

## Agency to review Middletown police department

*BY CHRIS ENGLISH  
STAFF WRITER*

*Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or .*

An outside agency will study the Middletown police department to see if any procedures can be improved.

The township supervisors Tuesday night approved a free review of the department to be done by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services.

New township Manager Ray Stepnoski, who started July 9, said the review was simply a case of taking advantage of a free service and did not reflect any concern he had with police since starting as manager.

"Everything needs to be reviewed on a regular basis," he said. "One of the services of this organization is a review of police department efficiency. It's an unbiased look at the current department to make recommendations, if necessary, to increase operating efficiency. It may turn out that everything is great, or it may turn out we could use a little bit of honing."

Township officials didn't know when the review would start or how long it would take.

"A good review of a police department probably takes four to six weeks," said police Chief Frank McKenna, who added he had no problem with the action.

"I had talked with Ray about a review soon after he came on as manager and it was his idea it be done by the Governor's Center," said McKenna. "I believe we have the No. 1 police department in the county. We're on the cutting edge of technology, but as good as things are, there is always room for improvement."

McKenna said the last department review was done in 1990 by a group called the University City Science Center in Baltimore at a cost of almost \$30,000.

"Having it done free will benefit residents," McKenna said. "It's always a good idea to have someone from the outside take a look at what you're doing and, hopefully, improve on it."