



Tigard Police Department Media Release

13125 SW Hall Boulevard | Tigard, Oregon 97223 | www.tigard-or.gov/police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | **October 22, 2015**

Contact:

Jim Wolf, Public Information Officer
Tigard Police Department
Phone: 503-718-2561
Email: jim@tigard-or.gov

Second Successful WCPC Safety Academy To Graduate Fifteen Adults

The Westside Crime Prevention Coalition (WCPC) will proudly graduate fifteen candidates on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 6 p.m. The graduation will take place at the Hillsboro Police Department's Main Precinct. This marks the successful completion of the coalition's second program season since it began earlier this year. The *Safety Academy*, unlike any other program offered, is a free and unique police awareness and personal safety program for adults with developmental disabilities in Washington County. Based loosely upon the concept of the popular citizen police academy program; the Safety Academy however is aimed at a different audience. Adults with developmental disabilities can be vulnerable to crime and exploitation. The goal of the Safety Academy is to help these adults better navigate through their day-to-day activities while being better prepared to face challenges present in an urban environment.

The Safety Academy is an avenue for adults with developmental disabilities to interact with police in a low-key and comfortable environment. The program serves to foster communication and enhance the personal safety of each participant. All sessions are instructed by police personnel representing the Beaverton, Hillsboro and Tigard Police Departments as well as the Washington County Sheriff's Office. The curriculum presented is relevant and aimed to give attendees the knowledge and confidence to carry out their day-to-day activities better aware of potential risks. Some of the topics presented during the five-week program include various elements of crime prevention including how to avoid scams and protecting personal information; getting help and interacting with police; traffic and pedestrian safety; using public transportation and ways to enhance safety when at home.

The Westside Crime Prevention Coalition (WCPC) is a partnership of four Washington County law enforcement agencies. Participating agencies include Beaverton, Hillsboro and Tigard Police Departments as well as the Washington County Sheriff's Office.