



# *Mayfield Heights Police Department*

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Fred W. Bittner, Chief of Police

## **Mayfield Heights Trail Project**

The Mayfield Heights Police Department is aware of the proposed walking trail on Gates Mills Blvd. between Som Center Road (S.R.91) and Cedar Road. We are also aware of the safety concerns that have been made regarding the proposed walking trail. The police department is dedicated to the public safety of all residents who reside in the area of Gates Mills Blvd, as well as the pedestrians who would utilize the proposed trail. If walking trails are implemented on Gates Mills Blvd, the police department will continue to actively patrol the area, and members of our bicycle unit and auxiliary unit will patrol the trail during the summer months.

We conducted a review of accident data for Gates Mills Blvd. In 2021, there were four motor vehicle accidents reported on Gates Mills Blvd. Speed WAS NOT a contributing factor in any of these accidents. In addition, NONE involved pedestrians or bicyclists. Only one of the four accidents involved an injury. This accident was caused when someone backed out of a driveway and struck another vehicle traveling on Gates Mills Blvd.

The Police Department also conducted a survey with several other northeast Ohio police departments, including some cities with substantially higher populations of residents than Mayfield Heights, including Mentor and Cleveland Heights. Police officers and other staff in the cities contacted were questioned about the safety of their walking trails and the types of incidents that occur on the trails. None of the agencies contacted believed that the walking trails contributed to additional crime or could report any specific crimes due to the trails. One agency reported that juveniles occasionally loitered on their trail, however that specific trail was adjacent to a school. Mayfield Village has a walking trail along Som Center Road (S.R. 91) north of Wilson Mills. When asked about accidents involving pedestrians utilizing the trail next to the busy roadway, the police officer contacted could not recall any motor vehicle accidents on the trail.

Although the police department respects the opinions of all residents and their concerns regarding the proposed trail, there are no indicators that a trail on Gates Mills Blvd. will cause any additional increase in crime.

## **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Mayfield Heights Police is to efficiently provide quality police service to our residents and visitors by promoting a safe environment through a police-citizen partnership, with emphasis on mutual trust, integrity and professionalism.