



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

April 10, 2009

News from the Chief

Mayor Dean made a bold and aggressive decision during the police department's recent budget hearing by authorizing us to seek grant funding from the federal government for 120 additional police officers. I am very pleased that the Metropolitan Council this week backed the Mayor's decision by endorsing the grant application.

Raising the police department's sworn strength by 120 officers, to a total of 1,435, would help us meet the challenges of a growing and vibrant city in the years to come. For example, 120 additional officers could staff two new police precincts, making the department even more efficient and responsive to Nashville's neighborhoods.

The grant application we have submitted to the United States Department of Justice requests approximately \$21 million to pay the salaries and benefits of the additional 120 officers for three years. Metropolitan Government would absorb the full cost at the beginning of their fourth year on the job.

The Department of Justice expects to make decisions on grant applications by September 1. It is estimated that the full hiring process for an additional 120 officers would take 18-24 months.

During our budget hearing, Mayor Dean emphasized that economic conditions will necessitate funding cuts in the upcoming fiscal year. I anticipate that the police department will not be spared, although, without a doubt, public safety and police services are a top priority for Mayor Dean as his administration develops its budget submission for fiscal 2009-10.

Thank you all for your hard work and commitment to Nashville, its families and visitors.

Happenings

Sham corporations, money laundering and lots of marijuana.

Those are the essential elements of a nine-month investigation by Metro police drug officers and partner agencies that led to the dismantling of an alleged major drug distribution organization believed responsible for trafficking thousands of pounds of marijuana into Nashville and Middle Tennessee over at least the past five years.

Since March 8th, eleven persons have been arrested. Several others are expected to face charges as the case makes its way to the Davidson County Grand Jury.

Since last summer, Metro officers assigned to the 20th Judicial District Drug Task Force, Sumner County law enforcement assigned to the 18th Judicial District Drug Task Force, and DEA agents have jointly led an investigation into a very lucrative marijuana business allegedly headed by Jeffrey K. King, of Chickasaw Trail in Goodlettsville, and Vernon E. Lockhart, of Rustic Way in Old Hickory. Investigators believe that the two arranged for the delivery of thousands of pounds of marijuana into Nashville this decade and the subsequent distribution of it to street dealers. The two are alleged to have set up sham corporations, including Pyramid Engineering and JK Trucking, to launder hundreds of thousands of dollars in drug money. Jeffrey King and his wife, Cassie, are also alleged to have laundered drug proceeds through a beauty salon she co-owns, Eyecandy on Villa Place.

Search warrants were executed at homes and properties in various Middle Tennessee locations. Among the items seized thus far are 41 vehicles, including four dump trucks, four boats, six trailers (a second of which has a secret compartment), eight 4-wheelers, tractors, lawnmowers, custom cars, high-end SUVs and pickup trucks. Also seized were 700 pounds of marijuana, 74 firearms (including assault-type rifles), thousands of rounds of ammunition, \$278,359 cash, and 45,679,000 Iraqi Dinar (which Jeffrey King and Vernon Lockhart allegedly bought as a money laundered investment).



Chief Ronal Serpas announcing the dismantling of the drug organization. To his right are Nashville District Attorney Torry Johnson, Sumner County District Attorney Ray Whitley, and Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Harry Summers.

Chief Ronal Serpas and Rabbi Kliel Rose of the West End Synagogue met Wednesday morning as part of what's become an annual practice to support the holiday of Passover.

Chief Serpas is helping the Jewish community of Nashville celebrate the holiday by purchasing leavened products, known as "chametz," during the eight days of Passover. Jews are prohibited from owning leavened products such as bread, cereals, and even beer, during the holiday. A rabbi is given the power of attorney to sell all of the products to a non-Jew until Passover has ended. After the holiday ends, Rabbi Rose will buy back the leavened products from Chief Serpas.

The West End Synagogue is making a financial donation to the 100 Club of Nashville in honor of the police department's assistance to the Jewish community. The 100 Club helps pay the debts of police officers and firefighters who are killed or suffer disabling injuries in the line of duty.



Chief Ronal Serpas accepts documentation from Rabbi Kliel Rose making the Chief the temporary owner of leavened products.

The police department's annual awards ceremony will be held Thursday, April 23, at 1:30 p.m., at the North Precinct. Mayor Dean and Chief Serpas will be presenting plaques to deserving citizens and uniform ribbons to police officers who performed outstanding acts during 2008. Letters notifying award recipients of the ceremony were sent late last month.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Investigation by Crime Suppression Unit detectives led to the arrest of a convicted felon and the seizure of two grams of cocaine, five cell phones, a vehicle, and \$6,090 cash.

Detectives arranged to purchase cocaine from the man who has two previous felony drug convictions. He is again charged with felony cocaine possession.

Serial car burglary suspect Arthur Stewart surrendered himself after Hermitage Precinct detectives identified him as the man they believe could be responsible for 20-30 vehicle burglaries in and around the Music Valley Drive/Opryland area.

Stewart, 32, became a wanted man after investigators learned he pawned a GPS unit stolen from the car of an Ohio tourist who was staying at a Music Valley Drive hotel.

South

An immediate, coordinated response to a business alarm on Largo Drive led to the apprehension of five men who are suspected in a series of burglaries.

Officers arrived at the business within 30 seconds. The suspects fled in two separate getaway cars, but were quickly apprehended. The investigation continues.

East

A man was arrested just 20 minutes after he attempted to rob a fast food restaurant on Gallatin Avenue. The suspect entered the business, indicated he had a weapon, and demanded cash from the register. Before the victim could comply, the man stole \$2 a customer had placed on the counter. He fled on foot.

Officers located the would-be robber in the 1100 block of Cahal Avenue. He is charged with attempted aggravated robbery and theft.

During an investigative traffic stop, Officer Chip Fisher detected an odor of marijuana inside the car. A passenger, a convicted felon for robbery and theft, was armed with a loaded revolver. Seized in a subsequent search of the vehicle were 1 ½ ounces of marijuana.

The passenger admitted both the gun and marijuana were his. He was charged with a Crooks with Guns law violation, felony marijuana possession in a drug-free school zone, and felon in possession of a handgun.

North

As Officer Michael Mendenhall was stopping the driver of a car for a traffic violation, a passenger threw a beer bottle out of the window. Officer Mendenhall also spotted a beer bottle on the floorboard. When he asked the 19-year-old passenger to step out of the vehicle, the teenager admitted he had a gun in his waistband. The teenager was charged with unlawful weapon possession, underage alcohol possession, and theft of the weapon which had been reported stolen.

West

A traffic stop for a window tint violation led to the arrests of two men including a convicted felon in possession of a weapon.

After the driver stopped, one of the passengers exited the vehicle and went inside a nearby apartment. Officers soon took him into custody and found two handguns hidden beneath a trash can. Another passenger, a convicted felon, claimed the guns were his. He was also in possession of 21.5 grams of cocaine and 2.5 grams of marijuana.

The driver, who had a suspended license, was also arrested.

Central

Ex-convict Jimmy Lee Horn, 53, who is also on the state's sex offender registry, is accused of forcing a 25-year-old woman into an abandoned house on Scovel Street. She alleges Horn kept her there at knifepoint and raped her. The victim ultimately managed to get away and called police from a nearby payphone. She pointed out the abandoned house to responding officers, who found Horn in the crawl space underneath the structure. He was arrested without incident.

Officer Mike Warren conducted a business check at the Stadium Inn and discovered a registered guest had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear on a drug possession conviction. Officer Warren took the man into custody without incident.

Cold Case Unit

Investigation by the police department's Cold Case Unit has led to the indictment of a federal prisoner for the December 7, 2004, murder of Dashun Terrell Drew outside 149 University Court.

Jermaine Hall Hyler, 27, was returned to Nashville from the United States Penitentiary in Pennington Gap, Virginia, where he has been serving an eight-year sentence for unlawful firearm possession by a convicted felon.

Diligent work by Detective Charles Robinson led to the first-degree murder indictment, which accuses Hyler of shooting Drew, 30, while robbing him. Hyler and Drew were acquaintances. Neither lived in the public housing area where the shooting occurred.

Just more than 12-years after the decomposing body of Michael Dickerson was found in a Joelton ravine, Cold Case detectives have made an arrest for his murder.

Carlos Lemont Lewis, who is 29 now, but was age 16 at the time Dickerson was killed, was taken into custody outside his workplace. He was booked at Juvenile Court on charges of criminal homicide and especially aggravated kidnapping.

Lewis is the first of four suspects expected to be arrested in this case. Prosecutors are asking that the charges against him be transferred from Juvenile to Criminal (adult) Court.

A renewed investigation into this case over the past year by Detective Norris Tarkington shows that Dickerson, 18, was visiting friends on Boyce Court in Bordeaux on December 9, 1996, when he was forced into a car, tortured, and ultimately shot to death. His body was discovered on January 6, 1997, by salvagers working in a ravine off Sulphur Creek Road. The assailants were believed to have been angry at Dickerson's brother and allegedly wanted Michael Dickerson to give them information.

**The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol,
Police, and Investigator of the Month for March 2009**

Patrol Officer of the Month

Central Precinct Officers Thomas Spence & Jonathan Shepherd

Police Officer of the Month

West Precinct Officer Nick Falcone

Investigator of the Month

South Precinct Detective Brad Corcoran

Special Operations Officer of the Month

Special Response Team Officers Daniel Walz & Melvin Brown III

Condolences:

Robert Winter, father of Sergeant Joe Winter, East Precinct, passed away April 1.

The grandmother of Officer Trainee Deon Cartmell, Session 60, passed away March 29.

David Thompson, uncle of Detective Clarence Thompson, Domestic Violence Division, passed away.

Officer Melvin Haley, retired in 1979 after 19 years of service, passed away March 28.

Claude Miller, uncle of Detective Reggie Miller, passed away.

FYI:

Effective April 6, 2009 OFM will begin taking calls to schedule appointments for Schedule "B" and "C" services on light duty vehicles.

Over the past two weeks, General Services Office of Fleet Management successfully conducted a pilot study providing customer appointments for **Schedule "B" and "C" services** on Metro fleet vehicles at the light vehicle shop at Metro Southeast.

With this, drivers can save valuable time through effective scheduling their workday around the service.

Appointment Procedures

- PM appointment desk telephone number is **862- 4167**.
- Appointments can be made by telephone Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 3:00 pm.
- Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 10:00 pm.
- When making the appointment, the driver will be asked to provide basic vehicle/contact information to include: decal number; current odometer reading; name; department and telephone number.

Details of this program to include the types of vehicles included in the program are described in the attached document.

If you have questions regarding these programs, please contact Brian Pate at 862-4167, cell 573-5359 or Stacey Wall at 862-5077, cell 474-1311

Important Information on Your Metro Cigna Benefit – PLEASE READ

To Metro Employees currently enrolled in the Cigna HRA Medical Plan,

Cigna has notified us that there are currently **12,784** employees, pensioners and dependents over the age of 18 that are eligible to complete the confidential assessment and as of April 1st only **453** participants have completed the assessment and received their additional \$200.

Each year, the Metropolitan Government and Employee Benefit Board strive to offer the best medical plans with incentives to our employees, pensioners and dependents. Since 2008, the Cigna HRA medical plan has provided several incentives to each member to encourage and reward a healthier lifestyle and to increase their Medical HRA Fund (money towards your medical expenses). One incentive that Metro offers to Employees and Dependents over age 18 is the Health Risk Assessment. This is a completely confidential assessment that allows the employee and one dependent (spouse or child) over age 18 to earn up to \$200 towards your HRA Fund. This means that you would reduce your out of pocket expenses by \$200. For example, if you have Cigna family coverage your fund balance is \$2,200 to spend for qualifying medical expenses before you pay out-of-pocket. If you complete the HRA your fund increases to \$2,400, you have an additional \$200 to spend before you pay anything and your out of pocket expenses to \$1800.

To help clarify some of the confusion about the incentive we have included a few questions that Metro employees have about the Health Risk Assessment:

Question #1

How confidential is the Health Risk Assessment?

The HRA is completely confidential and is stored within Cigna's system.

Question #2

How do I receive the \$100 or \$200 in my fund once I complete the Health Risk Assessment each year?

January to March – Additional \$100 or \$200 is added at the beginning of April

April to December – Additional \$100 or \$200 is added 3 weeks after completion

Question #3

Why is it important for me and my family to complete the Health Risk Assessment?

The HRA is a tool to help you and your family become more health-conscious and understand the health risk factors that may become an issue in the future. Many Metro employees have found the HRA to be interesting and informative in providing a picture of their overall health. The incentive money is included to help reduce the cost of your out of pocket expenses each year.

Question #4

How many times can I complete the Health Risk Assessment?

Each employee and dependent (Spouse or Child) over the age of 18 can participate each year.

Single Coverage – Employee only can receive \$100 per year

Family Coverage – Employee and one dependent can each earn \$100 for a maximum of \$200 per year

Question #5

How do I complete the Health Risk Assessment?

Go to www.mycigna.com. If you already have an account, simply log in. If you don't, Click "Register" to the bottom left of the page and create an account