



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

February 15, 2019

## News from the Chief



This afternoon I submitted a Letter to the Editor for publication in The Tennessean. I want to share it with you here:

*To the Editor:*

*Every person, regardless of where you live in Nashville, should take a moment to stop and thank a police officer. A simple greeting on the street, or a wave and a smile, will be well received meaningful gestures to our team. Frankly, this is a tough time to be a police officer. In the midst of daily sometimes agenda-based criticism of the law enforcement profession, nationally and to an extent locally, we are asking more of Nashville police officers than ever before. In recent times, I have asked myself why a young man or woman would want to undertake this profession of true public service as a career. As of today, due to resignations and retirements, we are more than 100 police officers below full staffing. While we will get a boost on April 3 with the graduation of 53 trainees from our academy, and begin a new trainee class next month, we will remain below full staffing during 2019. Nashville needs more police officers. We are hiring every day. If you know of someone who has a gift for public service and helping others, please encourage them to check us out and apply. In the meantime, I am grateful for those who choose to wear the MNPD uniform and protect our community. Nashville's families should be, too. Please let our men and women know that with a brief word or a friendly wave.*

*Steve Anderson  
Chief of Police*

I am fully aware of persons in our community who approach officers every day thanking them for their service. Nevertheless, I think there are some who do not think about the tremendous service you are performing every day. The above letter is intended to remind citizens of you, your commitment and dedication. Thank you for all that you do!

The dedication ceremony of our new police headquarters building at 600 Murfreesboro Pike is scheduled for 10 a.m. on February 28. The ceremony will be held outside the rear entrance. The building will be open for guests to tour after the ceremony. You and your families are invited to the ceremony as your schedules permit.



In recognition of the historic significance of our new police headquarters building, a special commemorative badge will be made available to those who wish to order one. This badge will be an authorized alternate to the standard issue department badge.



If you choose to order a commemorative badge, you may utilize clothing allowance funds or pay Greene's Military directly. Wearing and/or use of the commemorative badge will begin when you receive it. The badge will be permanently retired from service at a later time to be determined. Members who retired in good standing who wish to obtain a commemorative

badge may do so beginning on April 1 by completing a retired credential request form noting that the request is for the commemorative badge. Retiree badges will bear the officer's title at the time of retirement, preceded by the word, "RETIRED".

Commemorative badge lapel pins will be ordered for plain clothes officers and civilian employees.

As we order commemorative badges, Police Supply will be validating existing issued badge inventory.

Please watch your email for instructions on ordering the badges and responding to the mandatory Police Supply inventory.

I am proud of this police department and the work you do. Thank you, again, for all of your efforts.

## **Happenings**

Mayor David Briley and Chief Steve Anderson, in collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office and other federal law enforcement partners, on January 31<sup>st</sup> announced Project Safe Nashville, the city's largest-ever effort to fight gun crime.

A core component of Project Safe Nashville is the creation of a seven-member MNPD Crime Gun Unit, which is working to identify the persons pulling the triggers in related gun crimes wherever they occur. The unit is using information from scientists at the MNPD crime lab, who are using the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) to analyze and track shell casings from crime guns and connect those weapons to similar crimes in Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Based on a 2018 study by Rutgers University, when two shooting events are linked by ballistics evidence through NIBIN, 50% of the time a third shooting event will happen within 90 days.

The seven members of the Crime Gun Unit were, until recently, gang detectives with considerable experience in the investigation of gun crime.

The MNPD's Crime Gun Unit will work closely with the U.S. Attorney's office and the District Attorney's office to support investigations and court proceedings that ensue from arrests made in gun crime cases. Two additional prosecutors have been added to the U.S. Attorney's office to help handle these types of violent crime cases.

Project Safe Nashville is also being supported by 10 ATF agents, two of whom will work directly with the Crime Gun Unit. Eight others are divided among the North, South, Hermitage and East Precincts, parts of which have relatively high rates of incidents of gun-related crime. This collaboration will help MNPD and ATF identify and prosecute persons illegally trafficking firearms in the Nashville area.

The FBI, including MNPD members assigned to the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force, will support the new unit to continue to look closely at local robbery cases involving firearms that impact interstate commerce – robberies of convenience stores and drug stores, for example – so that those suspects, once identified, can be federally prosecuted whenever possible. The TBI will also support the unit when its work relates to crime within the state.



**Chief Anderson holds a nine millimeter semi-automatic pistol that was recovered from the bedroom of a convicted drug felon in 2016 by MNPD Gang detectives during a State of Tennessee probation check. Scientific analysis of the gun showed that it was used in three separate shooting incidents on Westchester Drive, Forest Park Road, and Gwynnwood Drive in 2015. The convicted drug felon was charged in U.S. District Court and is now in federal prison.**



**Microscopic analysis of these shell casings by the MNPD Crime Laboratory linked the same gun to three Nashville shooting incidents.**

## **Officers and Professional Support Employee of the Year**

Chief Steve Anderson on January 18<sup>th</sup> honored eight MNPB members whose outstanding actions during 2018 earned them Employees of the Year recognition.

“Nashville is a safer place and our police department is a better organization because of these eight individuals,” Chief Anderson said. “Identifying award winners in this agency is extremely difficult because of all the great work being performed day after day. I am proud of these eight people and all of the men and women of the police department they represent.”

### **Police Officers of the Year: Benjamin Spees & Alex Lampley**

### **Patrol Officers of the Year: Justin Coyle & Blake McKay**

In the late afternoon of January 12, 2018, Queshan Brooks committed unthinkable crimes. The 24-year-old opened fire on his stepmother outside her Jenkins Court home, as well as her two daughters, ages 5 and 8. The two girls were killed. Twenty minutes later, Brooks carjacked an Impala from a 70-year-old Nashville man, shooting and killing him in the process. He also wounded the murder victim’s passenger.

Less than an hour after the carjacking, Officers Lampley and Spees located the vehicle unoccupied and disabled on I-40 near 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Officer Lampley alertly spotted footprints in the snow and saw a man walking in the distance on 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue toward Charlotte Avenue. Officers Coyle and McKay stopped the man, later identified as Queshan Brooks, and noticed that his shoes had a unique tread, which matched the footprints discovered outside the carjacked Impala.

The teamwork of these four officers ended an extremely violent rampage that had put innocent persons in West Nashville at extreme risk.

### **Precinct Investigator of the Year: Detective William Ashworth**

Detective Ashworth led more than a month of intense investigation into the August 17<sup>th</sup> murders of Bartley Teal and Jaime Sarrantonio outside the Cobra Nashville bar on Gallatin Avenue.

He coordinated efforts with several MNPB investigative components and conducted numerous interviews with victims, witnesses and ultimately three suspects. Two of them, Horace Williamson and Demontrey Logsdon are charged on a number of criminal counts, including first-degree murder, especially aggravated robbery, aggravated robbery and especially aggravated kidnapping.

### **Investigative Services Bureau Investigator of the Year: Detective John Grubbs**

Investigation by Detective Grubbs led to the murder arrest of Shirley Mae Slope, whose 12-year-old daughter was airlifted from Henderson County to Vanderbilt on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and died four days later.

The investigation showed that the 12-year-old was neglected and sick as she traveled with her mother from Louisiana to Ohio. Her condition deteriorated until she became unresponsive while on I-40 in West Tennessee. Detective Grubbs’ excellent work ensured that the girl’s mother would be held accountable for her death, which occurred at a Nashville hospital. She was indicted in 2017 and pleaded guilty to aggravated child neglect in September 2018. The court sentenced Shirley Mae Slope to 15 years.

### **Support Services Bureau Officer of the Year: School Resource Officer Angela Booker**

Officer Booker, a 17-year police department veteran, is the founder of Team 1, a special week-long summer camp for special needs girls. The “TEAM” stands for Togetherness, Empathy, Acceptance and Motivation. Officer Booker used her vacation time to conduct the free summer camp, which she funded with her own money and donations from the community. It was held at Haynes Middle School, where Officer Booker is assigned. Her plans are well in the works for 2019’s Team 1 Camp. We all applaud Officer Booker’s heart and her commitment to make life better for those less fortunate.

### **Professional Support Employee of the Year: Christy Sawyers from Human Resources**

Our department’s reliance on dedicated people like Christy Sawyers was clearly evident during 2018. Even though she was physically away from the office due to her husband’s critical illness, Christy continued to work 10 and 12 hour days, sometimes from a laptop in her husband’s hospital room, to keep our department current with Metro, State and Federal HR guidelines. There were many nights when Christy would come to the office and work until 2 or 3 in the morning to ensure that all employees were paid correctly and that their overtime compensation was accurate. Christy Sawyers is clearly a special behind the scenes person who cares about our city, this police department and her co-workers.



**MNPD Employees of the Year for 2018 are congratulated by Chief Anderson. The eight winners are (L-R) Christy Sawyers, William Ashworth, Alex Lampley, Angela Booker, John Grubbs, Benjamin Spees, Justin Coyle, and Blake McKay.**

### **MNPD Explorers**

Congratulations to our MNPD Explorers who competed in the Explorer Winterfest Competition last weekend in Gatlinburg.

The MNPD Explorers placed 1st in DUI Traffic Stop, 2nd place in Drug Identification, and 3rd place in the Written Exam event.

The event is hosted by the Boy Scouts of America Northeast Georgia Council. This year approximately 3500 explorers competed in various competitions. Do you know a young person interested in joining the Explorers? Contact Officer Bradley Nave at [mnpdexplorers@nashville.gov](mailto:mnpdexplorers@nashville.gov)



## *Precinct News*

### **East**

A joint investigation by East Precinct undercover detectives, LaVergne Police detectives, and DEA task force members into alleged cocaine sales by a LaVergne woman led to the February 13<sup>th</sup> execution of a Rutherford County search warrant and the arrest of the suspect.

Demetrius Monique Brown, 38, of Kingsridge Drive in LaVergne, is jailed in Rutherford County on felony drug and weapon charges.

During a search of Brown's apartment, investigators seized 7.3 ounces of cocaine, three pounds of marijuana, five grams of methamphetamine, 615 ecstasy pills, 753 Xanax bars, four vehicles, one handgun (reported stolen in Clarksville), and \$72,788 cash.

This investigation began with Brown's alleged cocaine sales in East Nashville. LaVergne officers joined the case when it became apparent that Brown's illegal drug activities were based in Rutherford County.



**Seized drugs, cash, and gun**

A young man's mom thanked Community Sergeant Mike Fisher on social media by saying, "For a while now, Clay has had his heart set on becoming a police officer when he grows up. So I made a phone call to our local precinct, and today we had the awesome opportunity to go and get a personal tour of the Metro Nashville East Precinct from a real police officer. He got to ask lots of questions, sit inside a cruiser, see police bicycles, sit on a police motorcycle, and even learn how to use a real radar gun! Massive thanks to Sergeant Mike Fisher for being so gracious and patient and for taking the time out of his busy schedule to give Clay the experience of a lifetime!"





## West

West Precinct undercover officers on February 12<sup>th</sup> arrested a 14-year-old accused armed robber after seeing him walk into a residence in the 4000 block of Indiana Avenue.

Jayemus Daniels was wanted for committing a robbery on the TSU campus. When officers knocked on the door, they smelled a strong odor of marijuana and sought a search warrant. Recovered from inside the residence were three loaded pistols, one of which had been reported stolen, and 133 grams of marijuana. In addition to aggravated robbery, Daniels was charged with unlawful gun possession and marijuana possession for resale. Another person present, Alvin Hinds, 18, was also charged with marijuana possession for resale.

Investigation of a tip by West Precinct undercover detectives led to the January 8<sup>th</sup> arrest of fugitive Johnny Wade Appleton Jr., 39, and the seizure of 57 pounds of marijuana.

During the execution of a search warrant for Appleton's arrest on outstanding money laundering charges, officers detected a strong odor of marijuana inside his 4804 Lynn Drive residence. Seized were 57 pounds of marijuana, 12 vials of marijuana oil, drug paraphernalia, and one handgun.

Appleton is charged with money laundering and conspiracy to deliver marijuana.



**Seized marijuana**

A two-month heroin distribution investigation has landed two convicted drug felons back in trouble.

After identifying Ramell Webster, 34, as being involved in the heroin trade, undercover detectives from the West and East Precincts executed a search warrant at Webster's 1409-B Douglas Avenue home. Found inside were a half-pound of heroin, five guns (two of which were stolen), ammunition, more than \$2,600 cash, and a hydraulic press in the kitchen that was

used to compress heroin into brick form. Webster's 2015 Cadillac sedan was seized under the belief that it was acquired with drug proceeds.

Caddias House, 42, of Murfreesboro, found out that being with his heroin distributing friend at the time of his arrest was not good for him, particularly when he was holding nearly 1,000 Xanax pills as officers approached. The discovery of the pills led West Precinct detectives to enlist the help of the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office in executing a search warrant at House's Murfreesboro apartment. Found inside were 2,500 Xanax pills and \$8,000 cash. House's 2012 Dodge Challenger car was also seized under the belief that it was funded with drug money.

Webster's bond on multiple gun and heroin charges is set at \$151,500. House's bond on the Nashville Xanax charge is set at \$10,000.



**Douglas Avenue heroin, guns, & cash seizures.**



**Murfreesboro Xanax & cash seizures.**

## Madison

At their annual banquet, the Madison Rivergate Area Chamber of Commerce recognized the men and women of the Madison Precinct for their community involvement and outstanding police work which resulted in a 4.4 percent crime reduction in the Madison Precinct in 2018.



**Community Sergeant Henry Particelli accepted the award on behalf of the men and women of the Madison Precinct. He thanked the community for their strong partnership with police.**

## Hermitage

Investigation by Hermitage Precinct undercover detectives resulted in the February 1<sup>st</sup> arrest of convicted felon Kendrick Hutton, 33, and the seizure of 2.5 pounds of marijuana, 13 grams of cocaine, 25 hydrocodone pills, a handgun, and \$810 cash.

After witnessing what appeared to be a drug transaction in a Bell Road parking lot involving Hutton, who was driving a silver Dodge Avenger, detectives initiated a vehicle stop at I-40 and Donelson Pike. Hutton initially pulled over but then drove off at a high rate of speed before bailing from the car in the 500 block of Donelson Pike. He fled on foot, carrying a backpack and grocery bag. After a brief foot chase, Hutton was taken into custody. A loaded nine-millimeter handgun was recovered from Hutton's waistband. Marijuana, cocaine, and pills (all packaged for resale), were recovered from the backpack and grocery bag.

Hutton, who has previous convictions for felony drug possession/sales in Giles County, is now charged with felony drug possession for resale, evading arrest, felon in possession of a handgun, and possession of a firearm in the commission of a dangerous felony.



Seventeen-year-old fugitive Diego Torres, who was wanted for shooting a 19-year-old man in the head in the 14000 block of Old Hickory Boulevard on January 17<sup>th</sup>, is in custody after leading officers on a pursuit in a stolen car through South Nashville and Hermitage.

An undercover officer, who was checking on information that Torres was in the Harding Place/I-24 area, encountered him pulling out of a Harding Place motel parking lot in a stolen Honda sedan. The undercover officer began following the Honda until Torres realized that he had been spotted and accelerated. A pursuit involving officers from the Hermitage and South Precincts ensued, with Torres driving on I-40 to the Old Hickory Boulevard exit. Officers momentarily lost him, before spotting the car again on Bell Road crossing the dam. The pursuit continued into the South Precinct, where officers deployed a spike strip on Antioch Pike near Blue Hole Road. Torres spun out into a field. He and his 17-year-old passenger took off running, but were soon caught by officers. A semi-automatic pistol was recovered from the Honda.

The Honda was stolen on January 20<sup>th</sup> from Tennessee Avenue after the owner left it unattended and running to warm up.

At the time of his arrest today, Torres was wanted for the shooting of Salvador Llamas, 19, in a vehicle.



**Commander Preston Brandimore holds a Certificate of Appreciation from MDHA recognizing the officers for their positive community outreach efforts.**

## **North**

North Precinct detectives on February 8<sup>th</sup> charged five juveniles with criminal homicide for the prior afternoon's fatal shooting of Belmont graduate and local musician Kyle Yorlets outside his home in the 3200 block of Torbett Street.

Under Tennessee law, three of the five can be identified here because they are charged with homicide and they are over the age of 13. The three are Roniyah McKnight, 14, of Clifton Avenue, Diamond Lewis, 15, of Dinwiddie Drive, and Decorrius Wright, 16, of Decatur Street. Also charged are a 12-year-old girl and a 13-year-old boy.

The investigation shows that the five were in a stolen Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck in the alley that runs behind Yorlets' home when they spotted him outside. The juveniles interacted with Yorlets, took his wallet, and ultimately demanded that he surrender the keys to his vehicle. It is believed that he was fatally shot after he refused.

By early that evening, the stolen pickup truck was recovered on Timberland Drive in the Hermitage Precinct. Concerted and coordinated work by the Juvenile Crime Task Force, Youth Services detectives and North Precinct detectives led to information that the teens had traveled to the West Nashville Wal-Mart on Charlotte Pike. Officers went there and apprehended all five. A loaded nine millimeter pistol, which had been reported stolen, was recovered from them. A second loaded and stolen pistol was recovered from inside the store. The vehicle in which they traveled to the Wal-Mart, a Hyundai Santa Fe stolen from Brentwood, was also recovered.

## Central

During the extreme cold in late January, Metro officers across Nashville reached out to homeless individuals, offering transportation to a warm shelter.



**WKRN News-2 accompanied Central Precinct officers as assistance was offered.**

While the investigation into why the chicken crossed the road continues, there is no evidence of "fowl" play after Officer Frank Campbell used an oatmeal cream pie to coax a feathered friend out of the roadway on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Metro Animal Care responded and took the bird to be re-homed.



## **Midtown Hills**

Midtown Hills Precinct officers on January 18<sup>th</sup> arrested 17-year-old armed robber Markavious Battle minutes after he struck a 69-year-old woman in the face with his gun and took her wallet.

The robbery occurred in a parking area of Brentwood Oaks Apartments at 9:20 p.m.

The victim reported that she had just arrived home and opened her car door when Battle, a stranger to her, approached from behind, grabbed her by the arm and said, “give me the money b\*\*\*\*.” She said Battle then hit her in the face with his Glock semi-automatic pistol. The victim surrendered her wallet and Battle ran away.

As officers were on the scene with the victim, they received word that that her credit cards were being used at Wal-Mart’s 5824 Nolensville Pike store. Officers quickly responded there and took Battle into custody. The victim positively identified Battle during a show-up. Battle was carrying the keys to a 2008 Nissan Altima with a temporary tag that was parked in the Wal-Mart lot. Inside the car were the pistol, which contained an extended magazine loaded with 30 rounds, the victim’s social security card and other items from her wallet. Battle was taken to juvenile detention where he was charged with aggravated robbery and unlawful gun possession second offense.

Battle was arrested for aggravated robbery on January 26<sup>th</sup> of last year and was in possession of two stolen pistols, one taken during the burglary of a gun store in Mt. Juliet, the other from a vehicle burglary. In the 2018 case, Battle and two other teens were charged with robbing a 50-year-old man at gunpoint outside his Richards Road apartment. The teens led MNPD and Goodlettsville officers on a pursuit that ended on Rainwood Drive. Battle bailed out of the car and ran. Police dog Haus and his partner, Officer Tommy Smith, tracked Battle to a backyard on Masonwood Drive where he was hiding.

Alert police work led to the arrest of parolee Alcardo Slater, 45, and Kevin L. Packer, 30, a short time after they allegedly robbed a man at gunpoint in the 5600 block of Amalie Drive.

The suspects fled in a white Chevrolet pickup truck. Midtown Hills Precinct Officer Gene Davis soon spotted the suspect vehicle in the Walgreens parking lot at 1809 Antioch Pike. He took the driver, Slater, into custody in the parking lot. Packer fled on foot but was apprehended nearby on Bakertown Road. A handgun was recovered from inside the pickup truck.

Packer is charged with aggravated robbery and possession of a firearm in the commission of a dangerous felony.

Slater, who has prior robbery, cocaine possession, burglary, and theft convictions, is charged with facilitation of aggravated robbery and felon in possession of a gun.

Midtown Hills Precinct Community Engagement Officer Ronald Raynore on February 4<sup>th</sup> decided to take a break and enjoy the nice weather while playing a game of basketball with the kids of Edgehill Homes.



**Officer Raynore playing basketball at Edgehill Homes.**

## **South**

Sergeant Chris Upchurch met a new friend at a Cane Ridge High School basketball game this week. We hope the fascination with the walkie-talkie means a police career might be in this young lady's future!





## Special Operations Division

Accused home burglar Jairo Hernandez, 21, is in the Metro Jail after police dog Ringo and his partner, Officer Spencer Harris, tracked him down on December 28<sup>th</sup> on Blackman Drive.

At 6:30 a.m., officers responded to a burglary call at a home in the 5000 block of Edmondson Pike. The resident said he was awakened by the sound of glass breaking. He said he found a man in the kitchen and fought with him. The burglar fled before police arrived.

Just before noon, officers again flooded the area after receiving a report that the burglar had returned. Midtown Hills Precinct officers were told that he was last seen heading into a wooded area. Officer Harris and Ringo began a track. They found Hernandez hiding in a small shed in the 200 block of Blackman Drive. He is charged with aggravated burglary.



**Officer Harris and Ringo**

A 22-year-old ex-convict from Florida just wasn't able to escape the view of an MNPD helicopter crew after his armed carjacking of a 2017 Honda Accord at Pearl Street & Jo Johnston Avenue at 8:30 p.m.

Phillip Pickett of 2100 Clifton Avenue is charged with aggravated robbery, unlawful gun possession by a convicted felon, and felony evading arrest.

The 33-year-old victim reported that he was at the intersection of Pearl Street and Jo Johnson Avenue when a gunman, subsequently identified as Pickett, knocked on the car window with the pistol and ordered him out of the car. The victim said Pickett demanded his cash and then drove off in the Honda. North Precinct officers spotted the car and tried to stop in at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Jefferson Street. Pickett refused to stop and accelerated. An MNPD helicopter crew followed the Honda from the air to an alley south of Cass Street between 14<sup>th</sup>

and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues North. Pickett got out and ran. The helicopter crew watched as Pickett fled to the back yard of a home in the 1400 block of Clay Street where ground units took him into custody. A pistol was found behind a garbage can next to where Pickett was arrested.

Pickett has cocaine and marijuana convictions in Florida.

After 60 days of rigorous training, two MNPD canine teams were certified by the U.S. Police Canine Association.



**Pictured (l-r) are Officer Brian Manning w/partner Maximus, MNPD Canine Trainer Officer Mark Sydenstricker, and Officer Austin Bass w/partner Cash.**

Sergeant Chris Warner and his canine partner Gunner visited the YMCA's East Trinity Lane day care. Sergeant Warner explained how Gunner's special training helps keep us all safe. Gunner and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



## Specialized Investigations Division

A Rutherford County man who would travel to Nashville to deal heroin is now jailed in Murfreesboro as the result of a joint investigation led by the MNPD's Specialized Investigations Division with assistance from the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office.

Willie Landriel Norris, 45, a convicted cocaine felon, was taken into custody at his Antebellum Drive home in Murfreesboro. Recovered during a search of the house were \$58,000 cash, 14 guns, two of which had been reported stolen, more than 10 ounces of heroin, 7 grams of cocaine, 10 ounces of marijuana, 100 various pills, 194 suboxone strips, and numerous items of drug paraphernalia related to the repackaging of drugs.

Subsequent searches at a number of Rutherford County storage units linked to Norris led to the seizure of 12 vehicles, which are alleged to have been acquired through drug proceeds.

Norris is charged with possessing heroin and marijuana for resale, and gun possession in the commission of a felony.



A two-year investigation into suspected cocaine/meth distributor and fugitive Esteban Valencia-Rodriguez by the MNPD's Major Case Task Force led to his arrest as he sat inside a pickup truck in the 4600 block of Nolensville Pike.

Valencia-Rodriguez, 34, was indicted in May 2018 for engaging in a Nashville cocaine selling conspiracy but managed to elude capture. With him in the truck was Francisco Miranda-Mojica, 21, along with 8.2 pounds of crystal meth, 16 grams of cocaine, more than one-half pound of marijuana, and a .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol with an extended magazine.

Valencia-Rodriguez and Miranda-Mojica, who gave their address as 1505 Gasser Drive in Antioch, are jailed on multiple felony drug counts.

## **Domestic Violence Division**

Due to a generous donation of furniture by an MNPD officer, the Family Intervention Program was able to assist a family in need. A special thank you to Domestic Violence Division Sergeant Chris Bryant for delivering the items.



**Sgt. Bryant with the grateful family.**

## **Juvenile Crime Task Force**

Juvenile Crime Task Force officers on February 11<sup>th</sup> arrested six teenagers as they recovered a Ford Edge SUV stolen from Franklin and a nine millimeter pistol stolen from Brentwood.

A dispute between two groups of juveniles earlier in the day led to a report of the Ford Edge traveling in front of a home on Claymille Boulevard with armed occupants inside. Task Force officers quickly located the vehicle and tried to stop it. The driver sped away. A short time later, the SUV was found parked at a gas station near the intersection of Moormans Arm Road and Whites Creek Pike. The six teens inside, an 18-year-old, a 17-year-old two 16-year-olds, and two 15-year-olds were detained. The 17-year-old was carrying the stolen pistol. He was charged with vehicle theft, theft of the gun and unlawful gun possession. All the others were charged with vehicle theft. In addition, the 18-year-old, Marnesha Johnson, was charged with contributing to the delinquency of minors.

The greatly concerning combination of minors, stolen vehicles and guns continued to present itself.

On February 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m., Juvenile Crime Task Force (JCTF) officers were in the area of South 4<sup>th</sup> Street in East Nashville when they saw several minors standing next to a stolen

2007 Nissan Pathfinder. It had been taken the evening before from a gas station in the 700 block of McFerrin Avenue after the owner left it running and unattended. When the Pathfinder was stolen, it contained two pistols and a rifle.

As JCTF officers approached the Pathfinder, the minors began to run away. After a brief foot chase, eight teens ranging in age from 13 to 16 were taken into custody. While none of the eight admitted to driving the Pathfinder, they all admitted to being inside it. One of the minors, a 13-year-old, was carrying a stolen pistol that was taken out of a vehicle on Stratford Avenue on February 1. After the eight teens were in custody, officers walked their flight path and recovered another pistol under an I-24 overpass along with the keys to the Pathfinder.

The eight teens are charged as follows:

- \*16-year-old boy with vehicle theft;
- \*15-year-old boy with vehicle theft and evading arrest;
- \*15-year-old boy with vehicle theft and evading arrest;
- \*14-year-old boy with vehicle theft and marijuana possession;
- \*15-year-old boy with vehicle theft and evading arrest;
- \*13-year-old boy with vehicle theft, unlawful gun possession, and possession of a stolen gun;
- \*13-year-old boy with vehicle theft and evading arrest;
- \*13-year-old boy with vehicle theft.

The eight teens were taken to juvenile detention.

Investigative work by the MNPB's Juvenile Crime Task Force has taken three more pistols away from teenage hands.

After receiving a report of a 16-year-old having guns at his S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street apartment, task force officers went there and knocked on the door. They smelled marijuana while on the front porch and heard persons moving inside. While they waited, the 16-year-old's mother arrived and let the officers in. During a check of the apartment, three pistols, one of them stolen out of Smyrna, were found in a bathroom closet. The 16-year-old admitted to placing them there. He was charged with three counts of unlawful gun possession and theft.

The same 16-year-old was arrested at the age of 14 on a charge of criminal homicide for the shooting death of a man in May 2017.



Investigative work by the MNPD's Juvenile Crime Task Force, in two separate cases on January 10<sup>th</sup>, led to the arrest of two teens and the recovery of two stolen guns.

After receiving a report of a 17-year-old having a handgun inside his Airways Circle apartment, task force officers went there and knocked on the door. The teen came to the door and officers smelled a strong odor of marijuana. During a subsequent search of the residence, officers recovered a stolen nine millimeter handgun, two realistic looking airsoft guns (including an AK47 replica), a small amount of marijuana, and a mask. The 17-year-old was charged in Juvenile Court with unlawful handgun possession, theft, and marijuana possession.

In the second case, task force officers were in the 3900 block of Clifton Avenue, where several stolen vehicles have recently been recovered, when they saw a group of young persons, including a 17-year-old, run from the area. Officers saw the teen throw a handgun over a fence. After taking him into custody, they recovered a nine millimeter pistol that had been reported stolen from a vehicle on Monday. The 17-year-old was charged in Juvenile Court with unlawful handgun possession, theft, and trespassing.

Just eleven days into the New Year, the Juvenile Crime Task Force has taken 14 guns off the streets. Since the task force began last February, 201 guns have been recovered.



## Retirement Celebration

Shawn Nidiffer celebrated 30 years of service



**Chief Anderson presents Officer Nidiffer with a commemorative plaque.**

Sergeant John Nicholson celebrated 25 years of service



**Deputy Chief Brian Johnson presents Sgt. Nicholson (r) with a commemorative plaque.**

Mounted Patrol Officer Greg Jones celebrated 33 years of service



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Anderson, Officer Jones, and Sgt. Luke Merithew.**

Officer Randy Combs celebrated 24 years of service



**Officer Combs receives a commemorative plaque from Chief Anderson.**



## **Congratulations:**



Officer Clay Olive, South Precinct, and his wife welcomed their daughter, Valerie Quinn Olive, on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Officer Ryan Henehan, Traffic Unit, and his wife welcomed their daughter, Ryleigh Lane Henehan, on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Detective Gilbert Mana, Domestic Violence Division, and his wife welcomed their daughter, Zoe Claire, on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Nate Myers, South Precinct, and his wife, Jaqueline, welcomed their daughter, Jasmyn Alexandra Myers, on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Officer Gabriel Vasquez, Hermitage Precinct, and his wife, Megan, welcomed their daughter, Juliana Claire, on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Andrew Ramirez, Midtown Hills Precinct, and his wife, Samantha, welcomed their son, Jaxon Alexander Ramirez, on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Kevin Reynolds, North Precinct, and his wife, Brittany, welcomed their daughter, Hannah Rose Reynolds, on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Detective Ben Winkler, Specialized Investigations Division, and his wife, Meredith, welcomed their son, Jacob Benjamin, on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

School Resource Officer Steven Folliard and his wife, Sarah, welcomed their daughter, Collins Elizabeth Folliard, on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sergeant Dayton Wheeler, North Precinct, and his wife welcomed their twin sons, John Hudson and James Easton, on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Condolences:**

Harold Sterling Watkins Sr. and Olwen Elizabeth Watkins, the father and mother of retired Deputy Chief and current Domestic Violence Division employee Louise Kelton, both passed away one day apart. Her father died on December 30<sup>th</sup> and her mother passed away on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Robert John Pachciarz, the father of Sergeant Justin “Luke” Pachciarz, Madison Precinct, passed away on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Randall Boatman, the father-in-law of Officer Chris Tuberville, Criminal Warrants Division, passed away on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

James Lucion Linder, the father of retired Detective Patty Schiele and father-in-law to her husband, retired Captain Mike Schiele, passed away on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

George Evanoff, the father-in-Law of Madison Precinct Commander Sebastian Gourdin passed away on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Raymond Lee Edwards, grandfather of Sara Edwards, Records Division, passed away.

Eugene G. Thomas, the father-in-law of Detective Mike Windsor, East Precinct, passed away on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mark Moreland, the step-father of Officer Geoff Daugherty, Criminal Warrants Division, passed away on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Deanna Poteete, 48, the daughter of retired Officer Loyd Poteete, passed away on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sharon White Allen, the sister of Officer Dion White, Central Precinct, passed away on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Retired Officer Larry Dickens passed away on January 27<sup>th</sup>. He retired in 1994 after 19 years of service.

Emily Maxine Spaulding, the grandmother of Sergeant John McWright, MDHA Task Force, passed away.

Inez “Nina” Brockmann, the step-mother of Captain Rita Brockmann-Baker, Support Services Division, passed away on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Samuel Hill, the father of retired Officer Susan Franks and father-in-law of retired Officer Mike Franks, passed away on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Buchanan, the grandfather of Sergeant Michael Buchanan, Central Precinct, passed away on February 12<sup>th</sup>