

Canby Police Department Offers Deaf or Hard of Hearing Cards

Canby Police Officers are looking to be proactive when it comes to their interactions with deaf or hard of hearing drivers. Anyone with a hearing limitation can stop by the Canby Police Department to pick up two wallet cards and a visor card to display on their vehicle. The wallet and visor cards were developed to serve as tools to assist with communications between individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and law enforcement. Rather than exacerbate situations involving the police, we are hopeful that these cards will help prevent any misjudgment of a situation.

Members of the Deaf community, as a whole, seem to be supportive of the law enforcement community, but frustrated by the communication challenges that occur when in contact with police officers. There are cases nationally that have ended tragically (death, unnecessary violence, wrongful arrests, or discrimination) when there was a lack of communication between the person who is deaf and the law enforcement officer.

Statistical information gathered from a variety of sources indicates that between 5% and 10% of the population in the United States is deaf or hard of hearing, and the percentage of Americans who have hearing impairment as the result of aging, is increasing. As a law enforcement agency, the Canby Police Department wants to do what it can to assure that members of the Deaf community are receiving a comparable level of service to those that are not hearing impaired.

This resource was created and provided through a partnership between the Oregon Association for the Deaf (OAD) and the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST).