



# BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

## Office of the Township Manager

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Bristol Township Named One of Pennsylvania's Safest Cities

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Bristol Township has been named as one of the "Safest Cities in the United States" and ranked #15 in Pennsylvania according to a study completed by SafeHome, a professional security organization. For the full list of 'Safest Cities' visit: <https://www.safehome.org/safest-cities/pa/>.

"I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Bristol Township Police Department, and this recognition is a testament to the hard work they perform every day," said Robert Coulton, Bristol Township's Police Chief.

To compile its 2017 List of Safest Cities, SafeHome analyzed the most recent FBI crime data from 2015, along with population demographics and other ranking factors, such as police officer to population ratio. In addition, the report looked at crime trends, giving cities where crime is on the decline, for example, a higher Safety Score and vice-versa. The study, which recognizes Pennsylvania's 25 safest cities with a population of at least 39,000 people, gave Bristol Township a score of 79.42 for its safe environment and low rates of crime.

"Public safety does not come by accident, but rather through the dedicated efforts of our law enforcement professionals who care about the community they serve," said Coulton. This recognition is also a reflection of the important support from our close-knit community in preventing and deterring crime."

"Public safety is a high priority for Bristol Township's Council and administration and I'm proud to say that our efforts have paid off as we are now ranked as one of the safest cities in the state," said Craig Bowen, Township Council President. "The police department's community-oriented approach to policing, coupled with their proactive policing strategies that target crime, are just some of the many reasons they are so deserving of this recognition," Bowen added.

Community policing programs in Bristol Township include a civilian police academy and several neighborhood town watch programs. The Police Department also participated in its first 'Coffee with a Cop' event this month, a movement that improves trust and promotes police-community partnerships to help make the community an even safer place to live.

We have all worked hard to make Bristol better. As a result, crime rates have dropped this year, with major crimes down 17 percent," Coulton said.

The SafeHome Safest Cities Award is the latest in a growing list of awards Bristol Township has received. Last Fall, the Levittown section of Bristol Township was named one of the "Best Places to Live" by Money Magazine. The Police Department also recently completed its accreditation process with the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, (PLEAC). "The state accreditation demonstrates the Township's commitment to public safety," concluded Coulton.

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