

Local Drug Task Force

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- In late 1990 and after evaluating past involvement in multi-county, multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, the Scioto County Prosecutor's Office, the Portsmouth Police Department, and the Scioto County Sheriffs Office elected to form a Drug Task Force whose sole responsibility would be drug enforcement in Portsmouth and Scioto County.

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- Because the newly formed Southern Ohio Law Enforcement Drug Task Force was not multi-county, multi-jurisdictional grant money was not available to fund the operation.
- The Portsmouth Police Department contributed funds and two men, fulltime, to the unit. The Scioto County Sheriff's Office did the same.

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- The eleven year long operation generated significant statistics compared to past activity.
- In 2003, as a result of the increasing methamphetamine and methamphetamine lab problem in Scioto County and the increasing crack cocaine problem and gang development in Portsmouth, the administrators chose to disband the Drug Task Force, establishing a Sheriff's Department Drug Unit and a Portsmouth Police Drug Unit so each may address their respective problems.

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- Both agencies committed to assisting each other as needed.
- The resulting productivity and statistics generated by the two man Portsmouth Police Drug Unit paralleled that of the four man Drug Task Force Unit.
- It quickly became clear that the resulting benefit to the City of Portsmouth was evident.

Adapting

- Through monitoring, evaluating, and adapting to changes in society, the drug trade, gang activity, etc., it readily became apparent that through keeping funding and manpower within the City of Portsmouth, the Portsmouth Police Department is better able to fight the increasing crime issues facing our community.