



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

December 13, 2019

News from the Chief



Prioritize essential city services and avoid employee layoffs. Those are two of five primary objectives outlined by Metro Finance Director Kevin Crumbo this week as he detailed the city's plan to overcome a \$41 million deficit in the city budget that took effect July 1st. The plan developed by Mayor Cooper and Mr. Crumbo is definitely reassuring for the work we are doing throughout the city, as well as for all of our personnel doing that work. I have had very good meetings with Mr. Crumbo since he became Finance

Director. Simply put, he understands what you do, and, like Mayor Cooper, is very appreciative. Speaking of Mayor Cooper, he called me Thursday night and asked me to pass along his sincere thanks to everyone who took part in the response and search for the four dangerous teens who escaped from the Juvenile Detention Center on November 30th. A number of our people, particularly those assigned to the Juvenile Crime Task Force and Youth Services Division, worked long hours and spent significant time away from their homes and families while searching for the four escaped teens. I thank you for your great work. So does Nashville's community as a whole.

NHL player P.K. Subban, who, as a Nashville Predator, founded the Blueline Buddies Program and worked to ensure its success over two years, returned to Nashville Saturday night as a member of the New Jersey Devils. Despite his new affiliation, he has not forgotten this police department and the Blueline Buddies Program, which the Predators organization has continued. P.K. made it a priority to join Preds player Roman Josi in welcoming Captain Hunsicker and Reyvonn from Big Brothers/Big Sisters prior to Saturday night's game. We will always be grateful to P.K. and the Nashville Predators for the unique Blueline Buddies Program that helps build relationships between officers and our community's youth. As you will see later in this newsletter, the Preds also partnered with us to deliver Thanksgiving food baskets to deserving families in the 40th and Clifton neighborhood of West Nashville.



Having mentioned the Predators, I would be remiss if I did not also express our sincere gratitude for the support of the Tennessee Titans. For each home game, the Titans make it possible for us to send two MNPD employees and their guests. We today recognized the great work of JCTF Officer Kelby Dumond and Chaplain James Duke with tickets for Sunday's game against the Texans. The Titans will also be working with us to collect toys for the Christmas Basket Program.

Police department employees and members of our community, for the 59th consecutive year, will be gathering at the cafeteria of the old Tennessee State Prison in West Nashville on Christmas Eve morning for the delivery of food baskets and toys to more than 200 deserving Nashville family units, including elderly residents. I hope that you will join us on Christmas Eve morning. We will put the finishing touches on the baskets at 5 a.m., have roll call in the cafeteria at 5:30 a.m., and begin deliveries at 6. Personnel are authorized to allow family members/friends to ride with them in Metro vehicles on Christmas Basket deliveries on the morning of December 24th. Thank you to Captain Harmon Hunsicker, our Chief Elf, for once again coordinating this very important outreach program.

We this week ordered body-worn cameras for 50 officers and 50 in-car camera systems from vendor WatchGuard. Delivery will take place during the first part of 2020. About half of these cameras will be assigned to the Traffic Unit. It is anticipated that the remainder will be distributed among the precincts for testing of our upload and storage infrastructure.

I conclude by thanking each of you for everything you have done during 2019 to enhance the safety of Nashville's families. We are more engaged with communities across the precincts, and it is clear that we are making a difference in vulnerable neighborhoods. You are special people with a special calling for service. My wife, Margaret, and I wish for each of you and your families a safe and happy Christmas season. With you, I look forward to the challenges and successes of 2020.

Christmas Basket Program

For the 25th year, Boswell's Harley-Davidson partnered with the MNPD for last month's Annual Toy Parade, a significant fundraising event for the police department's Christmas Basket Program benefiting needy Nashville families.



Pictured (l-r) are “Chief Elf” Captain Harmon Hunsicker, retired Chief of Police Joe Casey who founded the Christmas Basket Program, Betsy Boswell, and Chief Anderson.

MNPD Mounted officers collected hundreds of toys for children 12 and under at the Nashville Zoo as part of our annual Christmas Basket Program. Donors received up to two free zoo tickets good through 2020.



Academy Sports donated 100 bicycles and helmets to the MNPD's Christmas Basket Program. A lot of deserving kids are going to be very surprised when officers visit their homes with bikes, toys, and food on Christmas Eve morning.



It's not too late to order your Christmas Basket Program apparel! Proceeds benefit the program. Please contact Brandon Hazzard at david.hazzard@nashville.gov Cash, Check, and credit cards accepted. Payment also accepted through PayPal at <http://paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2072464>

Metro Police Christmas Basket Fundraiser



*Cash: Long Sleeve \$20 Hoodie \$30
Card: Long Sleeve \$21 Hoodie \$31.50*

Season to Remember

Chief Steve Anderson on December 12th hung an ornament for officers killed in the line of duty during the annual Season to Remember ceremony at Centennial Park for families who have lost loved ones to homicide.



Domestic Violence Division Captain Michelle Richter hung an ornament in honor of victims lost to domestic violence homicides during the Season to Remember ceremony.





Family members who lost loved ones to homicide made ornaments at North Precinct for the Season to Remember ceremony.

Midtown Precinct Hills Sergeant James Pierceall made Christmas ornaments in remembrance of MNPD officers killed in the line of duty. They are on display in the lobby of police headquarters.



Theodore Roosevelt Police Award

Congrats to the MNPD's Eric Hayes who just received the Theodore Roosevelt Police Award for returning to work after suffering a severe leg injury while pursuing a suspect. He now works in a civilian role due to the injury. Joe McEwen of McEwen Home Improvements sponsors the award. McEwen's father, retired Lieutenant Joe McEwen Sr., received the award in 2011.



Pictured (l-r) are Joe McEwen, Eric Hayes, and Chief Anderson.

Girls on the Run 5k Event

School Resource officers came out to support the Girls on the Run 5k event which encourages young women to become leaders in their communities.



Thanksgiving Outreach

MNPD partnered with the Nashville Predators and players Ryan Johansen & Matt Irwin on November 26th to deliver Thanksgiving meals to families in the 40th and Clifton Avenue area of West Nashville.



Thanksgiving turkey deliveries were made on November 23rd to 100 Latino families. Our Hispanic Officers Association partnered with Nashville Noticias for this fun, annual outreach effort.



Christmas Parade





Veteran's Day Parade



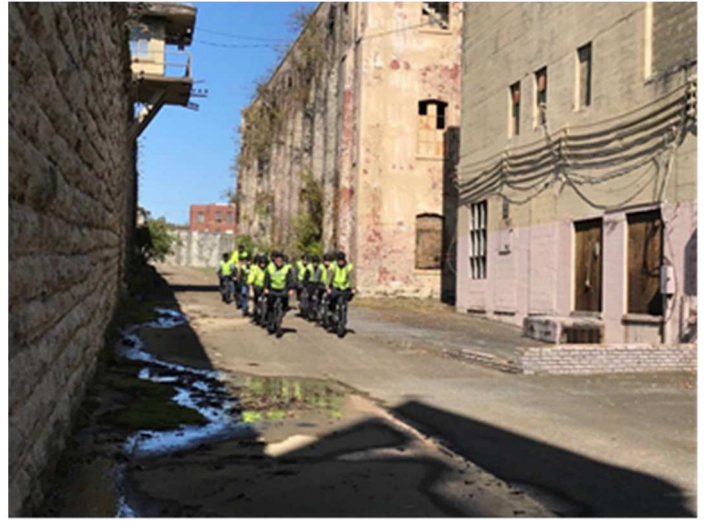
Strengthening Families Program

The annual reunion for graduates of the Strengthening Families Program drew a large crowd of MNPD personnel and Nashvillians who have benefited from this national parenting and family strengthening program, an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviors, delinquency and alcohol and drug abuse in children and to improve social competencies and school performance.



Bike Response Team

Twenty Metro officers and four Belmont Security officers completed the International Police Mountain Bike Association's Bike Response Team course on November 8th. The course was taught by the Central Bike Unit and hosted by Belmont University.



Birthday Celebration with Canine Unit

Members of the Canine Unit and East Precinct Investigations made sure that young Mason's fifth birthday wish came true! He and his mom met Officer Gant and his partner Nash after learning that they had apprehended the man who had robbed them at gunpoint outside a convenience store.

After the canine demonstration, Mason blew out candles on a birthday cake and received birthday gifts.





Tennessee Narcotic Officers Association Awards

The annual state of Tennessee Narcotic Officers' Association conference was held in Chattanooga last month. During the conference, a banquet is held honoring and recognizing the outstanding work for the previous year. Each year during the business meeting, executive officers are elected for the board of the association. Sergeant Gene Donegan was re-elected as president of the association and Interdiction Officer Joe Simonik was re-elected as 2nd Vice President of the association.

The following officers from Metro Nashville Police Dept. were recognized, during the awards ceremony:

- Largest heroin seizure for the state of Tennessee- Specialized Investigations Division Interdiction Officer Joe Simonik & Airport Police Officer/DEA Task Force Officer Jesse Pilote;
- Largest marijuana seizure for the state of Tennessee- Specialized Investigations Division Interdiction Officer Joe Simonik & Airport Police Officer/DEA Task Force Officer Jesse Pilote;
- Largest prescription pill seizure for the state of Tennessee- Major Crimes Task Force Detective Justin Fox;
- Largest methamphetamine seizure for the state of Tennessee- North Precinct Undercover Detective Gbewa Mustapha;
- Middle Tennessee Officer of the Year- Major Crime Task Force Detective Jamie King;
- Interdiction Officer of the Year- Specialized Investigations Division Interdiction Officer Joe Simonik;
- Supervisor of the Year- West Precinct Sergeant Jeff Brown.

Precinct News

East

Off-duty Officer Gordon Stovall's calm presence in unexpected, frightening circumstances, coupled with outstanding, coordinated police work, led to the apprehension of a gunman who carjacked a mother and her 11-year-old son on November 20th at Kroger, 5544 Old Hickory Boulevard.

Still in uniform and in his marked patrol car, Officer Stovall had just completed his evening shift when he stopped at Kroger to purchase groceries. Upon his arrival, he saw a woman waving her hands in the air. As he approached the woman, he saw a gunman, convicted felon Devan Thompson, 31, near her holding her 11-year-old son at gunpoint. Officer Stovall immediately began giving repeated commands for Thompson to drop his weapon and release the boy. Thompson pushed the boy away and fled in the woman's 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier.

Officer Stovall pursued Thompson onto I-40 and then Stewarts Ferry Pike where he crashed into a ravine near Lebanon Pike. Canine Officer John Gilpin and his partner Braxx approached the car. As Braxx entered the vehicle, Thompson began striking the canine with an ice scraper. After a brief struggle, Braxx was pulled out. As Hermitage Precinct Officer Brett Johns took Thompson into custody, Thompson bit Officer Johns on the arm. Officer Johns was treated for his injury. Braxx was checked out by a veterinarian and released back to duty.

Thompson was transported to Vanderbilt University Medical Center for injuries he sustained in the vehicle crash. A nine-millimeter pistol was recovered from the car.

The female victim reported that she noticed Thompson following her and her son inside the store before he approached her and asked what kind of vehicle she drove. When she told him that it was none of his business, he allegedly grabbed her son. She saw a pistol sticking out of Thompson's sweatshirt pocket. She told him that she would give him the keys to her car if he would let her son go. Thompson then escorted both of them outside into the parking lot where he asked her to show him where her vehicle was parked. At that point Officer Stovall was pulling into the parking lot.

Upon his release from the hospital, Thompson, who has previous convictions for attempted aggravated robbery and evading arrest, will be charged with two counts of aggravated kidnapping, theft of a vehicle, two counts of assaulting an officer, and felon in possession of a handgun.

The United States Attorney's Office is also reviewing Thompson's actions for potential federal prosecution.

Trevon Sanders, 21, was arrested in Murfreesboro on a grand jury indictment charging him with first-degree murder for the September 4th stabbing death of Cedric Thompson, 27, in the 2500 block of Bethwood Drive.

Investigation by East Precinct Detective Jesse Holt led to the identification of Sanders and his brother, Deondre Sanders, 24, as the men responsible for Thompson's murder. Deondre Sanders was arrested for Thompson's murder on September 5th. He remains in the Metro Jail.

Thompson was fatally wounded while seated in a vehicle. The motive concerns a dispute over a woman.

East Precinct personnel presented former East Precinct Commander and Metro Council Member Bob Nash and his wife, Barbara, with a shadow box containing their son's MNPD gun and badge. Officer Andrew Nash died unexpectedly in 2014 from a medical condition at age 30.

At the time of Andrew's death, he was a field training officer for the South Precinct and an on-call member of the SWAT team. He also worked as treasurer of the Fraternal Order of Police.



Officer Ky Luu and Officer Matthew Cammarn on December 6th met with seniors at East Park Community Center. They provided information on personal safety along with tips to avoid phone and internet scams.



West

Three teens are charged after a construction worker was robbed at 6 p.m. outside a house he was working on in the 5600 block of California Avenue.

The man reported that he was approached by four young men who demanded cash at gunpoint and then fled on foot with the victim's \$20 bill and his credit card.

Officers, who were already in the area after receiving calls of four young men acting suspiciously, quickly responded. They located three suspects who matched the description of those involved in the robbery.

Michael Hobson, 15, and Dedric Talley, 18, are each charged with aggravated robbery. Hobson, who had the victim's credit card and \$20 bill in his pocket, was positively identified. During an interview, Talley implicated himself in the robbery.

The third suspect, age 15, was charged with robbery.

Community engagement officers with the Fraternal Order of Police Caring Police Response program purchased 20 pre-lit Christmas trees along with ornaments. The trees were delivered to residents in the 40th Avenue North and Clifton Avenue area.



Officers enjoyed participating in the very successful Tip A Cop at Dalt's which resulted in \$2,050 in donations to benefit Special Olympics Tennessee.



West Precinct Community Engagement team members Sergeant Travis Martin and Officers, Walter Gray, Micha Wright, Ryan Burger, and Alex Lampley passed out 60 Thanksgiving meals to residents of the Richland Creek Apartment community. Thanks to Kroger, Costco, Publix, and Sprouts for their generous donations!



Madison

PetSmart in Rivergate partnered with Madison Precinct in providing nearly 2,000 stuffed animals, purchased by customers for donation, over the past two years.

Officers are giving them to children they encounter during their shifts. Additionally, hundreds of the toys have been given to the Christmas Basket Program, El Protector officers, and local community centers.



Hermitage

17-year-old Jaiontez Jones is charged with aggravated robbery for the late afternoon carjacking of a Honda Civic from a woman who had just left work at Opry Mills Mall.

The victim reported that as she walked to her car, three young men approached her and demanded her keys at gunpoint. All three fled in her vehicle. About an hour later, officers in the J.C. Napier public housing development spotted the stolen Honda. When they attempted to stop the car, all three suspects bailed from the vehicle. Jones, who dropped an Airsoft pistol, was taken into custody after a brief foot chase. He was also in possession of a second Airsoft pistol. While Jones was being escorted to a patrol car, he spit on an officer.

Jones admitted he took the victim's keys and drove off in her car.

Hermitage Precinct detectives continue to work to identify the other two suspects involved in the carjacking.

North

It didn't take long for North Precinct officers to apprehend armed robber William McGilmer, who held up the Family Dollar store at 2734 Whites Creek Pike at 8:20 a.m. on November 25th.

McGilmer, 36, wearing a white mask made out of the sleeve of a t-shirt, entered the store, pulled a gun and demanded money from the cash register and safe. As McGilmer was robbing the business, an employee he had not seen ran to the rear of the building and called 911. Officer Zachary Goodall arrived on the scene quickly and saw McGilmer fleeing through the woodline behind the store toward Revels Drive. Officer Goodall gave chase and caught McGilmer in the 500 block of Revels Drive. He was brought back to the store, where staff positively identified him as the robber. The t-shirt sleeve mask was still around his neck. A black BB pistol resembling a real firearm was found along McGilmer's flight path.

McGilmer refused to answer detectives' questions. He is charged with aggravated robbery, evading arrest and gun possession by a convicted felon. He is jailed in lieu of \$82,500 bond and remains under investigation in regard to other crimes.

Gang Unit detectives arrested Robert Lamont Goodner, 24, on a grand jury indictment charging him with first-degree murder for the February 6, 2018, shooting death of Robert Harper, 50, in the parking lot of the Ravin Hotel at 1360 Brick Church Pike.

Months of investigation led by North Precinct Detective Melody Saxon led to the identification of Goodner as Harper's suspected killer. He was taken into custody at the Days Inn on Brick Church Pike.

Harper was fatally wounded while seated in a vehicle. Robbery is the suspected motive.

Central

Jeff Ruby's restaurant generously donated more than 80 turkeys to Central Precinct officers for Thanksgiving. The men and women who protect our downtown core every day were extremely grateful.



Midtown Hills

In an effort to combat a rash of robberies targeting the Hispanic community, Midtown Hills Precinct Community Engagement officers, joined by Spanish speaking officers South Precinct El Protector Sergeant Rafael Fernandez & Officer Brenda Navarro, South Precinct Officer Shelby Hughes, and Midtown Hills Precinct Officer Citlaly Gomez, visited several apartment complexes. They distributed wooden strips with 911 painted on them for residents to use in securing their sliding glass doors. Officers also handed out bilingual information pamphlets with safety tips.



South

South Precinct officers on November 13th took two suspected teen robbers into custody after spotting them in a stolen Dodge Charger getaway car at an apartment complex at 320 Welch Road.

Ludre Cambrough, 15, and Taylor Ewin III, 16, are each charged at Juvenile Court with two counts of aggravated robbery. They are accused of robbing a man Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. in the parking lot of an apartment building at 383 Haywood Lane. They are also charged with robbing a second man at 8:15 p.m. in an apartment building parking lot at 420 Welshwood Drive.

The Charger, alertly spotted by Officer Johnathon Birdwell a short time after the second robbery, began leaving the Welch Road apartment complex and was followed by officers who ran the license plate number and learned that the Charger had been stolen on November 5th from the parking lot at Antioch High School, 1900 Hobson Pike. The car stopped in the 1200 block of Hickory Hollow Terrace. Three suspects fled on foot. Cambrough and Ewin were taken into custody. Officers recovered an AR-15 rifle from the Charger. The rifle had been reported stolen from a Kentucky gun store.

Sergeant James Freeman participated in Fatherhood Friday at Buena Vista Elementary School on 9th Avenue North. He enjoyed this young man's company and looks forward to continuing the friendship.



Juvenile Crime Task Force

Juvenile Crime Task Force officers arrested accused murderer Siquan D. Smith, 26, who is charged with the August 31st fatal shooting of Jose Manuel Gonzalez-Duenas, 38, on Kellow Street near the intersection of 14th Avenue North. Gonzalez-Duenas died at the scene from a head wound.

Investigation led by Detective Josh Carter led to the identification of Smith as the suspected killer. Smith is also charged with attempting to rob Gonzalez-Duenas.

Juvenile Crime Task Force officers were asked to be on the lookout for Smith, who was ultimately located inside an apartment in the Fallbrook complex on Dellway Villa Road. A search of the apartment led to the discovery of two weapons, a semi-automatic handgun and an AR-15 pistol. Smith is also charged with two counts of unlawful gun possession by a convicted felon. He was convicted of second-degree murder in 2017. Smith is jailed in lieu of \$760,000 bond.

The Juvenile Crime Task Force arrested convicted felon Tyquan Scribner, 20, and Aaliyah Washington, 18, after recovering a vehicle taken during a carjacking.

Officers spotted the stolen Toyota Corolla, which had been taken at gunpoint in the 600 block of Cheyenne Boulevard, traveling with a second car, a Hyundai Genesis, which had also been reported stolen. Officers attempted to stop the Toyota, driven by Scribner, but he fled at a high rate of speed, ultimately crashing in the 3800 block of Augusta Drive. Scribner and his passenger, Washington, were taken into custody. Scribner admitted his involvement in a carjacking in which the victim was pistol whipped.

A full-size replica Glock 19 airsoft handgun and 21 grams of marijuana were recovered from the Toyota. Scribner, of LaVergne, is charged with aggravated robbery, theft of a vehicle, and leaving the scene of an accident. Scribner, who has a previous conviction for aggravated assault, is being held in lieu of \$80,000 bond.

Washington, of South 7th Street, is charged with joyriding.

Domestic Violence Division



Family Intervention Program personnel working with a group of folks to prevent victimization.

From Behavioral Health Services Assistant Manager David Kennington:

As the Peer Support Coordinator, I am recruiting new peer supporters for 2020. If you know of any personnel, both sworn and civilian, who you believe could serve in that capacity, I am requesting that you please send me that individual's name and current work assignment.

We plan to train new peer supporters in February of 2020. I am requesting that you please provide me with names by December 15th, so that we may begin the process of vetting and interviewing those nominated. If you need further information for what we are looking for, please call me directly at 615-862-7887 or read the information below. Thank you.

What is the peer support program?

The Peer Support Program is a structured support network for the (B.H.S.) Behavior Health Services Division of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department.

The program is monitored by the Peer Support Coordinator (David Kennington) with support from the B.H.S. staff (James Duke, Dr. Carol Harp, Adrienne Ewing-Roush, Christine Webb, Matt Ford and Lori Morrow) of the Metro Police Department.

The program consists of employees from Metro Nashville Police Department, Davidson County Sheriff Office, Emergency Communications Center, Vanderbilt Police Department, Columbia Police Department, Brentwood Police Department, Gallatin Police Department, Clarksville Police Department and other law enforcement agencies in surrounding counties.

The aim of this program is to provide mentoring, as well an opportunity for social interaction. The peer supporters empower each other through participation and emotional support.

Peer support is not intended to replace existing services, but to provide personnel/survivors with an opportunity to gain support on their personal journey to recovery.

The peer supporters participate on a volunteer basis.

How are peer supporters utilized?

Provide emotional support during and after times of personal or professional crisis to other employees and their family members who express a need for assistance.

Participate in structured Critical Incident Stress Management Interventions, such as debriefings and crisis counseling.

Identify personal conflicts and provide guidance or referral to professional/alternate resources as required.

Support those who have had family tragedies.

Support those who are ill or injured in the line of duty.

Convey trust, anonymity, and assure confidentiality within guidelines to employees who seek assistance from the Peer Support Program.

Provide assistance and support on a voluntary basis.

Assist the employee by referring him/her to the appropriate outside resource when necessary.

Be available to the individual for additional follow up support.

Congratulations:



Officer Michael Mihajlov, Hermitage Precinct, and his wife, Jodi, welcomed their second son, Beckett Patrick, on November 21st.

Condolences:

Crystal Brown, the wife of Sergeant Jeff Brown, West Precinct, passed away at home on October 29th after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Callie Mae Pinchon, the grandmother of Ecko Johnson, Payroll Section, and mother of retired Officer Grady Pinchon, passed away on November 11th.

Bob Gann, the father of retired Officer Mike Gann, passed way.

Retired Officer Barbara Stewart passed away on November 14th after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She retired in 2010 after 25 years of service.

Evelyn Dixon, the grandmother of Rick McIllwain, Police Vehicle Operations, passed away.

Betty Phillips, 94, the mother of retired Lieutenant Duane Phillips, passed away on November 17th.

Georgie Lee Thorpe, the grandmother of School Resource Officer Julius Gallon, passed away on November 22nd.

Retired Officer Ronald Shaw, who served from 1971-1991, passed away on November 28th.

Retired Officer Christopher Taylor, who served from 2005-2018, passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer.