



TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

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West Orange Police Department to Host *Coffee with a Cop* on

December 17, 2014

Program offers opportunity to meet local officers, discuss community issues



November 21, 2014 – West Orange, N.J.— On December 17, 2014, officers from the West Orange Police Department and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships and drink coffee.

All community members are invited to attend. The event runs from 9 to 11 AM at Panera Bread in the Essex Green Shopping Plaza.

Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in the Township's neighborhoods.

The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies, or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. *Coffee with a Cop* breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

"We hope that community members will feel comfortable to ask questions, bring concerns, or simply get to know our officers," said West Orange Police Chief James P. Abbott. "These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships."

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the county, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

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