



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Harrisonburg Police Department
Officer John Langhans
540-437-2600
www.harrisonburgva.gov/police



HPD Hosts Second 'Coffee with a Cop'

Encouraged by the success of the first "Coffee with a Cop" program, which attracted a significant number of people at a downtown Harrisonburg location in February, Chief Stephen Monticelli and other officers from the Harrisonburg Police Department are planning to make themselves available to citizens again in an informal, neutral setting to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee.

The next "Coffee with a Cop" event will be held from **10 to 11:30 a.m. on May 12** at the Joe Muggs Coffee Shop inside Books-a-Million at The Valley Mall on East Market Street. All community members are invited to attend.

Coffee with a Cop will provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Harrisonburg's neighborhoods. The program is part of the department's implementation of its Community Policing strategy.

"I was quite pleased by the amount of interest on the part of local residents who joined us in February. Our officers had an opportunity to listen to people's views and concerns, and we were able to provide information about the Department's latest initiatives," Monticelli explains. "These encounters help to strengthen our community policing endeavors."

The *Coffee with a Cop* initiative is one step in the Harrisonburg Police Department's efforts to break down barriers and increase communications throughout the community.

"We encourage everyone in the area to attend, ask questions, tell us their concerns, or simply spend time get to know our officers better," Monticelli says.

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