

April 29, 2019

News from the Chief



"If the Draft was epic, then so was the job MNPD did."

That was a message to me Sunday from Butch Spyridon, President and CEO of the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation. He is absolutely correct. The 2019 NFL Draft was truly historic, and our officers' work during the three-day event, the setup in the days before it, and during Saturday morning's annual Rock 'n' Roll Marathon was truly exceptional. It is estimated that

600,000 persons attended the Draft from Thursday to Saturday. The Marathon had 30,000 runners to register. The meticulous plan put in place by our Special Events team to keep everyone safe required extraordinary manpower and long hours. I know the work was physically tiring, but the men and women of this police department shined each day. As I walked through the Draft crowd on Friday evening, I heard constant compliments about your work and helpfulness. I heard similar compliments at the starting line for the Marathon Saturday morning. We all witnessed Nashville history last week. Each of you played a role in Nashville being remembered so positively while on the national stage. I am proud of this police department and my colleagues. I sincerely thank you. Photos from the monumental weekend are at the end of this column.

Mayor Briley will deliver the annual State of Metro address tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the downtown library. Details of his proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-20 are expected to be part of the address. Mayor Briley has already said that he will be recommending pay improvements for Metro employees.

Please do not forget that applications are now being accepted by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee for officers to receive college tuition reimbursement through the Nashville Police Support Fund. The deadline to apply is May 10. The electronic application can be accessed at this link: <u>Metro Nashville Police Support Fund Scholarship</u> <u>Application</u>

The 11th annual Shoney's 5K Family Fun Run & Festival, benefiting the Nashville Police Support Fund, will be held on Saturday morning, May 18th, at Nissan Stadium. Through the generosity of Shoney's CEO David Davoudpour, who personally matches entry fees dollar for dollar, nearly \$200,000 has been raised for the fund since this event began in 2009. Seventy higher education grants totaling \$90,570 have been awarded from the fund thus far. Please consider joining us for the Fun Run and festival on May 18th. At the conclusion of the 5K, a full buffet breakfast will be served in Nissan Stadium's Lot T. A registration form and more information is available at this link: https://www.shoneys.com/5k-fun-run-festival/



















Joining Chief Anderson at an April 16th public safety news conference prior to the NFL Draft downtown: NFL Senior Vice President Cathy Lanier, U.S. Attorney Don Cochran, FBI Agent Matt Espenshade, TBI Director David Rausch, Titans President Steve Underwood and Tennessee Safety Commissioner Jeff Long.



Happenings

Annual Award Ceremony

The MNPD on April 24th proudly recognized 100 citizens and officers during our annual awards ceremony. Among those receiving awards were Waffle House hero James Shaw Jr., and Lydia French, who spotted the Waffle House gunman the next day going into the woods.



Among the officers receiving awards were Alex Lampley, Blake McKay, Benjamin Spees and Justin Coyle, whose coordinated work led to the arrest of the man who is charged with killing his two step sisters, ages 5 and 8, and a 70 year-old carjacking victim.



Training Academy

The MNPD grew by 53 officers on April 4th as the trainees who entered the academy last October graduated from 5 ¹/₂ months of rigorous classroom and physical instruction.

Mayor Briley and Chief Anderson addressed the graduates and presented them with their badges during the ceremony.

The graduates will spend the next six months riding with Field Training Officers and rotating among the MNPD's eight precincts before policing on their own.



Mayor Briley swearing in the graduating class.

Session 86 Awards

<u>Academic Excellence</u> Officer Christopher Beery

Officer Christy Dedman Spirit Award Officer Bailee Hickman

> <u>Physical Fitness Award</u> Officer Alexander Hartle

Officer Michael Petrina Leadership Award Officer Donovan Coble

> Law Award Officer Daniel Fuentes

<u>Firearms Award</u> Officer Steven Begley

<u>Top Cop Award</u> Officer Donovan Coble Prior to graduation, the Behavioral Health Services Division on March 30th held Family Day for Session 86 at the MNPD Training Academy. Thirty-one family members attended the orientation.



Session 87

Mayor David Briley and Chief Steve Anderson on April 1st welcomed 51 police officer trainees at the MNPD Training Academy. Graduation is scheduled for August 29th.



National Victims' Rights Week

Chief Anderson on April 7th spoke at Nashville's recognition of National Victims' Rights Week. This year's theme: "Honoring Our Past. Creating Hope for the Future." Victims in our city are comforted and are not alone.



Collegiate Citizen Police Academy

24 young men and women on April 17th graduated from the 4th session of our national award-winning Collegiate Citizen Police Academy.



Easter Egg Hunts

Officer Trainees attended Thelma Harper's 36th annual "Kids are Special Too" Easter Egg Hunt and assisted children with all the fun and games.



MNPD Mounted Patrol and Community Engagement officers attended the 16th annual Southeast Nashville Easter Egg event.



And that moment when you get to relax after a busy holiday weekend...



Passover

For the 25th year, the MNPD is assisting the congregation of the West End Synagogue in its Passover celebration. Chief Anderson on April 19th met with Rabbi Joshua Kullock to buy the congregation's bread and leavened products. Rabbi Kullock will buy the items back after Passover.



Safe Place Program

MNPD's LGBTQ liaison Officer Catie Poole on April 11th launched the Safe Place Program, first begun by the Seattle Police Department, where persons can safely wait as a police officer responds to a reported hate crime call.

Officer Poole visited Local Honey, 2009 Belmont Boulevard, Tribe, Play, and Suzy Wong's House of Yum, all in the 1500 block of Church Street, and the Oasis Center on Charlotte Avenue. More program participants will be added in the coming weeks.



Awards for Excellence in Law Enforcement

From violent crime to major drug interdiction, these four MNPD investigators received Awards for Excellence from U.S. Attorney Don Cochran.



Pictured (l-r) are Sgt. David Kautzman, Sgt. Joe Winter, U.S. Attorney Don Cochran, Det. Gabe Acevedo, and Sgt. Chris Turner.

Music City Hitmaker of the Year

East Precinct Officer Chris Valdez was named Music City Hitmaker of the Year by the Convention and Visitors Corporation. Officer Valdez was nominated by a stranded motorist for whom he changed a blown tire. Mayor David Briley and Belmont University President Bob Fisher presented the award to Officer Valdez.



Pictured (I-r) are Chief Steve Anderson, Mayor David Briley, Officer Chris Valdez, East Precinct Commander David Imhof, and Belmont University President Bob Fisher.

Voices from the Garden

Voices from the Garden: A solemn but special ceremony on March 29th as the city remembers the 23 children in Nashville who died by homicide in 2017-18. Each family was recognized and comforted.



Youth Outreach

Juvenile Court Judge Sheila Calloway on March 28th told Metro Council members that community assistance is imperative to keep at-risk kids on the right track.



That evening Judge Calloway and Chief Anderson appeared together at an event for Nashville Inner City Ministry, a program based in East Nashville that provides year 'round mentoring and tutoring for at-risk youth.



International Law Enforcement Educators & Trainers Association Conference

More than 700 persons from eight countries attended the annual International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association Conference March 17th - March 23rd. Courses offered included seminars on officer wellness, firearms, advanced tactics, leadership, and threat assessments.

MNPD Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Director Dr. Carol Harp, Police Advocacy & Support Section (PASS) supervisor David Kennington, Retired Sergeant Greg Lee, and Central Precinct Sergeant Michael Gooch presented a four hour course on Officer Wellness and Peer Support on Friday March 22nd. PASS Counselor Matt Ford also attended the conference.



Mock Interviews

Public Affairs Director Don Aaron was invited to MTSU on April 5th to conduct mock job interviews with students nearing graduation. The students will be entering the job market as early as this summer.



National Pet Day

On National Pet Day we were pleased to introduce 2 of our 4-legged team members who work hard every day on behalf of Nashville's families. Meet Cash, in front of his favorite musician by the same name, and Nash. These guys are among the MNPD's 27 trained canines.



Precinct News

East

Nashvillian Nathaniel Key who was given two 7-year probated sentences in July 2017 for selling cocaine, is back in the Metro Jail under a \$375,000 bond, this time for dealing heroin.

East Precinct undercover detectives, aware that drug transactions were taking place in the area of Gallatin Pike and Gillock Street, were conducting surveillance when they saw Key drive into the area. Another vehicle waiting for him followed as Key drove to a nearby market at Gallatin Pike & Iverson Avenue. Detectives moved in as the two parties met to conduct the heroin transaction.

A search warrant executed at Key's 917 Matthews Avenue home led to the discovery of \$43,700, believed to be the proceeds of drug sales, more than a half pound of pink heroin, 6 ounces of meth, 24 grams of crack cocaine, 29 grams of powder cocaine, 1 gram of black tar heroin, and 3 pistols. Key is facing multiple drug and gun charges.

Key, 37, was convicted in 2001 of attempted 1st degree murder, for which he received a 17-year sentence.



West

West Precinct detectives have charged three teenagers with aggravated robbery for the March 26th carjacking of a 32-year-old woman who is five months pregnant.

Lamarsha McKnight, 17, Taveonne Norbitt, 16, and Lamonte Westbrooks, 15, were taken into custody after they bailed from the victim's Chevrolet Equinox SUV at 14th Avenue North & Jackson Street as an MNPD helicopter crew watched from above. Ground units from the Juvenile Crime Task Force and the North Precinct made the arrests.

The victim told officers that she was traveling near Thunderbird Avenue and Westboro Drive in West Nashville when a teenage girl and two teenage boys walked out into the road and flagged her down. The girl asked to use the victim's telephone. The victim let the three teens into her vehicle and drove to a church parking lot on Westboro Drive to allow her phone to be used. Once in the parking lot, the victim said one of the boys pulled out a pistol, demanded her belongings and said, "Don't make me shoot you." She said the other boy was also armed. The victim said she was ordered out of the Equinox and the teens fled in her SUV.

The victim ran to nearby market on Robertson Avenue and called police. Officers from the Juvenile Crime Task Force, West Precinct, North Precinct and the helicopter crew immediately began looking for the SUV.

No guns were found in the vehicle or with the teens when they were apprehended. All three were taken to juvenile detention.

Norbitt was arrested for aggravated robbery in December 2017 for robbing a woman of her purse on 15th Avenue South.

Coordinated police work on April 1st led to the arrest of convicted felon Marvell Thomas, 31, after he and an accomplice forced their way into a home in the 5900 block of Morrow Road where shots were fired during an apparent drug related robbery.

The victim reported that Thomas held him at gunpoint while the second man stole items from the residence. As Thomas left, he fired a shot toward the man. The suspects also confronted a woman outside the house before driving off in a rented silver Toyota Camry. When she followed them in her vehicle, they fired shots toward her. She was able to provide police with the license plate number of the Camry.

Officers reached the rental company which provided the GPS coordinates for the Camry. A police helicopter pilot then located the suspect vehicle while officers on the ground followed. The Camry crashed on Gallatin Pike at Douglas Avenue. Thomas was taken into custody after a brief foot pursuit. A semi-automated pistol and a backpack taken from the victims' residence were recovered from inside the Camry. Methamphetamine was recovered from Thomas' person. Thomas, who admitted to being at the residence, was positively identified as the robber.

Thomas, who has previous convictions for aggravated robbery, sexual battery, and felony drug possession, is now charged with aggravated robbery, kidnapping, aggravated burglary, aggravated assault, assaulting a police officer, evading arrest, felon in possession of a handgun, gun possession during the commission of a dangerous felony, and sex offender registration violations.

Madison

Months of diligent investigative work into the senseless murder last August of Nashvillian Kendall Rice led to the indictment of Demontrey Logsdon and Horace Williamson III on charges of first-degree murder and aggravated robbery. Additionally, Logsdon and Williamson are each indicted on a charge of especially aggravated robbery for shooting Angel Gonzales-Bernis, 40, at Falcon View Apartments on E. Palestine Avenue just minutes after Rice was killed. Gonzales-Bernis survived.

Rice, 31, was on his way to work at 5 a.m. on August 14th, walking from his home to catch a bus on N. Gallatin Pike, when a dark sedan drove up behind him in the 100 block of Alta Loma Road. According to a witness, two men shot Rice and fled. He died at the scene. His personal belongings were missing. At 5:15 a.m., Gonzales-Bernis was shot during a robbery in the parking lot of Falcon View Apartments.

Logsdon, 21, and Williamson, 28, have been in jail since last August. They were indicted in September on a number of criminal counts, including first-degree murder, especially aggravated robbery, and especially aggravated kidnapping for the shooting deaths of Bartley Teal and Jaime Sarrantonio outside the Cobra Nashville Bar on August 17, 2018.

Williamson was arrested on the evening of August 17th and charged with aggravated kidnapping, aggravated assault and unlawful gun possession for forcing his girlfriend to go with him at gunpoint after she had asked a couple to give her a ride to get away from Williamson. He is also charged with aggravated robbery for the August 12th robbery/carjacking of a man in Bellevue.

Logsdon was arrested on August 20th and charged with aggravated kidnapping for accompanying Williamson when he forced his girlfriend to go with him at gunpoint.

A third man connected to all of this, Lacory Lytle, is also facing a new indictment charging him with fraudulent use of a credit card, theft, and identity theft in regard to victim Rice, and fraudulent use of a credit card in regard to victim Gonzales-Bernis.

Lytle, 25, was arrested on August 20th on charges of felony identity theft, fraudulent use of a credit card, and theft. Those charges concerned his use of a credit card of one of the surviving victims in the Cobra Bar case.

The investigation into the shootings of Rice and Gonzales-Bernis was headed by Madison Precinct Detective James Davis, who was assisted by his fellow Madison Precinct detectives, MNPD Detective & electronics expert Chad Gish, and scientists at the MNPD Crime Lab. Assistant District Attorneys Kristen Kyle-Castelli and Megan King are prosecuting these cases.

Community Sergeant Henry Particelli was recognized for his participation in the Madison- Rivergate Songs and Stories senior citizen events, where he has performed his self-written song about policing "The Good Guys" on several occasions.



Hermitage

Officers Ricki Armstrong and Tony Mingsing were patrolling the Lebanon Pike/Spence Lane are when they stopped to visit with two retirement community members who were out enjoying the nice weather.



Officers organized and participated in Earth Day activities at JC Napier/Tony Sudekum homes.



<u>North</u>

Officers responded to a residential burglary at 512 Hume Street and located Astin Hill in an alley. Hill matched the suspect description of the burglary suspect and officers detained him to conduct a show-up with the property owner, who positively identified Hill as the person who entered and stole property from his home.

During an interview with North Precinct Detectives, Hill admitted to three other burglaries. He burglarized two of the four homes twice. Along with six aggravated burglary charges, Hill was also charged with four counts of motor vehicle burglary.

<u>Hill gained access to all four homes because he found spare house keys in the vehicles he</u> <u>burglarized.</u> Hill was sentenced to six years at thirty percent for the six burglaries, four auto burglaries, and fraudulent use of a credit card.

Central

Downtown Nashville welcomed a few hundred thousand visitors this month! The men and women of the Central Precinct are proud of the entire department and city for hosting a safe and successful NFL Draft & Rock 'n' Roll Marathon.

The Collegiate 100 of Tennessee State University hosted by Central Precinct Community Sergeant Rickey Bearden and North Precinct Officer Paxton Montgomery lead to an informative discussion about community policing and engagement.



Midtown Hills

While undercover detectives were in the area of Radnor Street due to recent thefts involving a maroon SUV, they spotted a maroon KIA occupied by five young persons.

The driver backed into a stop sign and drove off erratically onto Nolensville Pike where it then struck another vehicle. Detectives apprehended four of the five suspects, all juveniles. The KIA SUV had been reported stolen from Dickson, Tennessee in March. A handgun was also recovered nearby after being tossed by one of the juveniles.



Families at Edgehill Homes are thoroughly enjoying their new blue painted basketball court and improved playground thanks to the volunteer efforts of Midtown Hills Precinct officers. Thanks to Nashville Fire Department personnel who joined officers to paint the basketball court!





South

South Precinct detectives have charged 17-year-old Antwan Palmer Jr. and 19-year-old Talisia Muse with the April 5th armed carjacking outside a South Nashville apartment complex.

The 23-year-old victim told officers that he was outside the Burger King restaurant, 363 Harding Place, at 6 p.m. when Palmer and Muse approached and asked him for a ride to a Wallace Road apartment complex. Once there, the victim said he was pistol whipped and robbed of his 2006 gray Cadillac. He also said a shot was fired at his feet as Palmer and Muse fled.

Responding officers learned that the victim was financing the Cadillac from a local auto lot. Staff there tracked the car to Lavergne. Lavergne Police located the Cadillac and tried to stop it. Palmer took off and led Lavergne officers on a pursuit before crashing on Stonecrest Parkway in Smyrna. Both Palmer and Muse were taken into custody uninjured at the crash scene. A .22 caliber pistol was recovered from the Cadillac. It was reported stolen from a gun store in Chattanooga.

Palmer is charged at juvenile detention with aggravated robbery, unlawful gun possession, theft, and driving without a license. Muse is charged with carjacking, theft, gun possession during a violent crime, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

A few of our South Precinct officers recently had the privilege of spending time with some Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts during their cleanup project at Southeast Park. The girls learned about policing and got to check out the patrol cars. Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee Troop 285 also presented officers with very thoughtful and sweet thank you notes, along with Girl Scouts cookies.





Sergeant Chris Upchurch, Officer Mike Passaro, Officer Terry Miller, and Officer Nakia Reid participated in International Day at Antioch High School. They also appreciated receiving cookies from Antioch Middle School Girl Scout Troop 5967.



Warrants Division

Congratulations to college students Desiree Randall (The University of North Carolina at Pembroke), Savannah Starbuck (Middle Tennessee State University) and Javonte Jefferson (Tennessee State University) for completing their three month internship with the MNPD Criminal Warrants Division.



Pictured (l-r) are Barbara Reed, Captain Randy Hickerson, Javonte Jefferson, Desiree Randall, Savannah Starbuck, Sergeant Steve Brady, Lieutenant Jeff Bauer, and Jamie Thompson.

Domestic Violence Division

Members of the Domestic Violence Division's Office of Family Safety and the Nashville Children's Alliance last month attended the 19th Annual Alliance of Hope International Conference.

The conference focused on trauma-informed practices dealing with child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, human trafficking and domestic violence.



The Family Intervention Program and the Office of Family Safety on April 24th participated in Denim Day, which stemmed from a 1998 Italian Supreme court decision that overturned a rape conviction because the 18-year-old victim was wearing tight jeans at the time of the assault.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Denim Day is a call to action for all people to come together by wearing denim as a visible sign of protest against sexual violence, support survivors, and educate others about all forms of sexual violence.



Domestic Violence Division Captain Michelle Richter, detectives, and personnel attended the YWCA Take a Stand Against Racism event on April 25th.



Specialized Investigations Division

Officer Chris McIsaac and his partner Bane found a kilo of cocaine concealed in the trunk of a rented Kia Rio traveling on I-40 en route from Texas to Ohio. Tara Hesson was stopped for traveling 80 mph in a 70 mph zone. She and Jason Hesson are jailed on felony cocaine charges.



Juvenile Crime Task Force

Members of the Juvenile Crime Task Force took two suspected robbers into custody after locating them in their Toyota getaway vehicle at the Target store parking lot on Charlotte Pike.

Mustafa E. Ahmed, 17, of Maudina Avenue, is charged at Juvenile Court with three counts of aggravated robbery. Asama A. Abuhamda, 19, also of Maudina Avenue, is charged with 3 counts of acting in concert to robbery.

The two are accused of robbing a 26-year-old woman as she walked to her car in the parking lot of Paddock Place shopping center on White Bridge Pike at 8:25 p.m. They are also charged with robbing a 23-year-old man in the parking lot of Miss Saigon restaurant on Charlotte Pike earlier in the evening, and of robbing a 30-year-old woman in the parking lot of Old Navy on Charlotte Pike the day before. In two of the cases, the robber asked to use the victims' phones before showing a gun and robbing them.

Juvenile Crime Task Force officers on April 4th recovered a stolen and loaded 9 millimeter pistol from a home on 21st Avenue North after receiving information that a teen at the location was likely armed. When officers knocked on the door, they found five juveniles ranging in age from 12 to 17 at the residence without adult supervision. They also detected an odor of marijuana coming from inside.

The juveniles were detained while a search warrant was obtained. The pistol found in the home was stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Michigan Avenue last December. A 16-year-old present was arrested on charges of 2^{nd} offense unlawful gun possession and theft. He was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia in relation to a small digital scale that was found.

While officers were there, the adult resident, Sarah McWilliams, 40, arrived. She was issued a state misdemeanor citation charging her with contributing to the delinquency of minors in that this was the second time a juvenile was found unlawfully with a gun during the execution of a search warrant at her home. The first time was in 2018.

Special Operations Division

Operation Incognito distracted driving initiative on April 7th with the Tennessee Highway Patrol and the Tennessee Highway Safety Office resulted in 66 stops, 33 citations, 33 warnings, one citation for texting, and eleven for other distractions. Spotters on a bus looked for violators and called for officers to make stops.



Behavioral Health Services

The United States Department of Justice released a report focusing on the mental health and safety of the nation's federal, state, local and tribal police officers. The MNPD's approach to ensuring employee mental health and wellness is included in the publication <u>Law</u> <u>Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Programs: Eleven Case Studies</u>, which is designed to provide an overview of multiple successful and promising law enforcement mental health and wellness strategies with the joint aims of informing Congress, state and local government officials, and the law enforcement field.

"Our police department's Behavioral Health Division, headed by Dr. Carol Harp, does amazing behind the scenes work by providing such services as critical incident debriefings for employees and making counseling sessions available as needed," Chief Steve Anderson said. "Their work is vitally important to an overall healthy police department."

The report was published by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS office) as required by the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017.

"A damaging national narrative has emerged in which law enforcement officers – whether federal, state, local, or tribal – are seen not as protectors of communities but as oppressors," said COPS Office Director and former Knoxville Police Chief Phil Keith. "In this environment, where an inherently stressful job is made more so by a constant undercurrent of distrust and negative public opinion, the risks to officer wellness are exacerbated. This report is an important measure and reflection in our ongoing commitment to protect those who protect us."

Background & Recruitment

Sergeant Clifton Knight met future police officers while at his booth at the NFL Experience at Nissan Stadium during the draft.



These officers, who graduated from our academy last October, are now policing on their own! Want to join them? We are hiring!! <u>http://www.joinmnpd.com</u>



Retirement Celebration

Information and Technology Director Richy Vaughn celebrated 40 years of service.



Sergeant Steve Linn celebrated 26 years of service



Congratulations:

Chief Anderson on April 19th named 27-year MNPD veteran John Singleton the new Director of Information Technology. John succeeds former IT Director Richy Vaughn who retired last month after 40 years of service.



Pictured (l-r) are Administrative Services Deputy Chief Damian Huggins, John Singleton, and Chief Anderson.

Births:



Undercover North Precinct Sergeant Dayton Wheeler is the proud dad of recently born twin sons, Easton and Hudson.



Condolences:

Retired Officer Jerry Wayne Britt, who served from 1969 until 1988, passed away on March 27th.

Gene Hilton, the grandmother of Sergeant Chris Turner, Specialized Investigations Division, passed away on April 3rd.

Retired Sergeant Fay Baker, who served from 1956 until 1989, passed away on April 3rd.

Margaret Phillips, the grandmother of Detective Ben Ward, Auto Theft, passed away on April 6^{th} .

Nettie June Weatherspoon Lynum, the grandmother of Nicole Mason, West Precinct Investigations, passed away on April 11th.

Sylvia Sue Brown, the mother of Detective James Brown, Auto Theft, passed away on April 19th.