



## Upper Dublin Township Police Department

801 Loch Alsh Avenue  
Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034-1697  
Voice: 215-646-2101 Fax: 215-628-8976  
www.UpperDublin.net



*Ralph (Lee) W. Benson, III*  
*Chief of Police*

The Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners, Administration, and Police Department have recognized deer over-population within Upper Dublin Township as a major problem and have sought to control it in the most cost effective manner. As a result in 2009, the Upper Dublin Township Police Department was commissioned by the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners to create and supervise a “Community Managed Deer Hunt.”

On Tuesday, June 14, 2016, the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners voted to contract with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in order for them to conduct two (2) surveys of the deer population within Upper Dublin Township. As a result of the deer surveys it was determined that Upper Dublin Township has between 645 and 718 deer (95% statistical certainty) within the 13.2-square-miles of the Township (52.7 deer per square mile). This population is much higher than the number that can be sustained here without risking safety of residents and their property. After conducting the deer surveys the USDA, on behalf of Upper Dublin Township, submitted an application to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the authorization to conduct the sharpshooting of deer within Upper Dublin Township.

On Tuesday, January 9, 2018, the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners authorized a contract with the USDA to assist with the culling of the deer population through the use of sharpshooters. Prior to the sharpshooting taking place, a series of meetings will take place between the USDA employees who will be conducting the sharpshooting and the Upper Dublin Police Officers who coordinate the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program. The purpose of the meetings is to make sure that every possible Upper Dublin Township property on which sharpshooting may take place is properly vetted in advance, as the safety of every Upper Dublin Township resident is of the utmost importance. It is important to note that each sharpshooter is specially trained and utilizes equipment (i.e. firearms, ammunition, etc.) that is specifically designed for the purpose of sharpshooting deer.

*Community Oriented Policing*

The sharpshooting will take place on four (4) evenings between Monday, February 26, 2018 and Saturday, March 31, 2018 during the hours of 10:00PM-6:00AM. Although not yet determined, the dates of the sharpshooting will not be released to the public due to weather and other variables. Please know that the program and details of its implementation are permitted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and have been safely conducted in many areas similar to Upper Dublin Township. The sharpshooters will be escorted by Upper Dublin Police Officers. Each deer that is harvested will be removed in its entirety from the site of the sharpshooting and brought to a safe location for transport to a venison processor. The venison processor will butcher the deer and then provide the meat to a food pantry, as this is standard practice and welcomed by the food pantries to which the meat is donated.

At its conclusion, a public report will be submitted to the Township Manager detailing the results of the sharpshooting. Ultimately, the goal of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program is to reduce the number of deer/human conflicts within Upper Dublin Township and it is believed that the use of sharpshooters will assist us in this endeavor. The referenced study and permit can be reviewed at <https://www.upperdublin.net/departments/police/deermanagement/>