



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

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News from the Chief



Welcome Back John!

On the evening of December 15, 2014, Officer John Downs was seriously wounded by gunfire as he and his fellow team members attempted to take a robbery suspect into custody. Relying on his medic training, and determining it was likely he could bleed out before an ambulance was available, Officer Downs requested Sergeant Bob Nielsen to immediately transport him to the Vanderbilt Trauma Unit. That turned out

to be the right decision.

Mayor Karl Dean and I met with the trauma surgeon late that night. As he described the extent of John's injury, he was not optimistic as to whether John would make a full recovery. When asked directly if John would walk again, he could not commit, stating that there was a massive amount of bone fragments and lead particles in and around the wound area, obscuring the view to the extent that an informed analysis could not be made.

After meeting with the surgeons I met with Officer Downs and his wife, Angie. Frankly, knowing the extent of the injury and the possibility that he would not make a full recovery, I was at a loss for words, especially, knowing that John knew what I knew, and more. I didn't have to talk much. John led the conversation. He assured me that he would make a full recovery and that he would return to full duty. For reasons I cannot explain, I left the room that night believing more in John's prognosis than in the prognosis of the experienced and expert surgeon who had just offered a very professional analysis.

Exploratory surgery the next day, which removed most of the bone fragment and lead particles, allowed a better picture and analysis. The surgeons could now give a more hopeful prognosis. John was discharged a few days later to start a very long and painful physical therapy regimen. Later, it was determined that a full hip replacement was the best course of action. John decided on that operation and then started the physical therapy regimen again, from the beginning.

A few weeks back, John was cleared to return to work in a light duty status. He has been working in the Specialized Investigation Division servicing the equipment deployed and

maintained across the MNPd by SID. Today, John's doctors cleared him to return to full duty. Obviously, John was right when he told me on that first night he would return to full duty. He is anxious to get back to work.

I met with John a few days ago and we reflected on the past six months. He had to remain immobilized for weeks on end. He struggled, twice, through a painful physical therapy processes. All of his personal and family activities were put on hold. Over these months most, if not all, of John's energy and attention have been devoted to making a recovery. Although I know that John wants to, and is ready, to return to his duties, I have asked him to pause, reflect and catch up on family time. Maybe even play a few rounds of golf (Councilman Billy Pridemore's game is suffering without John to coach him—and beat him). John's family has made many sacrifices and they deserve to catch up on some quality time.

John has done an excellent job at the SID assignment, catching us up so that components all across the MNPd have what they need to do their job. Additionally, effective July 1, SID will take on additional investigative responsibilities and service obligations. I have asked John to remain in that assignment for at least the foreseeable future. This will give him the time to catch up on all those things he has missed and reflect on what he wants the rest of his career to be. Whatever he chooses, I know that it will be at the one hundred percent level and the MNPd will be the better for it.

John will return to his present assignment in order to wind up any business obligations that were put on hold on that December evening and then start his new assignment at the Specialized Investigation Division. I hope as you see John about, you will welcome him back. He is an inspiration to us all.



Custom Services Division

Over the last few years, the duties and responsibilities of what is currently the Special Events Section of the MNPd have steadily increased. New functions have been added and, at the same time, the intensity, volume and the public expectation for each of the components within the Special Events Section has increased. The duties and responsibilities of the Special Events Section include:

- **Special Events:** The number of “special events” has steadily increased over the last few years and the attendance at each of the events has increased. For some events, the growth has been dramatic. Nashville is now a major destination city, and this trend is expected to continue. In planning for these events, the Boston Marathon bombing has established what we have now come to know as the “new normal” in terms of the precautions that must be taken to ensure public safety and the increase in resources necessary to accomplish that.
- **Secondary Employment:** Businesses and private individuals are increasingly seeing the need to staff their security needs with professional police officers. Two Nashville hospitals have recently contracted with the MNPd Secondary Employment Unit to have professional police officers secure their premises. Earlier this year, the National Rifle Association contracted with the MNPd to provide officers for their annual conference here in Nashville. This is a trend that is expected to continue into the future.
- **FTO Program:** Our Field Training Officers provide an essential and valuable service to our department. The training and development of our new officers into experienced veterans is a value beyond estimation. The MNPd command staff is currently exploring methods and means to provide our FTOs additional tools and support to allow them to be even more effective.
- **SRO Program:** Our SROs have always provided a valuable service to the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. Through our partnership with the MNPS, we are exploring new ways our SROs can integrate the methodology of 21st Century policing into our schools.
- **MDHA Task Force:** Our partnership with the Metropolitan (Nashville) Development and Housing Authority continues to pay dividends. We must continue to focus on methods to utilize this partnership to its fullest potential.

In order to carry out each of these functions in a more organized and effective manner, the MNPd Special Events Section is being reformed as the Custom Services Division. Effective July 1, 2015, Lieutenant David Corman, will be promoted to the rank of captain and will assume command. Lieutenant David Leavitt will come over to manage the Special Events function. Over the next months, each component of this new division will be analyzed and structured so as to optimize the services provided to our customers.



New Captain David Corman will Command the Custom Services Division

This is a plan consistent with the model we, together, will be developing to deliver 21st Century police services to the citizens of Nashville. This is a model that will be developed with the assistance of, and in collaboration with, personnel representing all segments of the MNP. You will hear more on this initiative in the very near future.

Thank you for your continuing excellent work in the midst of the June heat. I sincerely appreciate all that you do on behalf of Nashville's families and visitors.

Happenings

Chief Anderson hosted a Major Cities Chiefs Association roundtable discussion to talk about the implementation of the President's 21st Century Policing Task Force recommendations.

Additionally, the Nashville roundtable discussion further explored community engagement.



Session 77 Family Day

Family Day was held on June 6th at the Training Academy prior to graduation the following Tuesday. The well-attended event brought together nearly 70 family members.



MEND Forum

Nashville Predators President Sean Henry hosted the YWCA's first MEND Forum at the Bridgestone Arena. The discussion outlined a long-term prevention initiative to end violence against women and girls by engaging the athletic community.

MNPD Domestic Violence Division Captain John Drake spoke about the importance of involving young men in deterring domestic violence. Coaches representing youth leagues, public and private schools, and colleges attended the forum, which was sponsored by JP Morgan Chase.



Chief Anderson spoke to the State of Tennessee's FBI National Academy Associates annual conference about the MNPD's highly lauded response to protesters and protection of constitutional rights.



Midtown Hills Precinct Movie Night

Midtown Hills Precinct hosted a highly successful free community movie night on June 18th in the outdoor pavilion. More than 150 persons attended and enjoyed a movie and snacks.





Hermitage Precinct Appreciation Luncheon

The Fourteenth Rayon City Appreciation Luncheon was held at Hermitage Precinct. Organizer Susan Meece thanked officers for the excellent service they provide to the community.



West Precinct Coffee with a Cop

West Precinct personnel hosted Coffee with a Cop at Richland Park. The Bomb Squad, Traffic Unit, Canine, and SWAT officers also participated. There were also fun children's activities.



Domestic Violence Division Presentation

Domestic Violence Sergeant Carlos Anderson recently spoke to Hermitage community leaders about efforts to reduce the cycle of family violence in Nashville.



The following officers have been chosen Police, Patrol, Investigator, and Special Operation officers of the month for May 2015.

Police

East Precinct Officer Travis Davidson

Patrol

Hermitage Precinct Officer Felipe Pereira

Investigator

South Precinct Officer Brian Stanley

Special Operations

SWAT Officer Joshua Black

Condolences:

Sheila Scott, the mother of Officer Dryw Young, Hermitage Precinct, passed away on June 5th.

Martha L. Davenport, the mother of retired Officer Robert (ET) Davenport, passed away on June 12th.

Nellie Reed, the mother of Sergeant Marty Reed, East Precinct, and mother-in-law of Jeanette Reed, East Precinct, passed away on June 18th.

William J. Smith, the father-in-law of Officer Danny Johnson, West Precinct, passed away on June 18th.

Retired Captain James R. Brown passed away on June 22. He served on the department from 1965-1988.