@southbendin.gov](#); [Allison Zeithammer](#); [Brandi Miller](#); [Jeff Parrott](#); [Jon Zimney](#); [Josh Short](#); [Kent Fulmer](#); [Mike Murrell - WVPE](#); [Mike Pease](#); [Outreach](#); [Shawn McGrath](#); [Shay Davis](#); [Shelli Baker](#); [South Bend Tribune News Desk](#); [Troy Warner](#); [WNDU News Desk](#); [WSBT News Desk](#); [WVPE Newsroom](#)  
**Subject:** SBPD: Cookies with Santa event  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:26:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[fop cookies with santa 2024 \(1\).jpg](#)

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Good morning,

South Bend FOP Lodge #36 is planning another Cookies with Santa event for our community. Please see our below social post announcing the event, as well as the attached social graphic.

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Santa Claus is making his highly awaited return to the South Bend Police Department... and you're invited to help celebrate his arrival!

Join [South Bend FOP Lodge #36](#) on Friday, December 6 at SBPD for Cookies with Santa! Enjoy sweet treats and have a photo taken with Santa, thanks to [Casey Patrick Photography](#)!

Start making those lists now... he will be touching down here before you know it!

This is a free event, thanks to [South Bend FOP Lodge #36](#)... but donations will be accepted for the Santa's Elficers program. You can check out the Amazon wishlist here:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/F6OUHBS2S7WN?ref\\_=wl\\_share&fbclid=IwY2xjawGpm15leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHe-VBQ30x5ANye19T0We9DtikNkxaEEKCTC2MxIXc5LplkYbygJZ6ylS-A\\_aem\\_P6VEMgYWm6e4-kvCm9aFZw](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/F6OUHBS2S7WN?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwY2xjawGpm15leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHe-VBQ30x5ANye19T0We9DtikNkxaEEKCTC2MxIXc5LplkYbygJZ6ylS-A_aem_P6VEMgYWm6e4-kvCm9aFZw)

## Ashley O'Chap

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South Bend Police Department  
**Cell:** 574-292-9331  
**Office:** 574-235-7527  
**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



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**Subject:** SBPD: Cops and Community  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 11:21:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[2025-NDFCU Cops&Community December SocialPost.jpg](#)

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Good morning,

The South Bend Police Department is excited to participate in Notre Dame Federal Credit Union's inaugural "Cops & Community" event next week at the Near Northwest Neighborhood Association Community Center. This is a "Coffee with Cops"-type of event, where community members are invited to stop by and enjoy treats and coffee while meeting and chatting with SBPD officers.

The event will be held **Monday, December 9 from 10 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. at the Near Northwest Neighborhood Community Center at 1013 Portage Avenue in South Bend.**

We hope you'll spread the word and stop by!

The attached social post graphic is provided by NDFCU.

Thank you,

**Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department

**Cell:** 574-292-9331

**Office:** 574-235-7527

**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



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**Bcc:** [ABC 57 News Desk](#); [Allison Zeithammer](#); [Brandi Miller](#); [Jeff Parrott](#); [Jon Zimney](#); [Josh Short](#); [Kent Fulmer](#); [Mike Pease](#); [Outreach](#); [Shawn McGrath](#); [Shay Davis](#); [Shelli Baker](#); [South Bend Tribune News Desk](#); [Troy Warner](#); [WNDU News Desk](#); [WSBT News Desk](#); [WVPE Newsroom](#)  
**Subject:** SBPD: BolaWrap media demo  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 10:23:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

The Board of Public Safety last week approved a policy to allow some South Bend Police Officers to begin utilizing a new, non-lethal restraint device.

The device is called [BolaWrap](#) and is used to safely restrain people from a distance.

We invite the media to join us **tomorrow at 11 a.m. at the South Bend Police Department** for a BolaWrap demonstration and Q&A session.

Training for select officers began last winter – and you will have a chance to see at least one of those officers utilize BolaWrap during tomorrow's demo in our indoor range.

If you plan to attend tomorrow's media event, please meet me in our main lobby at 701 W. Sample Street by no later than 10:50 a.m.

Please note this demo is for media only – it is not open to the public.

Thank you,

### **Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications

South Bend Police Department

**Cell:** 574-292-9331

**Office:** 574-235-7527

**Email:** [ao'chap@southbendin.gov](mailto:ao'chap@southbendin.gov)



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**Subject:** SBPD: New officer swear-in  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 9:34:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

In case you haven't seen it yet on the Board of Public Safety Agenda, **six** new South Bend Police Officers are scheduled to be sworn in at tomorrow's meeting.

Four of the officers recently graduated from the Northern Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, and two are joining SBPD from other law enforcement agencies.

Of note, one of the officers being sworn in is Chief Scott Ruszkowski's son.

The Board of Public Safety will meet tomorrow, Wednesday, at 9:15 a.m. in the South Bend Police Department's auditorium. If you plan to attend, you can feel free to park on the west side of the building and enter through the training and recruitment entrance.

Thank you,

**Ashley O'Chap**

Director of Communications  
South Bend Police Department

**Cell:** 574-292-9331

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**From:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**To:** [Ashley O'Chap](#)  
**Bcc:** [ABC 57 News Desk](#); [alane@southbendin.gov](#); [Allison Zeithammer](#); [Brandi Miller](#); [Jeff Parrott](#); [Jon Zimney](#); [Josh Short](#); [Kent Fulmer](#); [Mike Murrell - WVPE](#); [Mike Pease](#); [Outreach](#); [Shawn McGrath](#); [Shay Davis](#); [Shelli Baker](#); [South Bend Tribune News Desk](#); [Troy Warner](#); [WNDU News Desk](#); [WSBT News Desk](#); [WVPE Newsroom](#)  
**Subject:** SBPD: Quarterly Public Safety Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:12:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

The South Bend Police Department and the City of South Bend will hold the Quarterly Public Safety Update for Q3 of 2024 **tomorrow, Thursday, October 10, at the South Bend Police Department.**

This press event will take place in our auditorium on the west side of the building.

In this update, Mayor Mueller, Chief Ruszkowski, Chief Skibins and Capt. Biggs will touch on:

- Q3 gun violence stats
- Shooting investigation updates
- Community policing strategies
- Michiana Crime Stoppers efforts
- Real-time Crime Center updates
- ShotSpotter data

...and more

**REMINDER:** These events are for media only... and are **NOT** open to the public.

We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

## **Ashley O'Chap**

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**Subject:** Suzie Krill retirement  
**Date:** Thursday, January 2, 2025 10:27:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

SBFD Assistant Chief Derek Erquhart has asked me to pass along that there will be a small retirement party for Suzie Krill at Central Fire Station tomorrow, January 3, from 1-4 p.m. in the main office area.

He did not send this along to be a news story, as he said there have been dozens of other retirements this month, but he wanted me to pass it along to my media contacts in case any of you wanted to stop by and wish her well.

Thank you,

### **Ashley O'Chap**

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**Subject:** SBPD: Two events this week  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024 11:01:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[PAL-Boxing-Showcase-2024.ipa](#)  
[fop cookies with santa 2024 \(1\).ipa](#)

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Good morning,

I wanted to pass along a reminder regarding two free events coming up this week for the South Bend Police Department.

**On Wednesday, December 4**, the South Bend Police Athletic League will host its annual Boxing Showcase at the Beacon Resource Center at 4210 Lincoln Way West in South Bend. The event begins at 6 p.m. and will feature several youth PAL boxers under the lights. If you haven't been, it's a really neat and visual event -- they truly work hard to make it seem like a professional boxing match for the kids... with the spotlights... announcers... music... etc. This event is an extension of the PAL's youth boxing program, which is offered to kids each week free of charge. If you plan to attend, please enter The Beacon via door A.

**On Friday, December 6**, our community is invited to the South Bend Police Department for the FOP #36 Cookies with Santa event. Families can stop by our department at 701 W. Sample Street to enjoy cookies and have a free photo taken with Santa Claus. The event runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you plan to attend, please enter through the Training and Recruitment entrance, located along Sample on the west side. Again, this event is free... but donations will be accepted for the FOP's Santa's Elficers program.

I have attached our social media graphics for both events. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks!

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**Subject:** SBPD: Press conference  
**Date:** Thursday, August 22, 2024 1:32:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

The South Bend Police Department and the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office will be holding a joint press conference this afternoon regarding an update to a 2024 homicide case.

The media briefing will begin at **3:30 p.m. in the South Bend Police Department's Detective Bureau Roll Call Room**. The room is located on the east side of SBPD, so feel free to park in the east lot and enter through the side door.

The South Bend Police Department is located at 701 W. Sample Street, South Bend.

This briefing is for media only and is not open to the public.

Thank you,

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**Subject:** SBPD: Suspect wanted in DTSB car break-ins  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2025 1:56:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [VERNARD-HAMILTON.jpg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

As we previewed during this morning's Quarterly Public Safety, we have an update regarding the ongoing investigation surrounding multiple vehicle break-in/vandalism cases in downtown South Bend. Please see the below press release and the attached photo of the suspect we are looking to apprehend.

--

Charges have been filed, and arrest warrants have been issued for an individual wanted in connection with multiple theft and vandalism cases in downtown South Bend.

In November and December 2024, the South Bend Police Department responded to several reports of vehicle break-ins and vandalism around the downtown parking areas.

Through an investigation by the South Bend Police Department's Detective Bureau, 51-year-old Vernard Hamilton was identified as a suspect.

On Tuesday, January 14, the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office charged Hamilton in two cases – in one case, he's charged with Theft and in a separate case, he's charged with Theft and Criminal Mischief.

Hamilton is in custody, and warrants have been issued for his arrest.

Hamilton is described as 6'2" and 165 pounds. He is still believed to be in the South Bend area but does not have a permanent address.

If you have any information about Vernard Hamilton's whereabouts, contact the South Bend Police Department's Detective Bureau at 574-235-9263. You can also share your information anonymously with Michiana Crime Stoppers by calling 574-288-STOP.

Please remember, all persons are presumed innocent until/unless convicted in a court of law.

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**Subject:** SBPD: Reminders for Cops and Goblins  
**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2024 7:00:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

The South Bend Police Department's Cops and Goblins event is coming up tomorrow! In preparation for what has become one of South Bend's biggest treat nights, we were hoping you could help us pass along some last-minute reminders to the attendees.

Additionally, if any AM news crews are interested in live shots tomorrow morning to preview the event, let me know. Though, I will point out that since we are at the Century Center this year, the morning live shots may not be quite as interesting as they were at Four Winds Field – they'd probably just have to be out in the parking lot or right in front of the main doors.

Anyway, here are some last-minute pointers for attendees:

- Cops and Goblins is set for Tuesday, October 29 from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the Century Center in South Bend.
- A ticket is required for all people entering the venue, parents/guardians included. At this time, all tickets have been claimed.
- Free parking will be offered at the following locations:
  - Century Center parking lot (this lot will first open to vendors ahead of the event, allowing them to set up their tables)
  - Crowe parking lot
  - Wayne Street parking garage
- Trick-or-treaters will enter Cops & Goblins through the main doors of the Century Center along Dr. MLK Jr. Boulevard. The line will then wrap along the south side of the building.
- If you have never attended Cops and Goblins, please be aware that the line may be long – this is one of South Bend's most popular trick-or-treating events! But don't worry... the wait will be worth it! We have more candy tables this year than we've ever had!
- Once you get inside, the line will split — half the line will go to the Discovery Ballroom, the other half will go to Convention Hall B. Each room has approximately 75 candy tables.
- After you've collected all your candy, you will be instructed to exit through the south end of the building. Please do not attempt to re-enter the line.

As always, media is welcome to attend the event as well. If you want to get inside the Century Center during the event, please enter through the sliding doors on the south side of the building. Let an officer know that you're there as a journalist and he/she will let you in.

Thank you!

**Ashley O'Chap**

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**Subject:** SBPD: Quarterly Public Safety Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025 9:53:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

Attention everyone who has been inquiring about our 2024 year-end stats...

The South Bend Police Department and the City of South Bend will hold the Quarterly Public Safety Update for Q4 of 2024 **tomorrow, Thursday, January 16, at 11:30 a.m.**

This press event will take place in the South Bend Police Department's Detective Bureau Roll Call Room, which is located on the east side of the building. Feel free to park in the east lot and come in through the side door.

In this update, Mayor Mueller, Chief Ruszkowski, Chief Skibins and Lt. Miller will touch on:

- 2024 year-end crime stats (gun violence, shootings, etc.)
- Shooting investigation updates
- Community policing strategies
- Michiana Crime Stoppers efforts
- Real-time Crime Center updates
- ShotSpotter data

...and more

**REMINDER:** These events are for media only... and are **NOT** open to the public.

We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

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**Subject:** UPDATE: Cops and Goblins tickets  
**Date:** Friday, October 4, 2024 1:59:22 PM

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Good afternoon,

All tickets for Cops and Goblins have been claimed. This is now a sold out event!

Thank you,  
Ashley O'Chap  
SBPD  
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