



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
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FROM: Sgt. Darin Powers
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RE: **NEWS RELEASE – SPD ISSUED RAPID ID FINGERPRINT DEVICE THROUGH OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE**

On Wednesday 1/5/2010, the Streetsboro Police Department received a Rapid ID unit from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The unit is a mobile device that can scan a person's fingerprint in the field and return identity information about the person within minutes. The Ohio Attorney General's Office is supplying these units to police departments across the state at no cost to the department. The department only has to pay our data carrier for the monthly cost of data, similar to the monthly fee for a data card. For this device, that costs the city \$15.00 per month and provides us with about 100 checks per month.

The Rapid ID unit will be a tremendous asset for our officers in the field in identifying people that are trying to conceal their identity for various reasons. For example, a person that has warrants for their arrest may lie to an officer about who they are and claim they do not have identification on them. Our officer can now scan their fingerprint and within minutes that person's true identity will be shown on the screen of the Rapid ID unit. For now the device checks the databases of the FBI and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) of known fingerprints on file. In the future, the state plans to add additional database files to the search. Officers can also use the device to check the identity of someone who is unable to provide identification information for medical or other incapacitating reasons. The West Chester police department was able to use the Rapid ID unit to identify an unconscious female outside a bar and contact family members.

Thanks to the Ohio Attorney General's Office, our police officers will now be able to catch criminals that may have gotten away before, helping make our community a safer place for our residents and visitors.

For further information, please contact me Mon-Fri 7a-3p at the following numbers or email.