



## MEDIA RELEASE

December 21, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Police radio encryption

Beginning on January 23, 2024, the following Johnson County police agencies will begin full encryption of their radio communications.

**Blue Valley School District Police  
Fairway Police Department  
Leawood Police Department  
Lenexa Police Department  
Merriam Police Department  
Mission Police Department  
Olathe Police Department  
Overland Park Police Department  
Prairie Village Police Department  
Roeland Park Police Department  
Shawnee Mission School District Police  
Shawnee Police Department  
Westwood Police Department**

There are several reasons for moving to encryption, the most recent being to comply with FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Security Policy (CJIS).

On December 7, 2022, an FBI CJIS policy went into effect related to Criminal Justice Information (CJI) in transit. The policy reads, in part, that “When CJI is transmitted outside the boundary of the physically secured location, the data shall be immediately protected via encryption.”

Affected agencies, to include the above named, must be in compliance with this policy at the time of their next regular CJI audit. Audits related to CJI are conducted by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Criminal Justice Information is the term used to refer to all of the FBI CJIS provided data necessary for law enforcement and civil agencies to perform their missions including,



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but not limited to biometric, identity history, biographic, property, and case/incident history data.

This policy will help protect the privacy of those individuals, including victims, witnesses, and suspects, whose personal information is transmitted over a police radio. This includes such information as names, social security numbers, dates of birth, addresses, phone numbers, medical and mental health conditions and histories, and more. All this information could be used in the day-to-day operations of a police department and therefore broadcast over a police radio.

In addition to matters of citizen privacy mentioned above, encrypted radio transmissions also serve to enhance officer and public safety. In Johnson County, suspects have previously been known to monitor police radio transmissions to ascertain officer movements and patrol response tactics to elude responding officers during the commission of a crime. Encryption will allow officers to respond efficiently and effectively to calls for service and communicate tactics without fear of suspects intercepting such information.

Any inquiries should be made directly with individual agencies.

Director Dan Carney  
Blue Valley School Police

Chief J.P. Thurlo  
Fairway Police

Chief Dale Finger  
Leawood Police

Chief Dawn Layman  
Lenexa Police

Chief Darren McLaughlin  
Merriam Police

Chief Dan Madden  
Mission Police

Chief Mike Butaud  
Olathe Police

Interim Chief Simon Happer  
Overland Park Police

Chief Byron Roberson  
Prairie Village Police

Chief John Morris  
Roeland Park Police

Chief Sam Larson  
Shawnee Police

Chief Mark Schmidt  
SMSD Police

Chief Curt Mansell  
Westwood Police

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