

# THE BEGINNING OF THE LOCAL POLICE SERVICE IN MARGHITA MUNICIPALITY

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## Abstract

*The Local Police was established for exercising the attributions concerning the protection of the fundamental rights and liberties of a person, of the private and public property and for prevention and discovery of crimes<sup>1</sup>.*

*The Local Police develop their activity based on the following principles: legality, trust, predictability and proportionality, overtness and transparency, efficiency and lucrativeness, responsibility and liability, impartiality and non-discrimination.*

*The Local Police develop their activity to the community's interest exclusively based on law and by law implementation, as well as on deeds of the deliberative and executive authorities of the local public administration, in conformity with the specific regulations for each field of activity, established by administrative documents.*

**Key words:** *local public administration, infractions, criminality, community, based on law.*

## Introduction

*The Local Police have an important role in increasing prevention of criminality and preserving public order. The mission of Prevention is to restore to the communities the internal cohesion so that each citizen to be interested in their own safety and that of the collectivity they live in and each collectivity to protect life and property of its members, building a climate of "safety" and "trust".*

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<sup>1</sup> Law no. 155 of the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2010, the law of Local Police

*Violence is identified also in the schooling environment. Despite the fact that incidents in schools are and have been made public to the highest degree, violent acts did not disappear, but gained a repetitive character. School absenteeism is high while parents too busy providing for the next day, make it to the first place of a European top for parents who do not know their own children.*

## **I – General Presentation of the Locality**

**Marghita Municipality** (in Hungarian *Margitta*) is a city in the Northwestern part of the country, in Bihor County. The location is at 57 kilometres Northeast from Oradea – the county capital city and at 30 kilometres from the border between Romania and Hungary. Marghita is on the right bank of river Barcau, in the area between Dealurile Viisoarei and Campia Barcaului, next to the confluence of this river with Bistrei valley. In the proximity of the locality, at only 5 kilometres there is the construction site of an important batch from the next Transilvania Highway.

The geographic coordinates of the city are 22°33” East longitude and 47°34” North latitude.

The locality is a city since 1967 and it was declared municipality in 2003.

The municipality (with the belonging villages Ghenetea and Chet) had according to the 2011 census an urban population of 15,770 inhabitants.

Marghita has railway connections but mostly road links to important localities from Bihor County and also from neighbouring counties like - S Iaj and Satu-Mare. (Oradea, S cuieni, Valea lui Mihai, T snad, Carei, Satu-Mare, Simleul Silvaniei. The aerial connections exist through the international airport from the county capital city Oradea.

The town passed through the forced industrialization period during communism and at the same time, it underwent a social and economical rebirth after 1989, with important effects at the demographic and municipal level, with significant transfers of people from rural environment to urban areas and vice versa, with migration of labour forces abroad and entering of Western investors<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Data on Marghita taken via Internet from the Wikipedia site

**II – General information about demography, economy, municipal heritage, the social and cultural life of the locality that justifies the establishing of the new local police structure.**

At present, Marghita Municipality occupies the second place after Oradea in the economy of Bihor County, mainly due to the clothing industry with old tradition and to new enterprises in the textile production and footwear activity. These companies have partners from Germany, Italy, and France, offering the inhabitants of the city and to those surrounding the city around 4000 work places. In addition, the oil industry is well represented in the area offering several work places, so that the unemployment rate in Marghita is fewer than 2%. Agriculture is also developed due to the good quality of lands and natural conditions favouring mainly cereal cultures, vineyards, fruit growing and livestock breeding.

There are more than one hundred shops in the city, public venues and subsidiaries of the most important banks in Romania.

The municipal heritage comprises 6,000 houses and 3,200 block flats, over 50 kilometres of streets and over 7 hectares of green spaces and parks. There are generous spaces for new investments but the inexistence of a city surrounding by-pass raises some regulation issues concerning the commercial and industrial activities, the road transportation, publicity and last but not least the comfort of the inhabitants.

Marghita has five education units, from the primary level to the university one, where around 4,000 children and young students study, as well as a central library with over 80,000 volumes, multiple Internet and telephone links and a local newspaper, a house of culture with a 500 places theatre, a gym and a stadium that may host important competitions. The usual languages are Romanian and Hungarian, but many a citizen speak English, French and German. Tourism is sustained by the existence of natural thermal water springs, of wooden areas, the proximity of Barcau river, of two lakes and Plopi Mountains.

**III – General information about the antisocial deeds committed in the locality, about some public order necessities and the municipal authority that established the new structure adapted to the community needs.**

Criminality in the area is under the judicial authorities' control and did not register alarming levels for prolonged periods but some infractions do persist like violent offences, thefts and breaking traffic laws, all these being objectively determined by the social and economic conditions, the urban traffic heaviness and the repeated changes of resident domiciles.

Moreover, at the crossing between urban areas and even mentalities and respectively urban ones, (traditional), there is no special discipline regarding the constructions regime, salubrity, access and circulation of carts, bicycles, heavy-duty vehicles, street displays, surveillance and animal breeding. Public property and community obligations, especially pecuniary, remained as in many other localities from the county and country, still vague and formal notions (as opposed to private property), affected by historic prejudices connected to “the community well-off” from the preceding society.

The economic, social and cultural evolution led in a necessary manner and legally predictable to the creation of a public order institution with explicit attributions inclusively regarding the control of the local council’s decisions in the fields where it has legal power to issue regulations.

Due to reasons generated by the presentation above, The Local Council of Marghita Municipality having 17 counsellors and being presided by the Mayor **Pocsaly Zoltán Ladislau** has decided on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 through an order issued, the establishing of the Local Police of Marghita at service level, with own regulations, within the City Hall. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2014 the position of Local Police chief of service was considered open and on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2014, through a Local Council’s decision were established the conditions for organizing the contest or examination for the occupation of the public position specific for the local policeman, vacant and temporarily vacant, for a number of 11 local policemen, issued in addition after ensuring the budgetary and logistic conditions. The chief of service is the undersigned Ardelean Mihai Sorin, with a prior activity as legal advisor for 11 years, a good connoisseur of the Municipality and its inhabitants. The local police officers have an average age of 27 years, they are respectable and have had previous activities in fields of contact with the Marghita citizens, acquiring their public offices as a result of serious verifications, inclusively medical, and following the promotion of severe exams given under transparent conditions<sup>3</sup>.

#### **IV – The debut of the local police service, objectives and perspectives**

We have presented before data of the “operational situation” justifying the establishment of the new local police service, integrated into the municipal authorities and with immediate professional relations with units of the Romanian Police, the country police, the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations from the locality, and last but not least with the

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<sup>3</sup> Data from the site of the Marghita Municipality City Hall

citizens whose trust and respect we aim to gain in the shortest time and for the longest of periods.

Thus, the Local Police from Marghita already has established collaboration protocols with other public order institutions from the municipality or with activity in the locality as well as with prestigious education units from our city or from Oradea, as the faculty of Administration and Law (with major also of Local Police) within the Agora University.

The entire police work force entered professional formation classes provided by the Law of Local Police - no. 115 of 2010 as a condition for the competences of establishing and sanctioning contraventions. Eight of them will already graduate in May the classes organized at a school of the Internal Affairs Ministry. Professional and anticorruption education plans were structured, service schedules and patrolling routes.

It has already started and is presently developing, with the participation of other city hall and local council structures, the acknowledgement and systematic “inventory” of data and information of interest for the local police concerning: *street trading, persons and goods traffic, heavy traffic, positioning of transport stations and other road traffic issues; street publicity, sanitation, observing the rules for green spaces and maintenance of lands and buildings; public services; animal breeding; public order and peace.*

The Local Police from Marghita (the service) has already proposed together with other city hall structures with responsibilities in the field of urban and administration of public domains, regulation projects on heavy traffic and street publicity in the city, which will be debated in the local council as soon as possible. There are examined proposals for adopting or modification through local council decisions of some regulations in the fields of competence.

The City hall decided the temporary collaboration of a consultant veteran of the judicial police of the county, former deputy of the chief of the Bihor County Police Inspectorate, in the name of **Police colonel in reserve Ursuta Cantemir Ovidiu**, with expertise also in the collaboration with the local police from Oradea, established before us.

There are under elaboration 15-17 professional procedures in conformity with the competences categories and activities of the local police officers. These procedures will undergo juridical legality clearances and of the secretary of the administrative unit, being afterwards approved by the mayor.

The Local Police from Marghita develop their activity in two offices within the Marghita Municipality City Hall, being equipped with the municipality video surveillance and monitoring, one vehicle, IT equipments, logs, minutes and uniforms.

## **Conclusions**

The projects of today will surely become significant professional performances for the citizens.

Continuing the tradition of local economic, commercial, traffic and cultural centre of Marghita Municipality, we hope that the Service of Local Police from Marghita will become a good example for similar structures that are going to be established in the near geographic localities<sup>4</sup>.

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➤ <sup>4</sup> Decisions of the Marghita Local Council