

Meeting Dates & Events

Mon., Feb. 3
Retiree's Meeting

Mon., Feb. 10
Executive Board Meeting

Tue., Feb. 11
East Side L-18 Luncheon at APG

Wed., Feb. 12
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Thur., Feb. 13
Hoxworth Blood Drive at FOP Hall

Mon., Feb. 17
President's Day

Mon., Feb. 17
Bucketheads Luncheon

Wed., Feb. 19
Sam's Club Drive

Mon., Feb. 24
Regular FOP Meeting

Wed., Feb. 26
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Fri., May 9
Awards Dinner

Mon., May 12
Memorial Parade

Thur., June 5
FOP Picnic

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Bill Holzman

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Building Fund
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Cliff Bell
Mark Bode
Past President.....Kathy Harrell

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State Treasurer.....Greg Toneyas
9th District Trustee.....Jon Halusek



Two-Six NEWS



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Editor . . . Brent Eve

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 2

CINCINNATI, OHIO

FEBRUARY 2025

FOP President's Message

For the last 7 months now, I have been attending the Juvenile Diversion Task Force meetings at the Ohio Supreme Court. After researching what the 88 counties in Ohio are doing, we are now moving on to the next phase. All members had to submit their recommendations for changes to diversion. I submitted two. First, every juvenile court judge would be required to keep statistics outlining what types of cases and how many are diverted each year. This transparency will keep voters informed as to the decisions the judges are making. Secondly, there must be a written uniform guideline for diversion. Currently, each county can do whatever they want, however they want, with no written policy. Over the next several months, we will be completing our recommendations and presenting them to the general assembly. Once the recommendations are complete, I will report back.

I attended the state winter board meeting in January. There are a few takeaways I want to briefly discuss. As it relates to the Social Security fairness act, log into your account, or set up an account at SSA.gov. Make sure your personal info is correct. You don't have to do anything further at this time. As more info becomes available, we will push it out to our members. Anna Reed, the owner of Thin Blue line insurance, spoke at the meeting. She claims all issues will be resolved in 45-90 days. If you have an urgent request, go to the online portal and leave a message. If you are having a procedure done, go the online portal and request a pre-authorization. I know this change has caused a lot of headaches for our retirees. Hopefully, these problems will be resolved quickly. For the rest of the highlights of the winter board meeting, I will refer you to 9th District trustee Halusek's article.

I want to thank everyone who has answered the call to serve this lodge on a committee for 2025. In the coming weeks committees will be selected, and the membership will be notified of who was chosen for which committee(s). Each year, we make every effort to ensure everyone who applies gets to volunteer on at least 1 committee. Thank you as well to those who have chosen to run to be a delegate and represent our lodge at the state and national conference this year. Delegate elections will occur in February with the results being announced at the February meeting.

Fraternally,
Ken Kober

POLICE RETIREES NEWS

By Mike Bolte

Retirees for Cincinnati and Hamilton County Officers Meet the First Monday of the month and begins at 1900 hours and will be on February 3rd, 2025. Call Michelle at the FOP Hall, 513-381-2550, to join IF you are not a member.

Luncheons and Breakfasts

All LEO Retirees, Active Officers and Supporters are encouraged to come and have breakfast and/or lunch at these events.

West Side: The West Side luncheon at Triple Cats is the 2nd Wednesday and LAST Wednesday of each month. Both are in Harrison and start at noon. The West Side breakfast is EVERY Saturday at Price Hill Chili in the Garden Room and starts at 0800 hrs.

East Side: The East Side L-18 Luncheon is always at the Anderson Pub & Grill at Beechmont/Nagel. The luncheon will be on February 11th. The East Side Saturday breakfast is at the Country Inn located at 910 Ohio Pike, Amelia, Ohio and starts at 8 am.

WESTSIDE HOLIDAY CLUB

Bucketheads 6507 Harrison Ave. Next date is Monday, January 20th, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

2025 FOP LEOSA Qualifications

Please contact Carl Rauschenberger by email or by cell phone for information: carler272@yahoo.com or 513-325-8022. Certification course is at the Fairfield Sportsmans Assoc., 6501 River Rd. There is a \$5 guest fee, and a \$40 charge for the qualification with 1 or 2 guns. The dates for training are flexible.

Recent Retirements:

Michael Ammann Howard Smith Ron Hale

Recent Promotions to Assistant Chief:

Bridget Bardua Matthew Hammer

Recent Promotions to Captain:

David Schofield David Sprague Stephen Bower

Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society and The Shield

The Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society and the Shield are always accepting donations. If you are a member of the Cincinnati Police Federal Credit Union, you can fill out a form and make a monthly donation to one or both. It is easy and tax deductible.

Florida 2025 Police Reunion Information: February 25th, 26th, and 27th, 2025

Red Lions Lake Buena Vista
5150 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway
Kissimmee, Florida 34746

Make sure to call the FOP Hall at (513) 381-2550 to notify them of a death of a retired police officer.

Our contact is Elisa Quinones or her assistant, Salha. Tell them you are with the Cincinnati Police Reunion. Phone number to call is 407-997-3224

Price of the rooms are now:

King Rooms and 2 Queen Rooms are \$85 plus tax a night. Executive Suites and Jr. Suites are \$115 plus tax a night.

If you plan on playing golf, contact Dave West at 513-604-1532.

The price for the Social Nights will remain at \$35 per person.

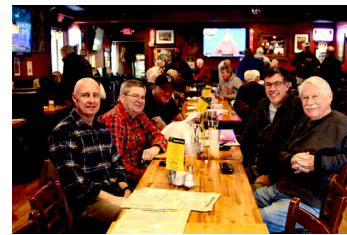
Checks are to be made out to Sandy Vickers, and sent to: Sandy Vickers, 10790 Autumnridge Dr., Independence, KY 41051.

The FOP Retiree Meeting is on February 3rd.

The Regular FOP Meeting is on February 24th.

L-18 EASTSIDE LUNCHEON John Burke

L-18 Luncheon Eastside crew met again at APG, and 46 people braved entering the restaurant as they slid on in. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves as good friends and stories were heard. John Burke read off the latest news of the Brothers and Sisters who may be dealing with health issues. Great fun while it lasted.



Please remember to call Michelle Comarata at (513) 381-2550 if you have moved, have gotten married or divorced, have added a child/dependent, and also to check or update your death beneficiaries.

Please contact Austin Lee at: austin.lee_21@yahoo.com to have your police or police family owned business added to the newsletter.

BUCKETHEADS LUNCHEON Jim Brown

There were approximately 55 Brothers and Sisters at Bucketheads to pay tribute to MLK and to their Brothers and Sisters in Law Enforcement.

Thanks to the terrific staff at Bucketheads, and to Cliff Bell and Dave Reinhardt for hosting the luncheons. Monday, February 17th, is the date of the Presidents' Day Luncheon at Bucketheads. Monday, March 24th is the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at Bucketheads.



DISTRICT TWO LEGENDS

FOP 69 Facebook Post

January 21st at the Local Post, the following District 2 Legends were honored:

- Charlie Zopfi
- Gina Pennington
- Jeff Shari
- Tom + Kim Eppens of the Madisonville Citizens on Patrol

Created in 2012, District 2 members are voted in by their peers. Legends are recognized for excellence and dedication to duty, beat pride and diligence in policing.

Donations at the door were passed on to the Blue Line Foundation.


Thanks to Cary Jodice for the photographs.

A special thank you to the Local Post for donating the great food. Remember to support those who support us.



CONTACT FOR INQUIRES

A FIGHTING CHANCE



ASHLEY FERRIS

Cincinnati Police Academy
 Thursday, February 6, 2025, 1800 - 2100
 Friday, February 7, 2025, 0830 - 1130
 Contact CPD Wellness to register
CPDPeerSupport@Cincinnati-OH.gov

Dec 27, 2021 – In just 45 minutes, a gunman traveled throughout the cities of Denver and Lakewood, shooting 6 victims, killing 5, and engaging a total of 5 officers in gunfire.


Agent Ashley Ferris was the 7th and final individual shot by the suspect. Seriously wounded and on the ground, Agent Ferris continued fighting, shooting and killing the suspect.

This presentation is a detailed account of Ferris' critical incident and lessons learned.


TOPICS INCLUDE:
 The Investigation
 Wounded Officer's Perspective
 Lessons in Training, Recovery, and Resiliency
 Officer Suicide
 Leadership Considerations
 Using a Focus on Purpose to Build Resiliency and Wellness

The presentation will include radio traffic, video clips, photos from the incident, and photos surrounding the incident.

Sponsored by:



TRI-STATE PEER SUPPORT TEAM



A FIGHTING CHANCE
Peace Officers with Purpose

A Fighting Chance LTD
 Maryville, TN
 303.559.7038
AFightingChanceLTD.com

ATTENTION RETIRED POLICE, FIRE, SCHOOL, HOSPITAL PERSONNEL

If you served your community as police, fire, school, hospital, or government personnel and had some other employment before, during, or after that vocation, or your spouse did, the Social Security Administration decided 40 years ago to take away 60% of your earnings or prevented you from receiving any earnings.

This month, a bipartisan Congress overwhelmingly passed the Social Security Fairness Act reversed the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) "penalties."

Most of you will receive thousands of dollars in backpay retroactive to January 1, 2024. You can email President@Police-Museum.org if you want to know more.

Please consider pledging a small portion of your windfall to help the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum, the Number One attraction in Greater Cincinnati move to a larger and permanent home.

A pledge form can be found at www.police-museum.org

DELEGATE VOTING

Voting for Delegates will be at the Retiree meeting Monday, February 3rd from 1800-1900 hours, and at all districts Sunday, February 23rd 1930-2130, Monday, February 24th 0630-1530, CIS Monday, February 24th 0730-1530, and the FOP Hall Monday, February 24th 1530-1930. You can vote for no more than 17.

Dan Kowalski	Mark Yontz
Jason Bolte	Tom Martin
John Heine	Dave Moore
George Jason	Jennifer Myers
Kim Horning	Kara Graves
Mike Bolte	Bill Halusek
Dave Bailey	Mike Miller
Tamera Brown	Olivia Greer
Dan Carder	Jackie Metz
Deb Mercado	Ben Williamson
Terry Peirano	Eric Ruiz
Dan Mitchell	Jonathan Gordon
Sabreen Robinson	

JOB OPPORTUNITY James Smith

Mercedes Benz of Fort Mitchell is once again hiring valet drivers. Employment can be full or part time.

Please contact Service Manager Shawn Brown, 859-331-1500 for further information. Shawn is the son of retired Cincinnati Police Sergeant Mark Brown.

Please advise Shawn you were made aware of this position by a posting through the FOP Two-six newsletter.

9th DISTRICT TRUSTEE Jon Halusek

On January 24th and 25th Ken, Greg and I attended the winter board meeting in Dublin Ohio. President McDonald spoke about his goals and priorities. His main goals are to be more vocal and visible. Things you can do are download the FOP Ohio app, log into the web site, join his Facebook page or simply give the FOP your email address. The FOP does not sell or give away your email! You will receive any update the FOP of Ohio may have, along with video messages.



We are going to focus out legislative priorities on Pension, Drop for PERS, fixing the tax credit, PTSD, building guard rails for civilian review boards, and arming state mental health officers. As you know, city contributions to the pension fund are different for police and fire. Cities pay more into fire than police. HB 296 Police, and Fire Pensions was introduced by Cindy Abrams in last year's general assembly. At the end of the year the bill got out of committee and sent to the floor and was passed by the House. The bill was then sent to the Senate and dies in committee. The Bill will be reintroduced, but we are told this issue will not be taken up till the end of the year due to the State trying to fix Workers Compensation. It is not yet clear whether or not Jean Schmidt will try to reintroduce her legislation that would restrict the ability of local agencies to be able to work with the federal agencies when it comes to gun crimes.

Attorneys Mark Heinzerling and Kelly Hensley specialize in Social Security issues and spoke on HR 82. There are approximately 3.2 million people affected by the Windfall/GPO Act. If you want information on the updates of the WEP/GPO log into SSA.GOV. When you scroll down the page there is a block that will give you updates. As of January 24th, this was the update:

When will a person see their Social Security benefit increase because of the Social Security Fairness Act?

SSA is finalizing its plan to implement the Act while limiting negative effects on our regular workloads and services to the public. We cannot yet provide an estimated timeframe for when we will adjust a person's past or future benefits, but we will continue to provide updates on this webpage. We thank the public for its patience.

Several Questions were asked:

When do you think we will see the pay increase?

The simple answer is we do not know. We know that you are being told April or May, but this process can take up to a year. No matter how long it takes you will receive back pay from 1/1/24. Due to the change in the Oval Office, there are many upper staff positions being changed and like everywhere else the Social Security Administration is short staffed.

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Ohio Supreme Court Ruling: Police Can Withhold Officers' Names in High-Profile Shooting as Uncharged Suspects

Steve Lazarus, Esq. • Lazarus Law, LLC • SteveLazarus@hlmlaw.com • (513) 607-4455

In December 2024, the Ohio Supreme Court (“Court”) ruled that the Akron Police Department does not have to release the names of eight officers involved in a high-profile shooting. The case came to the Supreme Court after the June 2022 shooting of Jayland Walker (“Walker”), in which eight Akron police officers fatally shot Walker more than forty times after the police believed Walker fired a shot at police from his vehicle. The day after the shooting, the Akron Beacon Journal (“Journal”) requested several records from the City of Akron (“City”), including the personnel files for the officers placed on leave during the pending investigation. The City provided most of the Journal’s requested information but redacted the officers’ names from the personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting.

In November 2022, after several months of dispute between the Journal and the City, the Journal filed a mandamus action with the Supreme Court of Ohio (“Court”). The Journal requested the Court to force the City and the police department to release the unredacted personnel records of the officers involved in the shooting. The Journal believed that redacting the officers’ names was illegal and violated the Ohio Public Records Act. In contrast, the police department consistently expressed concerns for officer safety regarding release of officer names.

In a 5-2 decision, the Ohio Supreme Court partially granted the Journal’s request for public records – including the names of officers involved in other police shootings – but ruled to withhold the names of the eight Akron police officers involved in the June 2022 shooting. In the Court’s opinion, the Court noted that police incident reports and other supplemental information gathered by officers are public under the Ohio Public Records Act, but the law contains an exception for some confidential law enforcement investigatory records. This exception to the Ohio Public Records Act prevents the disclosure of names of uncharged suspects, and although the state grand jury declined to indict the eight officers, they could still face federal charges in the future. The Court ruled that the names of officers who are not criminal suspects must be released to the Journal, as they do not fall under the exception.

Overall, the Court partially agreed with the Journal, holding that the City must provide certain public records requested by the press in connection with fatal uses of force by the police. Further, the Court also held that police administrative leave and reinstatement notices are public records that must be provided upon request without redaction of officer names.

This case has the potential to adversely affect the pending case at the Ohio Supreme Court regarding Marsy’s Law. Last February, we released an article regarding the Columbus Dispatch case pending in the Ohio Supreme Court, deciding whether Marsy’s Law grants officers victim privacy protections from public disclosure in use-of-force incidents. Currently, the law can prevent the disclosure of officer names involved in fatal shootings or use-of-force incidents because the officers are categorized as crime victims under Marsy’s Law. The original complaint from Columbus Dispatch alleged that the use of Marsy’s Law by a police department to shield the identities of police officers involved in use-of-force incidents violated state public records laws. The Ohio Supreme Court will hear oral arguments regarding the case on February 11th, 2025, deciding whether Ohio police departments can continue to withhold police officer information from public disclosure following use of force incidents.

Legal Lesson Learned: Marsy’s Law currently allows crime victims, including law enforcement officers, to protect their personal information from public disclosure following a use-of-force incident. However, if the Ohio Supreme Court forces police departments to make officers’ names public, law enforcement officers may lose Marsy’s Law protection.

OLIVIA ZICK
Memorial
WOD & BRUNCH **FEB 11**

BUILD A STRONG MINDSET, THE BODY WILL FOLLOW

WORKOUT

- 9:00 a.m.
- CPD Training Section, 800 Evans St.
- Modifiable to all fitness levels

BRUNCH

- Immediately following WOD (~10:30)
- FOP Hall, 1900 Central Pkwy
- Hot breakfast, coffee, hot chocolate

ALL ARE WELCOME CPD & FRIENDS

Help Save Lives Donate Blood

Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 69

Thursday, February 13, 2025
9:00 AM-11:15 AM & 12:30 PM-2:45 PM
Blood Drive held at FOP Lodge 69
1900 Central Parkway

All donors receive a long-sleeved waffle T-shirt!
Double Your Impact - [Donate Red Cells](#)
Appointments Encouraged!

To make an appointment SCAN the QR code,
CALL 513-451-0910 or VISIT:
hoxworth.org/groups/fop69

(continued from page 4)

What about our deceased spouse benefits?

For your deceased spouse benefits you **MUST CALL**, it is the only way you can apply for this benefit. It was suggested that you apply for those benefits as soon as possible and you should take those benefits as soon as possible. You will receive back pay on this benefit from 1/1/24.

If you are short of credits, how can you get them?

Well, the simple answer is to get a job that pays into social security. You need 40 credits to earn this benefit. Your payout is based on your average income over 35 years. In money you need to earn \$1810.00 per quarter to qualify as a good quarter.

What if I am just applying for my Social Security benefits?

This should not be a problem and be much easier for you than an existing member.

So, in short be patient, we all know nothing works fast when it comes to the government.

Anna Reed from Thin Blue Line Insurance attended the meeting for an explanation and Q and A session. The Thin Blue Line Insurance changed its billing portal for Signa to Open Access in December of 2024 due to the growth of members and improper billing from Signa. An audit of billing was done, and it showed that Signa was over billing the Thin Blue Line which causes your rates to increase. They are reprocessing about 8000 claims per week looking for duplicate billing issues, there are approximately about one million claims to look at. This process is going to take about 2 more weeks. It will take approximately 45-90 more days for the Open Access portal to become fully accessible. During this time if you have a Doctors appointment or a procedure scheduled you are requested to go to the Thin Blue Line Insurance web site and log into the members section, go to the help desk and inform them of these appointments. They will be able to preapprove your claim so when you go to the appointment you will not have a problem. If there is a problem the person working at the help desk will contact you. Open Access is a billing portal, any Doctor or Hospital that uses Medicare will be able to use this portal for billing so you should not lose access to your doctor. Open Access is piggy backing Medicare for billing. There are approximately 2% of doctors that are cash only and will not be covered. At the end Anna stated that she had made a large mistake in this process from a miscommunication standpoint. She failed to inform her members fully about this process and that all falls on her. She requests that if you have any problems, please use the help desk and they will assist you as quickly as possible.

In closing the FOP has instituted two new scholarships in the name of Vergil McDaniel and Nick Demarco. These scholarships will be a one time pay out of \$1000.00. The process will be the same as the FOPA scholarships. The fall board meeting will be May 2-3rd in Canton Ohio. I will be giving full updates on the upcoming state conference.

Last year, 2024, we lost 144 officers in the Line of Duty. This year to date we have lost 5, please watch each other, and cover over. As I have said many times, one is too many.

COMMUNICATIONS COUNSEL

Ryan Stubenrauch / Jamieson Gordon

This month's crisis communications in the news comes from Wyoming – not the state, in fact, but a town in Michigan!

According to the news report, there was misinformation going around on social media that alleged a hostage situation. In order to clear up those rumors, the Wyoming Police Department released this statement:

Earlier today, officers responded to a domestic situation near Maplelawn and Buchanan. Following an argument, the male turned on the gas in the home and threatened to cause an explosion. Officers evacuated nearby homes out of an abundance of caution while DTE and the fire department turned off the gas. After several hours, the man exited the residence and is now with the Wyoming Police. The significant presence of police and fire personnel in the area should dissipate shortly.

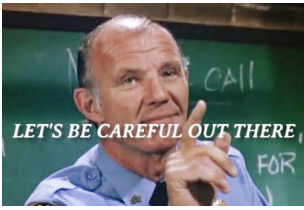
While this statement isn't bad, there are a couple things we could do to improve. First, they should explicitly state that they're addressing rumors. This makes it so there's no confusion that they're talking about the same incident people have already heard of, rather than an additional incident.

"DTE" not being defined was confusing at first, but upon further research, it's a well-known energy company in Michigan. Likely, the readers would know what this meant without further explanation.

Here's how we would re-write it:

You've probably seen rumors floating around social media about a hostage incident earlier today involving the Wyoming Police Department. Here's what really happened. Our officers responded to a domestic situation near Maplelawn and Buchanan. Following an argument, a man had turned on the gas at a house and made serious threats. Our officers decided to safely evacuate nearby homes out of an abundance of caution while the gas company and the fire department turned off the gas to the home. Wyoming Police now has the man in custody, and he'll face charges for his actions. Thank you for your patience, and remember that if you don't read it here, it may just be rumors or false information. As always, we're committed to quick and transparent communication updates to the community.

This is a bit longer than the first statement, but it wasn't enough to share the details of the situation without addressing the rumors. As a department, we should always be committed to quick and transparent communications, so including that type of aspirational statement at the end should be both accurate and helpful for your department.



ROLL CALL

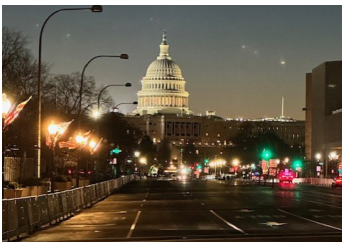
Brent Eve

About the Editor – Brent Eve

I'm excited to start as the Editor of the Two-Six newsletter. A little bit about my career - I started in 2007 and have been assigned to District 5, District 2, Central Business Section, and am currently assigned to the Central Business Section Neighborhood Liaison Unit. Any future submissions for the Two-Six newsletter can be emailed to fop69newsletter@gmail.com.

2025 Presidential Inauguration – CPD and FOP 69 Facebook posts

Thank you to the men and women of the Cincinnati Police Department who served and protected everyone in attendance at the Presidential Inauguration in Washington DC.



Get the Groceries – CPD Facebook Post

Smiles all around at Get the Groceries!

Officers joined families for a shopping spree at the Oakley Kroger! Dozens of local families received a gift card to buy some nutritious food.

Popular items included bananas, turkey, and Nerds Gummy Clusters! It's all about balance, right? Thank you to our community partners for making this possible!



CPD Officers spreading Holiday Cheer – CPD Facebook Post

CPD officers have been busy spreading holiday cheer and supporting our community over the last few weeks!

Toy delivery at Zion Temple Christian Academy, donation drives with the East Westwood Improvement Association, caroling at retirement communities, and holiday celebrations - just to name a few! Thank you for sharing the holiday spirit with us!



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
1900 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45214

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U.S. POSTAGE
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IT PAYS TO BANK WITH COPFCU!

In 2024,
COPFCU members earned

\$173,991

in loan interest rebates,
deposit rate bonuses, and free
products and services.

With **Rewards Plus**, the more COPFCU products and services you use, the more you earn!

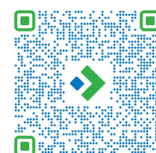
Rewards include:

- ✓ Deposit rate bonuses
- ✓ Loan interest rebates
- ✓ And so much more!
- ✓ Waived fees
- ✓ Free services

Explore all the ways you can benefit from Rewards Plus.



REWARDS | *Plus*



copfcu.com/Rewards-Plus | 513.381.2677

*Call us or visit copfcu.com/Rewards-Plus for full details. Rewards Plus benefits apply to personal (non-business) accounts/loans/services opened on or after 4/1/2024. Loan interest rebates apply to vehicle and personal loans. Deposit rate bonuses apply to money market and certificate accounts. Federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.