

CITY OF TOLEDO



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OPERATIONS

NEWS RELEASE

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Toledo Police Mourn the Death of an Officer to Suicide

Toledo, OH (February 26, 2019): Toledo Police are mourning the loss of one of their own today. Officer Jeffrey Payne, age 53, was found deceased inside his residence in Lucas County early Tuesday morning during a welfare check by the Lucas County Sheriff's Office. Scott Park District Station command initiated the welfare check when Officer Payne did not report to work as scheduled. While the investigation is ongoing, all indications are that the death was a suicide.

Officer Payne was hired by the Toledo Police Department on January 24, 1997 and served in Field Operations most of his career. Officer Payne was trained as a traffic accident reconstructionist and negotiator.

Officer Payne's death comes as the nation continues to see a disturbing upward trend in law enforcement suicide. According to the not-for-profit organization Blue H.E.L.P., Inc., 159 officers took their own life in 2018. The Toledo Police Department has adopted training and support for officers who, by nature of the profession, experience a high incidence of traumatic events. The Northwest Ohio Critical Incident Stress Management Team met with officers today to offer assistance.

Quote:

"It is with a heavy heart that I announce the death of Officer Jeffrey Payne," said Chief George Kral. "I want to express my condolences to Officer Payne's family, friends, and colleagues. To all our officers and police family, please continue to be your brother and sister's keeper by encouraging the practice of utilizing our Peer Support Team, EAP, and professional mental health resources."

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