



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

March 13, 2009

News from the Chief

Law enforcement's push has begun in the state legislature for the enactment of laws that will keep violent criminals in prison longer and away from innocent families and visitors. I joined other members of the Public Safety Coalition on Tuesday in meetings with the legislative leadership. On Wednesday, Knox County District Attorney Randy Nichols and I spoke to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees on the absolute need to take our proposals with the seriousness that Tennessee's citizens expect. The message to the committees covered these significant points:

- We realize that times are tough economically and that the state must set funding priorities. But what priority could be any greater than protecting the safety of Tennessee's families and visitors.
- Article One, Section One, of our state constitution clearly states, "All power is inherent in the PEOPLE, and all free governments are founded on THEIR authority, and instituted for THEIR PEACE, SAFETY AND HAPPINESS."
- We are advancing a fiscally conservative agenda, in line with our several year push for "laser like focus" on the most dangerous and repeat offenders, and are asking for a badly needed change in the classification for Aggravated Robbery, that's Robbery with a firearm, from a Class "B" to a Class "A" felony.
- Aggravated robbery is but a few pounds of trigger pull away from a murder. Changing aggravated robbery from a Class "B" to a Class "A" felony would effectively double the sentence to a new range of 15 to 25 years to serve.
- Under existing law, with the state's current presumption that a first-time armed robber is eligible for parole after serving less than one-third of his sentence, not to mention the

issue of time off for good behavior, the change from Class “B” to Class “A” felony status would still mean several more years behind bars for those dangerous persons who use firearms to rob innocent Tennesseans and businesses.

- What we are asking is that Tennessee treat aggravated robbery with the seriousness that it absolutely demands, and, if I may use a slight exaggeration-- that we stop treating armed robbers like shoplifters!
- The Public Safety Coalition’s proposals have been carefully crafted given the state’s financial picture and are the right changes for Tennessee this year.
- There is a groundswell of support from citizens and businesses across our state. From Memphis, to Nashville, to Knoxville, our citizens are demanding to be SAFE.
- We understand the need for spending tax dollars for “Education” and “Economic Growth and Development,” and that priorities must be set. But please know this: you do not have to have a PhD in Economics to know that if people and businesses are afraid, businesses will close. If neighborhoods are afraid, home values fall, social disorganization advances, and both schools and the economy suffer – this is not rocket science, you can simply look around America, and our state, to see the real and devastating effect that crime issues directly cause.

Dealing meaningfully with recidivism at the legislative level is critical. When you consider that in Nashville alone, 14,010 unique persons have been arrested during the past 12 months for at least one of these charges: homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, a drug offense, and/or a weapon offense, you realize that 2% of our population is causing the a majority of the trouble. Yet, of those who make up that 14,010 group, 32% have prior felony convictions, 63 % have prior convictions for any offense, and 80% have prior arrest histories. More profound is that these individuals, not counting drug offenses, have created more than 35,000 crime victims during their lifetimes. I dare say that if we doubled or tripled the police department’s size, these rates of recidivism would present a formidable challenge to our ability to reduce crime.

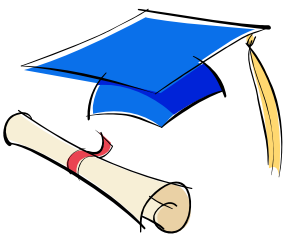
Lawmakers from both parties told the Public Safety Coalition this week that they get the message. My colleagues and I are guardedly optimistic at least some of our legislative package will be enacted.

Thank you all for your tremendous work that is making a difference for Nashville’s families and visitors.



Chief Ronal Serpas spoke to Memphis-area media Monday regarding the critical importance of the legislature strengthening Tennessee law so that violent criminals serve meaningful sentences behind bars. Joining Chief Serpas (l-r) were Shelby County Sheriff Mark Luttrell, Shelby County District Attorney Bill Gibbons, Memphis Police Director Larry Godwin, and District Attorney General Mike Dunavant from West Tennessee's 25th Judicial District. All are members of the Public Safety Coalition.

Happenings



The Metro police department's officer ranks grew by 23 Thursday night as the city's newest police officers graduated from five months of training, received their badges, and took the oath of office.

The 23 members of the graduating class of Session 59 began training on October 1. The new officers will spend the next five to six months with precinct field training officers before patrolling the streets by themselves.

Session 59 Awards

Law Award: Officer Lisa Peper

Presented to the trainee who achieved the highest academic average on the law testing and/or evaluation.

Academic Award: Officer Joshua Langlois

The Academic Award is presented to the trainee who achieved the highest combined academic average. This shall include the combined average of the law testing.

Officer Christy Dedman Spirit Award: Officer Quinn White

The Spirit Award is presented to the trainee who demonstrates a high level of class spirit, leadership, teamwork, and constantly strives to contribute to the class as a whole.

Top Gun Award: Officer George Gant

The Top-Gun Award is presented to the trainee who achieves the highest average on the firearms training topics.

Physical Training Award: Officer Preston Hice

The Physical Training Award is presented to the trainee who achieves the highest average on the physical training topics.

Top Cop Award: Officer George Gant

The Top-Cop Award is presented to the trainee who achieves the highest average on all subject matter topics offered where a test and/or evaluation was offered.

Leadership Award & Class President: Officer Joseph Leurs

The Leadership Award is presented to the trainee who demonstrates a pattern of leadership traits or behavior during the training session.





Session 59 receives the oath of office from Mayor Karl Dean at Christ Church.

Hermitage Precinct El Protector Officer Rafael Fernandez was the guest speaker February 28 at the COPLA (Committee of Latino Parents) meeting attended by nearly 300 parents and visitors at Glencliff High School. Officer Fernandez addressed many issues including gang and drug awareness.



Officer Fernandez answers questions following his COPLA presentation

Clergy members attended a meeting March 3 at the South Precinct to discuss community issues. Community Coordinator Sergeant Suzanne Stephens also shared a safety presentation designed for churches.



Members of the clergy meet March 3 at South Precinct



Officer Faye LeCompte retires after 29 years of service!



Pictured (l-r) are Sgt. Pat Bianconi, Officer Faye LeCompte, and Commander Mike Alexander

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Proactive policing continued in several areas to curb recent criminal activity.

During a traffic stop for a seatbelt violation, Officer Marcel Chalou detected a strong odor of marijuana. He called for back up. Officers Paul Joyner and Christopher Taylor quickly arrived. The driver and his two passengers attempted to flee on foot, but were quickly apprehended. Seized were 2.1 grams of cocaine, five grams of marijuana, and \$230 cash. Officer Chalou also served one felony and one misdemeanor warrant as a result of this stop.

Officers also focused on residential burglaries and conducted business checks.

South

Just more than one week after his wife was discovered strangled to death inside her Sunnywood Drive home in Antioch, John Kratochvil confessed that he was responsible.

Manisha Kratochvil, 32, was found dead in her bedroom by her mother. John Kratochvil, 42, initially maintained that he was traveling out of state and had no knowledge of what happened to his wife.

However, during questioning by South Precinct Detective Brad Corcoran, Kratochvil said that a period of marital conflict led him to kill Manisha Kratochvil in the early morning hours of March 2nd. Kratochvil said that he did travel to South Carolina on the weekend of March 1st, but returned to Nashville during the early morning hours of March 2nd. After killing his wife and ransacking part of the home to make it appear as if a robber or burglar was responsible, Kratochvil said he went back to South Carolina. He was apparently there when detectives made contact with him on March 2nd.

The couple's two children, who are ages 3 and 6, were in the home along with their grandmother at time of the murder. They were not harmed.

John Kratochvil is charged with criminal homicide.

East

A citizen complaint concerning possible drug activity at a Chicamauga Avenue home resulted in the arrest of convicted felon Marcus Perry.

Officers conducted a Knock and Talk at Perry's residence. During a consent search officers recovered a loaded handgun, 5.7 grams of marijuana, and 25.5 grams of cocaine. Perry, who was convicted of felony cocaine possession in 2005, is once again charged with felony drug possession and a Crooks with Guns law violation.

North

Officers stopped the driver of a vehicle that had been reported stolen near Chesapeake Drive. Three 15-year-olds were taken into custody. A .22-caliber pistol was recovered from the car. They were all charged with felony vehicle theft. The teen who claimed the gun was charged with unlawful weapon possession. He was also charged as a runaway.

West

Detectives arrested four persons involved in the robbery/beating of Robert DeMoss, Jr., in the Dillard's parking garage at Green Hills Mall.

Convicted felon Bobby Tice, Jr., 21, Catherine Mills and Johnathon Harris, both 18, and Brittney Bannister, 19, are charged with especially aggravated robbery in the attack on Robert DeMoss, Jr., 62, who remains in critical condition at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

The three had allegedly gone to the Mall to break into cars when Tice spotted DeMoss in the parking lot walking toward Dillard's. A witness reports Tice struck DeMoss with a baseball bat several times before he retrieved DeMoss' wallet from the victim's pocket.

An investigation by undercover detectives led to the seizure of nearly ten pounds of cocaine, seven pounds of marijuana, a pistol and 6,000 cash, most of which came from a home on Milner Drive in Crieve Hall.

Five persons were arrested, including Bryan Harrison, 24, and Herchel Bailey, 22, both of 4811 Milner Drive. They are charged with engaging in a cocaine distribution conspiracy, possession of cocaine and marijuana for resale, violating the Crooks with Guns law, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Also arrested in the home was Larod Brent Hughes, 28, of Fairground Street in Franklin. He faces the same charges as Harrison and Bailey.

As officers conducted surveillance, they saw Antwan McGlory and Jason Bowen drive away from the Milner Drive home in a 1996 Cadillac after Bowen put something in the trunk. The car was stopped at Harding Place and Trousdale Drive. The object in the trunk turned out to be a two-pound brick of cocaine. McGlory, 26, of Overby Drive, and Bowen, 26, of Lane Wood Court, are charged with engaging in a cocaine conspiracy and possession of cocaine in a drug free zone (for being within 1,000 feet of Norman Binkley Elementary School).

Investigators from the 20th Judicial District Task Force assisted in this investigation.

Central

Acting on a tip, undercover detectives arrested a man suspected of selling drugs at various Nashville night clubs. He is charged with felony drug possession after he sold 50 Lortab pills outside a truck stop.

Interdiction Unit

The Interdiction Unit seized 53 pounds of marijuana concealed in secret compartments of a Ford pickup truck after the driver was stopped on I-40 in West Nashville for following too closely.

Francisco Eli Ayala, 23, of Brownsville, Texas, is jailed on charges of possession of marijuana for resale and driving on a revoked license.

Officer Jamie Scruggs stopped Ayala and received consent to search the truck. Police dog Raven alerted to the presence of a drug odor. Marijuana bundles were then recovered from hidden compartments built into the truck bed.

Ayala told police he was traveling through Nashville en route to Indianapolis.



Seized marijuana

During a conversation with a driver, who appeared to be having engine problems, Interdiction Unit Officer David Hacker became suspicious of possible illegal drug activity. A police dog indicated to the presence of narcotics. Seized in a subsequent search were 11.6 pounds of marijuana found in a large gift box wrapped in Disney princess paper.

The driver and his passenger are charged with felony marijuana possession.

From the District Attorney's Office

Director of Communications Susan Niland

Division II got a guilty-as-indicted verdict late Tuesday in the case against Broderick Smith. Smith was convicted of two counts of carjacking, one count of attempted carjacking, three counts of attempted robbery, aggravated robbery, and assault, from his 48-hour crime spree in June 2007. Smith will serve this sentence consecutively to a federal sentence for bank robbery until 2024.

Condolences:

Miltie Johnson, the grandmother of Officer Michael MacLennan, Hermitage Precinct, passed away March 2.

Mary Francis Anderson, mother of Ronald Anderson, police security guard, passed away.

Becky Lamb, aunt of Officer Robert Davenport, North Precinct, passed away.

Hermes Ladnier, Jr., brother of SID Detective Joe Ladnier, passed away March 8.

FYI:

Please join us at the MNPD Training Academy Friday, March 27, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:20 p.m. for the annual Police Department Blood Drive. Schedule your appointment at www.givelife.org or contact Sergeant Marjorie Haworth at 862-7617. Every donor will receive an American Red Cross baseball bat.

This year the Davidson County Sheriffs Department has issued a challenge to see who can get the most donors in “The battle of the badges”.

Thank you for your generous gift of life.

**Save the Date:
Andrea Walks V
April 4, 2009, 9:00 AM
Centennial Park, West End Avenue at The Bandshell
(Sign-In 8:00-8:45 AM)**

The Nashville Children's Alliance (formerly Nashville Child Advocacy Center) will once again hold its annual 5K walk on April 4, 2009 during Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

With help from sponsors and walkers, the walk raises not only awareness of sexual and physical abuse, but also funds to support and sustain the work of the Nashville Children's Alliance.

Andrea Walks V raises public awareness about child abuse, prevention and victim services. Everyone has a role in keeping children safe and Andrea Walks V is a forum for educating parents and children about the resources the Center brings to children and families.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the walk is scheduled to kick off at 9:00 a.m. at Centennial Park. Fun for the entire family, snacks will be on hand, and children's activities will be scheduled as well.

The Nashville Children's Alliance, in operation since 1992, is a nonprofit organization that facilitates healing and justice for victims of child abuse by providing investigative interviews, trauma-focused therapy, support groups for parents and advocacy at no cost to families.