



LEXINGTON POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
**MEMORANDUM**  
Lexington, Kentucky

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TO:  
Commander Chris Schnelle  
Chief's Office

SUBJECT:  
"Pops from Cops" Van donation

FROM:  
Assistant Chief Brian Maynard  
Bureau of Patrol

In 2017, Central Sector Neighborhood Resource Officer Ryan Holland received a request to assist Douglass Pool in procuring pool noodles and kick boards for free swim lessons provided to children. After those were obtained and delivered, Officer Holland noticed that the facility's deep freezer was empty, and they were unable to provide refreshments or snacks for the kids at the pool. With the pool staff's approval, he began a city-wide effort to collect freeze pops for the pool's use that summer. He received an overwhelming response from the community and ended up with over 72,000 freeze pops donated.

Corporate leaders from Jel Sert and Fla-vor-ice, took note of Officer Holland's efforts and reached out to him, to offer further assistance. This partnership led to the creation of the "Pops from Cops" program, which has since been implemented throughout the country alongside other law enforcement agencies. Fla-vor-ice now donates 80,000 freeze pops to Lexington Police Department every two years, in an effort to help build relationships within the community at various events.

In the summer of 2020, Officer Holland requested to expand the "Pops from Cops" program by purchasing a van which will be equipped with a freezer, popcorn machine, and video projector. After a few months, Officer Holland, with the help of corporate sponsorships and community donations through the Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association, raised over \$50,000 to purchase and equip the van. Once the van is outfitted, it is expected to debut in the Spring of 2021. The Police Department will be able to take this van to schools, neighborhoods, and parks, to hand out popcorn and freeze pops while playing a free movie for families. This time will also allow officers to engage in conversations with those in the community to address their concerns and to further build relationships. This program and this specially equipped van will undoubtedly assist officers in building closer relationships with adults and children in the community, while aiding in the continued efforts to maintain trust that has been established within our neighborhoods.