



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For release: July 31, 2017

Contact: Sherry Llewellyn, 410-313-2236
stllewellyn@howardcountymd.gov

Police to kick-off National Night Out Aug. 1 *Over two dozen community parties scheduled*

Police officers and members of the community are joining forces tomorrow, Aug. 1 for National Night Out, an evening of events intended to generate participation and support for local crime prevention activities. Parties will kick off at 6 p.m. on Ellicott City's Main Street lot D, where Police Chief Gary Gardner, County Executive Allan H. Kittleman and Howard County Council Chair Jon Weinstein will welcome community members to the event.

"National Night Out is an annual demonstration of the department's strong partnership with the community," said Chief Gardner. "Residents play an important role in fighting crime and keeping our communities safe. We are continuing to add new ways to interact directly and communicate openly with the public we serve."

The kick-off event in Ellicott City will feature live bands, child-friendly activities, corn hole, a dunk tank and displays from local businesses. The police command post, volunteer mounted patrol, McGruff the Crime Dog, and other entertainment will also be available. The Howard County Police Museum will be open for extended hours, from 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

In preparing for National Night Out, the police department has helped residents organize over two dozen neighborhood block parties throughout the county. Police personnel and mascots, as well as partners from Maryland State Police, the Sheriff's Office and the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, will visit neighborhood parties throughout the county, including patrol officers, K-9s, a SWAT vehicle, volunteer auxiliary officers, and more.

For more information about National Night Out, including a list of party locations, visit the Howard County Police Department's website at www.hcpd.org.

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