



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

May 8, 2009

News from the Chief

The Dean Administration's first-ever capital improvement budget, which was filed today with the Metro Council, contains \$30 million for public safety needs and will significantly benefit the police department.

The spending plan, which is funded through the issuance of bonds, includes money for a new West Precinct, a crime laboratory with DNA and serology testing capability, and supports the planning of two new precincts in Southern Davidson County and Madison.

Despite economic issues locally and nationally, the Mayor and Council have demonstrated their support to grow the police department and enhance its abilities to serve Nashville's citizens. This is particularly true when you consider that today's capital legislation provides for a \$110 million net reduction in government projects approved by past administrations and councils.

As for next fiscal year's operating budget, here is how we believe the police department would be impacted by the city budget proposal presented by Mayor Dean to the Metro Council last week:

- The police department would receive an effective cut of .88% (or \$1.15 million), the smallest budget reduction of any Metro department other than, perhaps, Schools;
- No layoff of presently employed police officers or professional support staff is anticipated;
- The budget should allow us to maintain, through our hiring program, our authorized 1,315 sworn strength;
- All other department expenses will continue to be monitored extremely closely.

I understand and appreciate the disappointment regarding the proposed suspension of increments, longevity, and perfect attendance payments for next fiscal year. I also realize this is the second consecutive year that our "topped out" and open range personnel (nearly 30% of the department) will not see a pay increase. The economic climate we have seen for the past several months in our nation, state, and city is unprecedented in my lifetime and yours.

Nashville has fared better than many other cities, and we are all optimistic that the economy is slowly beginning to show signs of improvement.

The police department was not cut as deeply as other departments because of your absolutely exemplary and vital work. You have my commitment, and that of the senior leadership, to continue advocating for you every day.

Thank you for all that you do. It is our commitment to excellence and service that is making a difference in our community; rest assured, it is being noticed.

For your information, the police department's budget hearing before the Metro Council is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26.

Happenings

The Metropolitan Police Department recognized January, February, and March 2009 Investigators and Officers of the Month during a ceremony at the North Precinct. The department's Professional Support Employees were also honored.

During April, the MPD submitted its entry for the IACP's 2008 Chief's Challenge Award, through which departments are recognized for drunk driving and traffic enforcement. The work of a number of police officers was highlighted in the submission. They were also recognized during the ceremony.

In the DUI arrest category, Officer Shawn Taylor led the pack with 393.



Pictured (l-r) are Officer Shawn Taylor and Chief Ronal Serpas

The police department's Drill & Ceremony Team Thursday performed a final run through of its national competition routine before heading to Washington, D.C., where the team will go up against other law enforcement Drill & Ceremony Teams from across the nation.

The Metropolitan Police Department's Drill & Ceremony Team was judged the nation's best in 2007.



Mayor Karl Dean and Chief Ronal Serpas pictured with the Drill & Ceremony Team

Session 60



Members of Session 60 assist Hermitage Precinct detectives on an article search



Sergeant Bob Allen teaches defensive tactics



Members of Session 60 receive firearms training

Sergeant Mark Garafola Retirement Celebration



Captain Karl Roller presents Sergeant Garafola with a plaque commemorating his 34 years of dedicated service

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Outstanding police work by Hermitage Precinct officers and detectives led to the arrest of a man and his girlfriend in connection with the attempted robbery of the Subway restaurant at 450 Donelson Pike.

Alexa Forkum, 22, of Roxbrough Drive, entered the business at 9 a.m. She demanded money from employees at gunpoint. They ran out the back door. Forkum fled empty handed in a Chevrolet Blazer driven by her boyfriend, Alex Lane, 23, of Lincoya Bay Drive. A description of the getaway vehicle was quickly aired. Officer Charles Drew stopped the suspect SUV a short time later. Forkum and Lane were taken into custody without incident.

During an interview with Detective Jason Rosalia, Forkum and Lane admitted they robbed the Subway for money to pay their bills.

Forkum also admitted she robbed the Circle K at 2011 Elm Hill Pike Wednesday night. During that robbery, she also pointed a handgun at a clerk. The clerk complied and gave Forkum \$45 cash. Forkum said she acted alone in that case.

Forkum is charged with aggravated robbery and attempted aggravated robbery. She is being held in lieu of \$150,000 bond. Lane is charged with attempted aggravated robbery and remains jailed on \$75,000 bond. Lane's arrest history reflects charges for unlawful drug and weapon possession.

Officers responded to reports of a man who was walking around his neighborhood waving a gun in the air. The suspect approached Officer Clay Anderson, Field Training Officer Andrew Vallee and his partner, POI Michael Parman, on Rockwood Drive at Tulip Grove Road. He pointed a handgun toward the officers who immediately ordered him to drop the weapon. After some hesitation, the man complied.

It was later learned that the weapon was an Airsoft pistol. He told officers he thought it was “cool” to carry the gun. He was charged with two counts of aggravated assault against a police officer and marijuana possession.

South

Parolee Jason Mitchell Ward admitted that he is responsible for the March 30th strangulation death of Debbie Lynn Shearer at the Holiday Inn on Crossings Place in Antioch.

Ward, 30, who is jailed in Memphis in connection with a series of armed robberies, made the admission during an interview at the Shelby County Jail with South Precinct Detective Brad Corcoran. Evidence at the crime scene led to the identification of Ward as a suspect.

Ward registered as a paroled ex-convict with the Metropolitan Police Department in February.

Officers responding to an alarm at a miniature golf course on Blue Hole Road in South Nashville wound up arresting a man for breaking into and stealing more than \$1,200 from a nearby church.

Officer David Anderson and his partner, Officer Jason Gaddes, were approaching the golf business when they spotted Tevin Dajuan Taylor, 18, on foot at the intersection of Tusculum Road and Blue Lake Circle. Taylor had what appeared to be small shards of glass on his black T-shirt and was carrying a backpack. The officers detained Taylor for investigation. Inside the backpack was a flashlight that was labeled as belonging to Lighthouse Baptist Church on Blue Hole Road, and \$1271 cash. The money had a post-it-note affixed to it bearing the name of the church’s finance director.

Taylor, who lives in the 4500 block of Packard Drive, subsequently admitted to that burglary only although he is a suspect in several other similar break-ins.

Outstanding investigative work by police department crime scene experts and detectives led to the arrest of a 17-year-old Honduran national for Wednesday’s “stranger” home invasion robbery on Cedar Drive, during which the 36-year-old female victim was bound with electrical cords and gagged with a shirt.

South detectives arrested Leonzo Laenez of 860 Murfreesboro Pike in the parking lot of his apartment complex after forensic evidence collected at the crime scene by Officer Tim Matthews led to his identification. The victim subsequently identified Laenez from a photo line-up.

East

East Precinct detectives arrested three persons for their involvement in a series of street robberies in the lower East Nashville area.

Danzel Richardson, 16, is charged in Juvenile Court with carjacking, unlawful gun possession, and drug possession.

Joshua Allen Gooch, 18, of Stockell Street, admitted his involvement in a number of crimes and is presently charged with four counts of aggravated robbery, two counts of attempted especially aggravated robbery, and one count of auto theft.

Richard Michael Wilson, 19, of South 9th Street, during an interview, implicated himself in the April 24th carjacking of a woman on Mansfield Court.

North

Off-duty Officer Alan Hall spotted a man pulling on car door handles outside his apartment complex. He approached the suspect who admitted he was breaking into vehicles. Officers quickly arrived and took the suspect into custody. He is charged with burglary of a motor vehicle and possession of burglary tools. He is being held in lieu of \$30,000 bond.

West

A man was robbed at gunpoint in the 3700 block of Charlotte Pike. Officers had previously interviewed the suspect on another matter. Due to their earlier efforts, a photo line up was developed. The victim positively identified the man as the person who robbed him. A warrant for aggravated robbery was issued for his arrest.

Officer Eric Richardson stopped a vehicle for excessive window tint. After approaching the vehicle the officer detected an odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search were 38.5 grams of marijuana. The driver was charged with felony drug possession.

Central

Outstanding investigative work led to the arrest of Domenique Harris, 27, who is charged with robbing two women at gunpoint in separate downtown Nashville incidents. In both cases, Harris approached the women and demanded their purses. One of the victims positively identified Harris as the robber. Officers located Harris and took him into custody.

**The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol,
Police, Investigator, and Special Operations Officers
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

Professional Support Employee of the Month for January 2009

Police Identification Specialist Anita Stewart

Professional Support Employee of the Month for February 2009

Secondary Employment Unit Operations Assistant Cornelius Foster

Professional Support Employee of the Month for March 2009

Latent Print Examiner Lisa Addleman

Upcoming Events

The Fraternal Order of Police invite all to attend the annual Police Memorial Service on May 13th honoring officers who have died in the line of duty. The noon service will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 330 5th Avenue North in downtown Nashville.

Mayor Karl Dean and Chief Ronal Serpas will address the gathering while members of the police department will provide musical tributes. Members of the Drill & Ceremony team will also assist in the ceremony.

Join your fellow Law Enforcement Officers from across the state **Friday, May 15th** and carry the flame of hope into Lipscomb University for the 2009 Special Olympics Summer Games Opening Ceremonies.

Runners will meet in front of Kroger on Franklin Road at 3 p.m.

If you are planning to participate please contact Sergeant Anna-Maria Williams at 862-7318.

The inaugural Shoney's 5K Family Fun Run benefiting the Metropolitan Police Department will be held on Saturday morning, June 6, outside LP Field.

Festivities begin at 7 a.m. and are open to all ages. The Kids Fun Run will take place alongside LP Field and begins at 7:45 a.m., followed by the 5K Run at 8:15 a.m. Participants will enjoy either running or walking a scenic loop around historic downtown Nashville, followed by an awards ceremony and fun festival.

To register for the Shoney's 5K Family Fun Run, simply request a form at one of twenty-six Nashville area Shoney's restaurants or visit shoneys.com. All pre-registered race participants will receive a one-of-a-kind T-shirt commemorating the event. The cost to participate in the race is \$20 until May 31; \$25 from June 1 through June 5; and \$30 on race day. Kids, military and police are only \$10.

Following the Fun Run, there will be a family-friendly festival and kid's zone in Lot A in front of LP Field. Activities will include a healthy eating and activity table staffed by Vanderbilt Medical Center, talented balloon artists, giant inflatables and face painting. Each child will receive a commemorative badge. Coca-Cola will provide complimentary beverages.

Congratulations:

Chief Ronal Serpas, and his wife, Jill, are the proud grandparents of Matthew Serpas born April 29 to Christy and Dustin Serpas.



Matthew Henry Serpas

Condolences:

Mary Russell, grandmother of Officer Spencer Harris, Hermitage Precinct, passed away.

Lieutenant Thomas R. McEachron, retired 1984 after 25 years of service, father of Officer Charlie McEachron, South Precinct, passed away.

Sergeant Archie Summers, retired 1981 after 20 years of service, passed away April 25.

Earnest Dumas, father of Detective Jeffery Tharpe, North Precinct, passed away April 26.

Albert Tew, stepfather of Laurie Fleming, Identification Section, passed away April 29.

Sarah Jones, wife of retired Officer Larry Jones, passed away.

Josephine Hooper, grandmother of Shannon Hooper, Central Records Division, mother of Marsha Hooper, former dispatcher, and aunt of retired Sergeant Chip Hooper, passed away May 1.

Sergeant Bill Rogers, retired 1996 after 34 years of service, passed away May 3. His wife, Mary Huey, retired from the department in 1998 after 17 years of service.

Officer Morris Rogers, retired in 1992 after 13 years of service, passed away May 4.

Francis Blanchard, grandfather of Trainee Matthew Moses, Session 60, passed away.

Carolyn Mills, mother-in-law of Officer John Wright, Central Precinct, passed away May 6.

Juanita Jo Peace, mother of retired Detective David Carrell, passed away.