

Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner's

TAXPAYER ALERT

Policing in Allegheny County

August 2018



Since the fatal shooting of an unarmed teenager by an East Pittsburgh police officer in June, the Allegheny County District Attorney, legislators and activists have called for reforms to a fragmented, overlapping landscape of over 100 local police departments in Allegheny County. While policy debates continue locally and in Harrisburg, it is essential that immediate action be taken to promote high standards and accountability for police County-wide.

The County can lead on police reforms NOW by:

- Serving as a coordinating agency and knowledge base for all local departments, similar to how the Economic Development or Emergency Management departments assist municipalities.
- Requiring data sharing and common policies in order for departments to receive County Police assistance.
- Providing officer training through the Allegheny County Police Academy that addresses the most essential topics and reaches all local departments.

Last year, my office conducted an audit of the Allegheny County Police Department to explore how the County force can best be utilized. This was the culmination of a long process, as the County administration blocked the audit until a judge ordered it to participate. As part of the audit, my office also collected data voluntarily submitted by municipalities on their police budgets and staffing. [See the data later in this report.](#)

The audit found that the County's more than 200 officers, many with specialized training, can have a major impact in Allegheny County communities by bolstering the services municipal departments are able to provide. In exchange for these services, the County should require local departments to share data and to adopt common policies that can help ensure that policing in all areas of the County meets basic standards.

The Police Academy can ensure a high standard of training for every officer.

The Allegheny County Police Academy provides training to new officers, mandatory in-service training and continuing education for officers in all departments in Allegheny County, and specialized training on selected topics.



The County should:

- Ensure that its training offerings reflect the most current use-of-force practices advanced by organizations like the Police Executive Research Forum.
- Convene law enforcement and concerned community members to ensure that topics of greatest concern are addressed.
- Provide scholarships to courses identified as the most needed to municipalities whose training budgets may be insufficient.

A blue ink signature of Chelsa Wagner.

Chelsa Wagner
Allegheny County Controller



As part the Controller’s 2017 audit of the role of the County Police in local law enforcement, data was voluntarily submitted by municipalities and police departments on their budgets and staffing. Data was received from about two-thirds of the local departments.

POLICE DATA QUICK FACTS

Extreme fragmentation: There are 108 municipal police departments in Allegheny County. Twenty municipalities utilize a regional or neighboring department, and two rely on State Police coverage.

County cooperation: In 2017, the County Police began to provide primary police service for Wilmerding Borough at an annual fee of \$250,000, with 3 percent yearly increases thereafter.

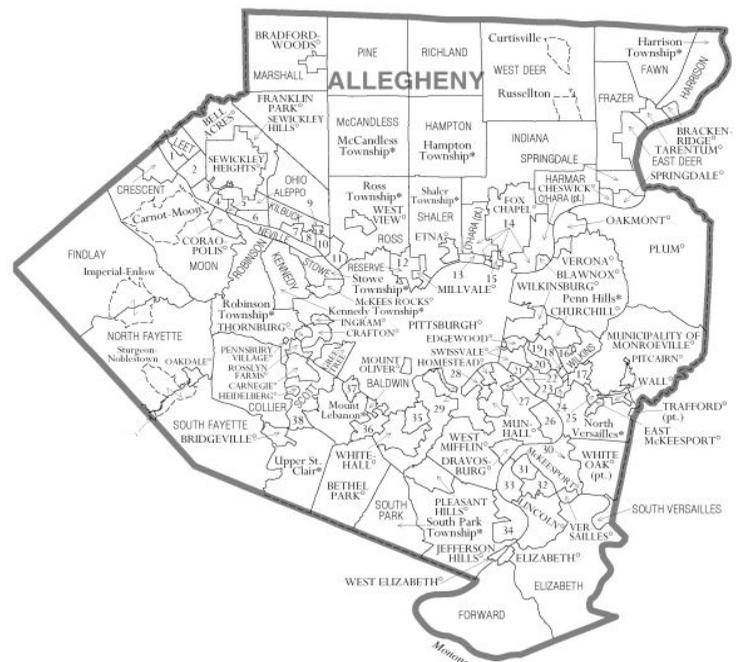
Department sizes: The average police department in Allegheny County (excepting the City of Pittsburgh) serves about 8,740 residents. The smallest serves just over 800.

Number of officers: The average municipal force submitting data employed 17.5 officers, though the data does not differentiate between full- and part-time officers for all departments.

Average salaries: Based on the responses received, the average minimum salary for municipal officers in the County was \$51,170, or \$24.60 an hour, roughly equal to the national average wage for all workers as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Cost per capita: The average municipal police force cost about \$222 annually per capita. Three of the departments for which data was collected cost their residents more than \$500 each annually, while one cost its residents less than \$100 per year.

Examples for regionalization: The limited cases in which regionalization of police forces have occurred suggest that cost-saving economies of scale have been achieved. The Northern Regional Police Department, which serves four North Hills municipalities, and the Ohio Township Police Department, which also patrols seven other neighboring municipalities, each cost about \$90 per capita less than the average.



| Municipality | Police Department | Police Dept Budget for 2016 (Or Contribution) | Cost Per Capita | Minimum Officer Salary | Maximum Officer Salary | Number of Police Officers |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aleppo | Covered by Ohio Township | \$106,728 | \$134 | \$36,000 | \$70,926 | 32 |
| Aspinwall | Aspinwall | \$603,450 | \$221 | \$66,526 | \$71,750 | 11 |
| Avalon | Avalon | N/A | No Response | \$55,754 | \$67,993 | 6 (FT) 5 (PT) |
| Baldwin Borough | Baldwin Borough | \$3,680,000 | \$188 | \$59,151 | \$84,502 | 22 |
| Baldwin Township | Baldwin Township | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Bell Acres | Bell Acres | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Bellevue | Bellevue | \$1,433,454 | \$176 | \$71,635 | \$74,797 | 14 (FT) 1 Chief |
| Ben Avon | Covered by Ohio Township | \$265,750 | \$134 | \$36,000 | \$70,926 | 32 |
| Ben Avon Heights | Covered by Ohio Township | \$265,750.00 | \$134 | \$36,000 | \$70,926 | 32 |
| Bethel Park | Bethel Park | \$7,500,000 | \$231 | \$60,300 | \$92,800 | 31 |
| Blawnox | Blawnox | \$307,071 | \$220 | \$60,119 | \$60,119 + Overtime | 3 (FT) 2 (PT) |
| Brackenridge | Brackenridge | \$498,567 | \$157 | \$59,488 | \$69,742 (FT) \$13.50/hr (PT) | 4 (FT) 4 (PT) |
| Braddock | Braddock | \$413,571 | \$195 | \$23,941 | \$27,456 | 16 |
| Braddock Hills | Braddock Hills | \$512,049 | \$280 | \$32,614 | \$51,002 | 17 |
| Bradford Woods | Covered by Northern Regional PD | \$174,965 | \$130 | \$43,050 | \$84,719 | 32 |
| Brentwood | Brentwood | \$2,144,550 | \$228 | \$47,974 | \$79,956 | 14 |
| Bridgeville | Bridgeville | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Carnegie | Carnegie | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Castle Shannon | Castle Shannon | \$2,196,884 | \$269 | \$54,995 | \$83,200 | 14 |
| Chalfant | Covered by Forest Hills | No Response | \$236 | \$80,246 (Base) | \$84,240 (Base) | 12 |
| Cheswick | Cheswick | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Churchill | Churchill | \$1,200,000 | \$408 | \$45,333 | \$82,424 | 10 |
| Clairton | Clairton | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Collier | Collier | \$1,870,542 | \$229 | \$83,632 (Base) | \$88,000 (Base) | 16 |
| Coraopolis | Coraopolis | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Crafton | Crafton | Not Provided | Not Provided | \$52,810 (Base for 1st year) | \$75,443 (Base) | 9 |
| Crescent | Crescent | \$514,372 | \$200 | \$16.91/hr (PT) | \$68,000 + Longevity | 12 |
| Dormont | Dormont | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Dravosburg | Covered by McKeesport | No Response | \$253 | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Duquesne | Duquesne | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| East Deer | East Deer | \$182,250 | \$125 | \$27,040 (PT) | \$27,040 (PT) | 8 |
| East McKeesport | East McKeesport | Not Provided | Not Provided | \$41,787 (FT) \$13.50/hr (PT) | \$54,288 | 11 |
| East Pittsburgh | East Pittsburgh | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Edgewood | Edgewood | \$1,248,577 | \$421 | Not Provided | Not Provided | 8 (FT) 6 (PT) 1 Chief |
| Edgeworth | Edgeworth | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Elizabeth Borough | Elizabeth Borough | \$292,165 | \$147 | \$36,109 (FT) \$16.33 (PT) | \$36,109 (FT) \$16.33 (PT) | 10 |
| Elizabeth Township | Elizabeth Township | \$1,530,760 | \$117 | \$42,390 | \$69,056 | 13 |
| Emsworth | Covered by Ohio Township | \$236,661 | \$134 | \$36,000 | \$70,000 | 32 |
| Etna | Etna | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Fawn | Fawn | Declined | Declined | Declined | Declined | Declined |
| Findlay | Findlay | \$2,900,309 | \$503 | \$67,087 | \$111,645 | 18 |
| Forest Hills | Forest Hills | \$1,680,623 | \$236 | \$80,246 (Base) | \$84,240 (Base) | 12 |
| Forward | Forward | No Response | No Response | \$35,360 | \$54,995 | 9 |
| Fox Chapel | Fox Chapel | \$1,566,300 | \$295 | \$47,760 | \$86,837 | 11 |
| Franklin Park | Franklin Park | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Frazer Township | Frazer Township | \$588,724 | \$520 | \$28,080 | \$62,920 | 10 |
| Glassport | Glassport | \$744,160 | \$170 | \$45,198 (FT) \$14.89/hr (PT) | \$45,718 (FT) \$15.24/hr (PT) | 16 |
| Glen Osborne | Covered by Sewickley | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Glenfield | Covered by PA State Police | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Greentree | Greentree | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |

| Municipality | Police Department | Police Dept Budget for 2016 (Or Contribution) | Cost Per Capita | Minimum Officer Salary | Maximum Officer Salary | Number of Police Officers |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hampton | Hampton | \$2,479,200 | \$135 | <i>Not Provided</i> | <i>Not Provided</i> | 22 |
| Harmar | Harmar | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Harrison | Harrison | \$1,310,950 | \$126 | \$52,306 | \$74,723 | 12 |
| Haysville | Covered by PA State Police | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Heidelberg | Heidelberg | <i>Declined</i> | <i>Declined</i> | <i>Declined</i> | <i>Declined</i> | <i>Declined</i> |
| Homestead | Homestead | \$1,647,104 | \$521 | \$38,230 (FT) \$15.31/hr (PT) | \$85,628 | 15 |
| Indiana | Indiana | \$1,406,225 | \$195 | \$27,914 | \$105,933 | 15 |
| Ingram | Ingram | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Jefferson Hills | Jefferson Hills | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Kennedy Township | Kennedy Township | \$872,500 | \$107 | \$51,629 (Starting salary) | \$73,756 | 8 |
| Kilbuck | Covered by Ohio Township | \$81,250 | \$134 | \$36,000 | \$70,926 | 32 |
| Leet | Leet | \$473,232 | \$297 | \$42,786 | \$59,426 | 10 |
| Leetsdale | Leetsdale | <i>Not Provided</i> | <i>Not Provided</i> | \$40,643 | \$77,958 (Chief) | 9 |
| Liberty | Liberty | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Lincoln | Lincoln | \$231,000 | \$222 | \$35,464 (FT) \$15.05/hr (PT) | \$53,550 (Chief) | 10 |
| Marshall | Covered by Northern Regional PD | \$1,089,800 | \$130 | \$43,050 | \$84,719 | 32 |
| McCandless | McCandless | \$5,073,900 | \$178 | \$48,124 | \$88,440 | 29 |
| McDonald | McDonald | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| McKees Rocks | McKees Rocks | <i>Declined</i> | <i>Declined</i> | <i>Declined</i> | <i>Declined</i> | <i>Declined</i> |
| McKeesport | McKeesport | \$5,302,857 | \$253 | \$57,036 (To be reached in 2 years) | \$64,434 | 48 (FT) 6 (PT) |
| Millvale | Millvale | \$661,012 | \$181 | \$39,827 (FT) \$12.60/hr (PT) | \$61,273 (FT) \$16.83/hr (PT) | 6 (FT) 7 (PT) |
| Monroeville | Monroeville | \$9,824,996 | \$354 | \$52,000 | \$109,928 | 44 |
| Moon | Moon | \$6,002,075 | \$253 | \$65,104 (Starting salary) | \$91,520 | 27 |
| Mt. Lebanon | Mt. Lebanon | \$9,500,000 | \$294 | \$61,386 | \$97,682 | 45 |
| Mt. Oliver | Mt. Oliver | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Munhall | Munhall | \$2,700,263 | \$242 | \$68,195 | \$79,331 | 21 |
| Neville | Covered by Ohio Township | \$340,818 | \$134 | \$36,000 | \$70,926 | 32 |
| North Braddock | North Braddock | \$583,300 | \$123 | \$30,118 | \$31,720 | 8 |
| North Fayette | North Fayette | \$3,907,345 | \$264 | \$57,949 | \$99,174 | 23 |
| North Versailles | North Versailles | \$2,418,000 | \$241 | \$16.19/hr (PT) | \$69,056 (FT) | 23 |
| Oakdale | Oakdale | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Oakmont | Oakmont | \$1,349,256 | \$209 | \$75,691 (FT) \$16.10/hr (PT) | \$82,826 (FT) \$18.58/hr (PT) | 7 (FT) 11 (PT) |
| O'Hara | O'Hara | \$2,054,240 | \$236 | \$59,085 | \$86,726 | 14 1 Superintendent |
| Ohio | Ohio | \$2,067,370 | \$134 | \$36,000 | \$70,926 | 32 |
| Penn Hills | Penn Hills | \$9,205,765 | \$223 | \$63,626 | \$86,368 | 52 |
| Pennsbury Village | Covered by Carnegie | N/A | <i>No Response</i> | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Pine | Covered by Northern Regional PD | \$1,584,413 | \$130 | \$43,050 | \$84,719 | 30 |
| Pitcairn | Pitcairn | \$651,254.30 | \$203 | <i>Not Provided</i> | <i>Not Provided</i> | <i>Not Provided</i> |
| Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Pleasant Hills | Pleasant Hills | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Plum | Plum | N/A | <i>No Response</i> | \$51,579 (Starting) | \$79,352 | 26 |
| Port Vue | Port Vue | \$334,210 | \$90 | \$14.85/hr (PT) | \$53,060 | 12 |
| Rankin | Rankin | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Reserve | Reserve | \$410,084 | \$126 | \$56,560 (FT) \$15/hr (PT) | <i>Not Provided</i> | 3 |
| Richland | Covered by Northern Regional PD | \$1,667,600 | \$130 | \$43,050 | \$84,719 | 32 |
| Robinson | Robinson | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Ross | Ross | <i>Not Provided</i> | <i>Not Provided</i> | \$84,658 | \$101,589 | 40 |
| Rossllyn Farms | Covered by Scott Township | <i>No Response</i> | \$202 | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Scott Township | Scott Township | \$3,441,719 | \$202 | \$86,316 | \$88,791 | 21 |
| Sewickley | Sewickley | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |

| Municipality | Police Department | Police Dept Budget for 2016 (Or Contribution) | Cost Per Capita | Minimum Officer Salary | Maximum Officer Salary | Number of Police Officers |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sewickley Heights | Sewickley Heights | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Sewickley Hills | Covered by Ohio Township | \$90,600 | \$134 | \$36,000 | \$70,926 | 32 |
| Shaler | Shaler | \$4,083,875 | \$145 | \$52,725 | \$81,047 | 26 |
| Sharpsburg | Sharpsburg | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| South Fayette | South Fayette | Not Provided | Not Provided | \$65,000 | \$89,000 | 15 |
| South Park | South Park | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| South Versailles | Covered by White Oak | Not Provided | Not Provided | \$61,235 | \$93,995 | 12 |
| Springdale Borough | Springdale Borough | \$571,648 | \$172 | \$53,040 (FT) \$15/hr (PT) | \$57,200 (Chief) | 3 (FT) 6 (PT) |
| Springdale Township | Springdale Township | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Stowe | Stowe | \$943,430 | \$152 | \$65,000 (FT) \$5,000 (PT) | \$100,000 (FT) \$25,000 (PT) | 6 (FT) 9 (PT) |
| Swissvale | Swissvale | \$2,008,298 | \$230 | \$63,014 (FT) \$15.05/ hr (PT) | \$63,014 (FT) \$15.05/hr (PT) | 23 |
| Tarentum | Tarentum | N/A | No Response | \$22,464 | \$77,750 | 11 |
| Thornburg | Covered by Crafton | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Trafford | Trafford | \$598,641 | No Response | \$31,720 | \$58,635 | 3 (FT) 6 (PT) |
| Turtle Creek | Turtle Creek | \$644,940 | \$124 | \$35,506 | \$50,898 | 4 (FT) 11 (PT) |
| Upper St Clair | Upper St Clair | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Verona | Verona | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| Versailles | Versailles | \$238,162 | \$161 | \$20,800 | \$53,602 | 14 |
| Wall | Covered by East McKeesport | Declined | Declined | Declined | Declined | Declined |
| West Deer | West Deer | \$1,626,993 | \$136 | \$43,691 | \$67,217 | 18 |
| West Elizabeth | Covered by Elizabeth | \$57,999 | \$147 | \$36,109 (FT) \$16.33/hr (PT) | \$36,109 (FT) \$16.33/hr (PT) | 10 |
| West Homestead | West Homestead | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| West Mifflin | West Mifflin | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response | No Response |
| West View | West View | \$1,239,000 | \$188 | \$43,368 | \$72,259 | 12 |
| Whitaker | Whitaker | \$240,335 | \$193 | \$20,800 | \$29,432 | 8 |
| White Oak | White Oak | \$1,942,803 | \$242 | \$61,235 | \$93,995 | 12 |
| Whitehall | Whitehall | \$2,705,964 | \$197 | \$67,078 | \$102,535 | 21 |
| Wilkins Township | Wilkins Township | \$2,153,300 | \$347 | \$34,882 (\$16.77/hr) (During 6 mo probationary period) | \$77,542 | 12 |
| Wilkinsburg | Wilkinsburg | \$3,406,636 | No Response | \$51,570 | \$67,803 | 18 |
| Wilmerding | Covered by ACPD | \$262,000 | \$117 | \$16.19/hr (PT) | \$69,056 (FT) | 23 |

Declined: Contact declined to answer any questions. | No Response: No response received from the contact. | Not Provided: Contact did not provide an answer for all questions.

