



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Jamal A. Simington - Chief of Police
Paul D. Williams - Assistant Chief
Chad E. Wamsley - Assistant Chief
Aaron A. Veerman - Assistant Chief

305 S. East Street
Bloomington, IL, 61701
309-820-8888

For Immediate Release: November 21, 2025

Bloomington Police Department Celebrates Successful Community Police Academy

Bloomington, IL - The Bloomington Police Department is pleased to announce the successful completion of our Community Police Academy. This six-week program was designed to strengthen relationships between the department and the community while providing an inside look at our organization.

The Academy's mission is to foster mutual understanding, trust, and cooperation between law enforcement officers and the community we serve. Through engaging and informative educational sessions, we aim to empower residents with knowledge about law enforcement practices, procedures, and challenges. By promoting transparency, dialogue, and partnership, we strive to build a safer, stronger, and more resilient community where every voice is heard and valued.

The academy began in October and took place each Wednesday, from 5 - 8 p.m. Attendees included local city council and county board members, business professionals from the Chamber of Commerce, educators from universities, members of clergy, and partners from non-profit organizations.

Chief Jamal Simington stated, "Bringing community leaders and members together is a purposeful strategy to educate those we serve and collaborate with. I want to thank the attendees for immersing themselves in the operations of our public safety organization."

Participants engaged in a variety of educational opportunities, including presentations, demonstrations, and hands-on training, covering the following:

- **Day 1:** Chief Simington shared his mission for the department and his vision for the future of BPD. The supervisor of our Crime and Intelligence Analysis Unit followed with a detailed history of crime in Bloomington and the history of the BPD.
- **Day 2:** Emergency Communications Center, Patrol Division, Criminal Investigations Division, and Crime Scene Unit.
- **Day 3:** Crisis Negotiation Unit, School Resource Officers, and SWAT.
- **Day 4:** Tour of the McLean County Jail, Emergency Operations Center with the McLean County Emergency Management Agency, as well as De-escalation Training.
- **Day 5:** Traffic Stops, First Aid with the Bloomington Fire Department, and demonstrations by our Drone and K-9 Units.

Media Contact:

Officer Bryce Janssen

Bloomington (IL) Police Department

Desk: 309-434-2355 | **Fax:** 309-829-0662 | **Email:** Police@cityblm.org

- Day 6: Community Engagement Unit, Diploma Ceremony, and an extensive question-and-answer session covering the entire academy.

Chief Simington added, "I applaud the professionalism and commitment of our staff and the Bloomington Fire Department personnel who delivered exceptional service and worked to make the academy a great success."

At the conclusion of the academy, participants were asked to complete an anonymous survey. We were grateful to receive valuable feedback and have provided some examples below:

"It was great to get a behind-the-scenes look of the department. I feel like many individuals have a distorted view or limited understanding of the work of the department, and being more educated on it gives me the ability to go out into the community and be a better advocate. I especially loved the aspects where we were up, engaged, and learning in a hands-on fashion."

"All the topics were very interesting. The timing was excellent and very well planned."

"I really enjoyed learning more about the inner workings of the BPD. The tour of the jail was impactful, meeting the K9 units was really cool, learning about the history of crime in Bloomington, the SWAT team, Fire Department, and the Emergency Operations Center. The food was also fantastic! Sergeant Nowers did a wonderful job putting this program together. It takes a lot of work, and he pulled it off seamlessly!"

The Bloomington Police Department looks forward to hosting next year's Community Police Academy and continue fostering trust, strengthening community partnerships, and building a safer and more informed Bloomington.

###

Career Opportunities

The Bloomington Police Department is currently hiring for the entry-level officer position. Individuals interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement are encouraged to apply and join our team in serving and protecting the community. For more information, visit join-bpd.com, email knowers@cityblm.org, or call 309-261-6018.

Crime Tips

If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

Media Contact:

Officer Bryce Janssen

Bloomington (IL) Police Department

Desk: 309-434-2355 | **Fax:** 309-829-0662 | **Email:** Police@cityblm.org