



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

January 23, 2009

News from the Chief

Over the last five years, this police department has continuously stressed that vehicle stops are a fundamental, established tool in effective law enforcement. We have linked professional vehicle stops with three major strategies: (1) increased visibility in neighborhoods; (2) interdicting criminal behavior; and (3) reducing accidents, particularly injury crashes.

Information from our Strategic Development Division demonstrates that our officers have heard the message and are performing outstanding work.

Traffic Stops Data Form

Year	Traffic Stops	Warnings Issued	Percent of Traffic Stops Issued a Warning
2003	126,083	11,428	9.1%
2004	218,029	39,144	18.0%
2005	269,813	69,642	25.8%
2006	273,560	105,295	38.5%
2007	260,989	121,070	46.4%
2008	298,075	158,570	53.2%

There were actually more warnings issued in 2008 than there were traffic stops in 2003.

As for injury crashes, preliminary 2008 numbers reflect a decrease of 11%, the fifth year in a row injury crashes have declined.

As we look to the next five years, please know that I fully support the professional discretion of our officers when deciding whether to educate a motorist through a warning or issue an enforcement citation. Despite what critics may say, this strategy has nothing at all to do with tickets or revenue. It has everything to do with using professionally conducted vehicle stops to enhance and increase our visibility in Nashville's neighborhoods, interdict crime, and

continue to reinforce in the minds of drivers the absolute need for safe and legal driving behavior.

Thank you all for your hard work and for truly making a difference in the lives of Nashville's families and visitors.

Happenings

The Drill and Ceremony Team presented the colors prior to the nationally televised divisional playoff game at LP Field.



Pictured (l-r) are Lt. Ben Rodgers, Officers Bryan Doersam, Leonard Keeler, and Warren Fleak, Sgt. Chris Warner, and Officer Ryan Catron

South Precinct Commander Mike Alexander and El Protector Officer Gilbert Ramirez were guests on La Sabrosita 810 AM talk radio. Commander Alexander and Officer Ramirez answered questions concerning the El Protector Program and general law enforcement in a continuing effort to reach out to the Hispanic community.



The Precinct News

Hermitage

Two men broke into a home in the 3200 block of Lakeland Drive and robbed a woman and her daughter at gunpoint. Officer Mike Ryan quickly responded and spotted the men running out the back door. He provided information about the suspect's description and direction of flight. A short time later, one of the suspects was captured by Canine Officer Ron Black. Eric Jackson, 21, is charged with aggravated robbery and burglary.

Hermitage Precinct Flex officers Friday charged 17 McGavock High School students with loitering during school hours after catching them leaving the campus while classes were still in session. It was the most successful truancy operation at a single campus this school year.

Today's truancy operation, which involved plainclothes officers in unmarked cars conducting surveillance of the school's front and rear parking lots, was the latest in an on-going and concerted effort between the police department, Juvenile Court and school officials to see that students are in school and remain there until dismissal.

South

South Precinct detectives have charged Demorian Pierre Bays with two counts of especially aggravated kidnapping and two counts of aggravated robbery in connection with a November 23rd home invasion type case on Jessie Drive near Paragon Mills Park.

Bays, 20, of Hillside Avenue, has been identified as one of four armed suspects who rushed the two victims as they returned home. After being forced inside, the victims were robbed of their bank cards and other items. They were held at the residence by two suspects while the other two went to an ATM to withdraw money.

Bays is also under investigation in relation to a November 23rd home invasion robbery/kidnapping on Harding Place in West Nashville.

At the time of his arrest on the kidnapping and robbery charges, Bays was free on \$10,500 bond as the result of his arrest in December on felony and misdemeanor assault charges.

Bays is now being held in lieu of \$460,000 bond.

South Precinct detectives charged 15-year-old Abraham Garcia with criminal homicide in connection with the September 19, 2008, shooting death of Vinod Shah inside Shah's Discount Beer Market at 15116 Old Hickory Boulevard.

Investigation by Detective Derry Baltimore led to the identification of Garcia as the young man who entered the market with suspected gunman Edgar Rodriguez. Shah, 60, who was behind the counter, was shot during a robbery attempt. Both suspects fled the store immediately after the shooting.

Rodriguez, 19, was identified as the alleged triggerman on September 26. He is believed to have fled to Mexico. A criminal homicide warrant against him is outstanding. A federal warrant has also been issued charging Rodriguez with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

Garcia has given a statement implicating both himself and Rodriguez in the case.

East

A routine traffic stop by Officer Christopher Jones led to the arrest of a 15-year-old who is now charged with breaking into a home on Berrywood Drive.

During the stop, Officer Jones noticed two lap top computers in the vehicle. The driver and his passenger told Officer Jones they purchased the computers from the burglary suspect for \$50. Detectives Brian Brown and Craig Carlson arrived on the scene and determined the laptops had been stolen during the Berrywood Drive break-in.

Detectives Brown, Carlson, and Officer Jones conducted a Knock and Talk at the suspect's residence. Seized during a consent search were 5.2 grams of marijuana, digital scales, and a .25-caliber pistol. The suspect's 17-year-old brother was charged with drug possession. The 15-year-old was charged with aggravated burglary. The investigation continues into whether the teens are involved in other crimes.

Detective Rich Lowry spotted the driver of a stolen Dodge truck exit I-24 onto Trinity Lane. The suspect stopped at a business on Brick Church Pike where he was taken into custody without incident. William Harper, 36, is charged with vehicle theft and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was also served an outstanding warrant for stealing a Chevrolet Blazer from a car lot last December.

North

Convicted child abuser Timothy Whitset faces a new set of criminal charges after confronting an officer with a gun in an effort to avoid arrest in a cocaine case.

North Precinct Officer Anthony Jackson was investigating a report of a man selling drugs out of a red Chevrolet Monte Carlo at a convenience store near Whites Creek Pike and Trinity Lane. Jackson spotted the car and followed it onto Old Matthews Road where he attempted to make an investigative stop. Whitset slowed down and jumped from the driver's seat of the moving car with a pistol in his hand. Jackson yelled for Whitset, who ran into a tree line, to stop and drop the gun. Whitset stopped and turned toward Jackson with a .380 semi-automatic pistol still in his grasp. Jackson fired one shot in Whitset's direction, causing Whitset to drop his gun and surrender.

A subsequent search of the car revealed a set of electronic scales with cocaine residue and a quantity of crack cocaine.

Whitset, 24, of Jones Avenue, is charged with possession of cocaine for resale, possession of a pistol by a convicted felon, aggravated assault, and evading arrest. His bond is set at \$133,000.

Whitset was convicted of felony child abuse in September 2005 and received a six-year sentence.

Outstanding police work led to the arrest of convicted felon Gerald Hamlett, 21, a short time after he, his 18-year-old brother Robert Hamlett, and a third suspect, robbed the Game Trader at 1767 Gallatin Pike.

North Precinct detectives believe two of the men entered the store just after 1 p.m. They robbed a clerk and two customers at gunpoint and fled in a blue Chevrolet Impala. The getaway car was spotted entering the Greens of Rivergate Apartment complex on Dry Creek Lane. The suspects went inside an apartment, but fled on foot when North Precinct officers arrived. Gerald Hamlett was later taken into custody in nearby woods by Canine Unit Officer Joe Shelton and his partner Memphis. He was on probation at the time of Sunday's hold-up for facilitating an aggravated robbery in 2006.

Robert Hamlett surrendered himself at the Criminal Justice Center. Both men are charged with three counts of aggravated robbery.

North Precinct and SWAT officers Monday night arrested 19-year-old Mychal T. Hendricks as the sixth and final suspect wanted for the September 2007 murder of Cory Wayne Sanders, who was shot outside his 2912 Highland Avenue home in what detectives believe was a drug-related robbery.

Information developed Monday by North Precinct Officer John Tuberville was directly responsible for the apprehension of Hendricks on Snell Boulevard. Hendricks, like his five co-defendants, is under indictment on charges of first-degree murder and especially aggravated robbery.

West

Undercover detectives Thursday arrested 37-year-old Micah Collin Sharp for running a marijuana grow operation inside his home at 2710 Alameda Street.

Sharp had dedicated two bedrooms of the house to cultivating marijuana. Recovered, in addition to special lights and growing supplies, were 87 marijuana plants in various stages of growth, 1.5 pounds of processed marijuana, five potent marijuana cookies, and two semi-automatic pistols.

Sharp, who claims to be unemployed, refused to talk to detectives about the marijuana. He is being charged with possession of marijuana for resale within 1,000 feet of a public park, manufacturing marijuana within 1,000 feet of a public park, a Crooks with Guns violation for having firearms in the same house as the marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sharp's 1991 Lexus sedan was also seized.

Officer Chad Mahoney arrested a man suspected in several vehicle break-ins for drug possession near West End Avenue. Detectives obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence. Flex officers arrived and saw three men in a van leaving the suspect's house. They were in possession of stolen merchandise. Three men, including the original suspect, were ultimately taken into custody and charged in several auto burglaries.

Central

A man described as a significant drug supplier to downtown area nightclubs is behind bars after Central Precinct undercover detectives tracked him to his motel room and seized one of the largest amounts of methamphetamine ever discovered by Metro Police.

Dennis Joseph Okeefe, 46, of Payne Springs Road in Dickson, who is also known as "Poppa" to his associates, is charged with seven felony drug offenses, including manufacturing and selling crystal methamphetamine. Seized during a search of Okeefe's room at the Radisson Hotel on Airport Center Drive and his belongings were 961 grams of crystal meth, 203 Ecstasy pills, 177 meth pills, 64 ounces of liquid GHB, \$3,800 cash, four laptop computers, and three diamond rings that detectives think may have been swapped for drugs.

The investigation began last June when a citizen at a community meeting reported to Sgt. David Rueff that a person was possibly selling drugs from a Church Street condominium. With little else to go on, the case stalled, but picked back up this month when a police department operative was able to purchase two grams of crystal meth at the Church Street condo. An additional one ounce of crystal meth was recovered during the execution of a search warrant. The condo owner agreed to cooperate and identified his source as a man named Dennis, who stayed in various hotels around town. On Friday, Dennis Okeefe sold one ounce of crystal meth to a police operative on Radisson Hotel property. He was subsequently arrested inside his room, but not before he managed to flush something down the toilet. Okeefe refused to be interviewed or cooperate with the drug investigation.

The meth seized by police has a street value of \$460,000. The Ecstasy pills have a street value of \$3,045. The liquid GHB is worth \$8,820.

Okeefe is being held in lieu of \$662,000 bail.

The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol, Police, and Investigator of the Month for December 2008

Patrol Officer of the Month

South Precinct Officer Michael Sneed

Police Officer of the Month

West Precinct Officers Julie Gilbert and Chad Barth

Investigator of the Month

South Precinct Detectives James Chastain, Dan Henkel, and Brandon Dozier

Special Operations Officer of the Month

Hazardous Devices Officer Brad Burns

The following officers in the Investigative Services Bureau were chosen Officers of the Month for October, November, and December 2008

ISB Officer of the Month for October

Domestic Violence Detective Michael Orsbon

ISB Officer of the Month for November

Domestic Violence Detective Jeremy Moseley

ISB Officer of the Month for December

Gang Unit Detective William Loucks

Congratulations:

Sergeant Johnnie Huffine, Office of Professional Accountability, and his wife, Carrie, are the proud new parents of Zoe Sofia Huffine born January 12th.

Detective Bill Stewart, South Precinct, is the proud grandparent of twin girls Preslee Faith and Kylee Hope, born October 25th.



Condolences:

Nancy Burks, sister of Carmella Brown, Vehicle Impound Section, passed away January 11th.

Naomi Brooks, mother-in-law of Officer Alan Jordan, passed away January 11th.

Howard McGhee, stepfather of Police Crisis Counselor Heidi Bennett, passed away January 11th.

Sunny Jolley, grandmother of Detective Steven Jolley, West Precinct, passed away.

FYI:

DVDs of October's Annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase are now available for a \$10 donation. Proceeds from the DVD sales will help fund 2009's talent showcase which benefits various Nashville organizations. If you are interested please contact Captain Marlene Pardue at 862-7501 or Glendel Greer at 862-7439.