



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

April 20, 2018

## News from the Chief



Two months ago this week, this police department created a Juvenile Crime Task Force to curtail a series of violent incidents committed by teenagers across several precincts. Each precinct provided Flex Team resources to staff the Task Force, which, without a doubt, is making this entire community safer by its outstanding work.

Between February 16 and April 20, the Task Force has arrested 56 juveniles on 35 felony charges and 80 misdemeanors. It has also arrested 87 adults, many of them young adults, on 30 felony charges and 108 misdemeanors. The Task Force has recovered 18 stolen or carjacked vehicles and, perhaps most significantly, has seized 44 guns. We never know how many lives we save when we take a gun from the control of a juvenile or an adult who is otherwise prohibited from possessing firearms. I received word on Tuesday of this week that a .40 caliber pistol that the Task Force took from the control of a 19-year-old admitted marijuana seller has been linked by the MNPD's Crime Laboratory to the murder last July 25<sup>th</sup> of Jaezoin Woods on Lewis Street in Napier public housing. That same gun, which was stolen in Alabama, was also used in at least two other 2017 aggravated assault cases. Certainly it is good to have that pistol, and the 43 other guns the Task Force has seized, away from the streets of our city.

I am grateful to Lt. Blaine Whited and all of his Task Force colleagues for the work that they have done and will do. Likewise, I am grateful to all MNPD members for your outstanding work on behalf of Nashville's families and visitors, both in the areas of direct crime fighting and building community relationships. I was pleased to read an email this morning from a citizen in North Nashville reporting grassroots police work in her neighborhood: *First, a neighbor on 16th & Cockrill reported hearing a ruckus outside his home. He looked outside and a couple of the officers were having foot races with teenagers and neighbors were cheering them on. Second, another neighbor reported seeing officers playing basketball with teens at Elizabeth Park. And third, I stopped by to visit the seniors at Elizabeth Park and Ms. Rucker told me two officers stopped in to visit. And joined in the line dancing!!!*

Again, thank you all for making a difference in our city.

## Happenings

More than 100 citizens and police officers were honored on April 4<sup>th</sup> during the Metropolitan Police Department's annual awards ceremony, the department's major recognition event, at the Music City Center.

The award recipients were recognized for heroism, bravery and outstanding acts performed during 2017. Mayor Briley and Chief Anderson awarded plaques, certificates and uniform ribbons to recipients.

Here are a few of their stories:

Robertson County Deputy Sheriff Josh Wiley (far right) with the officers who worked to save his life after he was shot by a federal prisoner trying to escape from a 100 Oaks medical office last June.



Officers Nick Diamond and Trent Craig received the Distinguished Service Medal for their heroic efforts to save Officer Eric Mumaw, who died in the Cumberland River on February 2, 2017.



Chief Anderson on April 7<sup>th</sup> stopped by the Predators locker room to present P.K. Subban with the MNPD's Community Service Award for the Blueline Buddies Program that pairs officers with disadvantaged kids at each home game this season.



Sergeant Jeff Odom received the Exemplary Service Award for his response to the September 24<sup>th</sup> shooting at Burnette Chapel Church of Christ. Sergeant Odom restrained the gunman, coordinated the response of other officers and worked quickly to bring a sense of order to the chaos.

Church usher Caleb Engle, who bravely and heroically confronted the gunman and engaged him in a struggle, received a Citizen Commendation. During the struggle, Mr. Engle was pistol-whipped and the gunman was wounded by his own firearm. Mr. Engle's actions undoubtedly saved many lives.



Officers Phillip Black and Myriah Iles received Department Commendations for convincing a mentally ill 14-year-old, who was armed with a large butcher knife and threatening her sibling, to put the weapon down. These officers deescalated an extremely dangerous and chaotic situation which ultimately resulted in the child receiving the help she needed.



Isaac Manning Jr. and Annetta Moore received a Citizen Commendation for saving the life of a suicidal woman who was leaning over a bridge railing on I-65 North when Manning and Moore stopped to help. Ms. Moore saw Mr. Manning struggling to pull the woman to safety and immediately grabbed the victim as well. Manning and Moore were able to hold onto the woman and prevent her from jumping until police arrived.

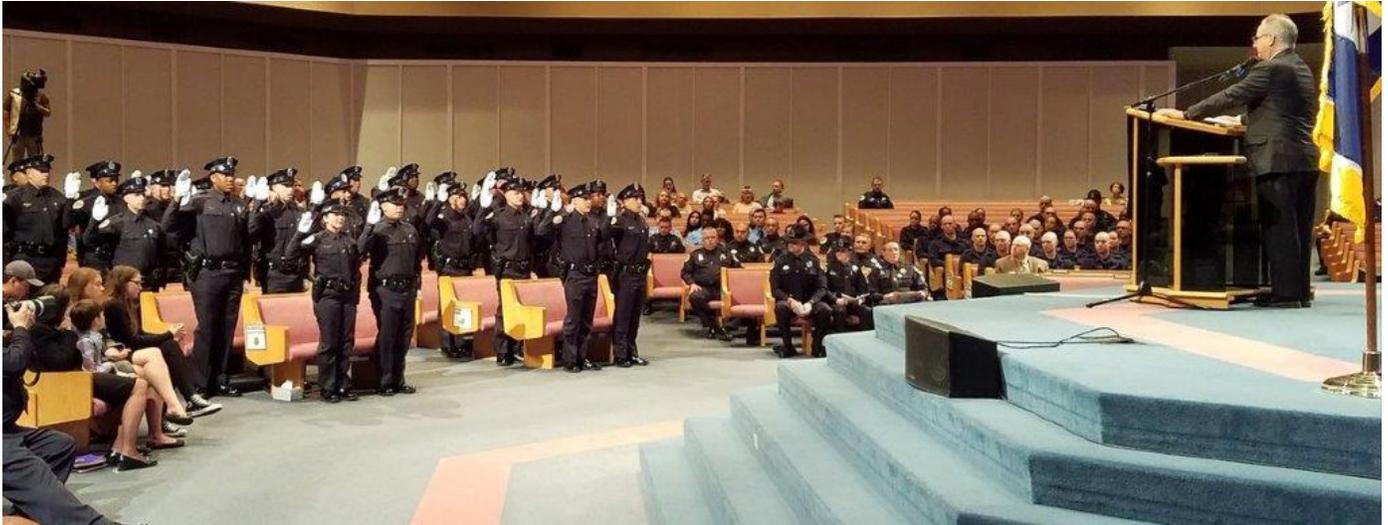


## Training Academy

### Session 83 Graduation

Mayor David Briley on April 10<sup>th</sup> administered the law enforcement oath to 29 new police officers.

The officers entered the MNPB's academy last October and completed 5½ months of rigorous classroom and physical training. They will spend the next 6 months rotating among the precincts partnered with field training officers before they begin policing on their own.



### Session 83 Class Awards

**Top Cop, Academic Excellence Award, Physical Fitness Award,  
and Officer Michael Petrina Leadership Award**

Officer Ryan Ludvigson

**Top Gun and Law Award**

Officer James Hill

**Officer Christy Dedman Spirit Award**

Officer Bobby Samuels

**Officer Eric Mumaw Scholarship Award**

Officer Destiny Zunic

Prior to graduation, officer trainees on March 28<sup>th</sup> attended the Mobile Diversity Seminar which included visits to the Islamic Center of Nashville, Casa Azafran, and Fisk University.



**Session 83 Class leader Ryan Ludvigson spoke to media about the positive benefits of the seminar in gaining a broader understanding of the community he serves.**



**Mobile Diversity Seminar attendees at Casa Azafran.**

## Youth Citizen Police Academy

Mayor Briley and Chief Anderson on April 3<sup>rd</sup> welcomed a great group of young ladies from the YWCA's Girls Inc. program who took part in the inaugural Youth Citizen Police Mini Academy during Spring Break.



## Tennessee State University Collegiate Citizen Police Academy

Chief Anderson on April 19<sup>th</sup> spoke to students attending the MNPD Collegiate Citizen Police Academy in the Civil Rights Room of the downtown public library.



## Passover Observance

In keeping with a 24-year annual tradition, Chief Steve Anderson is assisting Rabbi Joshua Kullock and the congregation of West End Synagogue in their celebration of the Passover holiday.

Chief Anderson on March 30<sup>th</sup> formally purchased leavened products, known as “chametz,” from the West End Synagogue congregation. Jews are prohibited from owning items such as bread, cereals, and even beer, during the holiday. In many instances, Jewish families place canned or packaged leavened foods in a closet or cupboard that will stay closed for the duration of Passover’s eight days. A rabbi is given power of attorney to sell all of the products to a non-Jew until Passover has ended. After the holiday, Rabbi Kullock bought back the leavened products from Chief Anderson.

In appreciation for this annual tradition and the MNPD, the West End Synagogue is making a donation to a local charity.



**Rabbi Joshua Kullock and his daughter Iara meet with Chief Anderson.**

## **Precinct News**

### **East**

Mayor Briley and Chief Anderson visited with East Nashville neighborhood leaders on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the annual East Precinct Appreciation Dinner.



**Mayor Briley and Chief Anderson attend annual East Precinct neighborhood meeting and dinner.**



**Community Sergeant Mike Fisher meets with members of the Girl Scouts Daisies, Troop 25.**



**Sergeant Fisher participated in a reading day event at Schwab Elementary School.**



**Flex officers deliver an Easter basket to a young man at Cayce Homes.**

## **Madison**

Fugitive Jason Rico Price, 46, who was wanted for the March 31<sup>st</sup> robbery of T-Mobile at 1921 Gallatin Pike N., is in custody.

Price was arrested in the Days Inn parking lot at 3312 Dickerson Pike. A handgun was recovered from the vehicle he was driving.

Price, who has previous convictions for cocaine possession, theft, and burglary, is now charged with two counts of aggravated robbery. He is jailed in lieu of \$150,000 bond.

The suspected getaway driver/accomplice, Lesley Guye, 49, was arrested earlier and is charged with two counts of aggravated robbery. He remains jailed in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

## **Hermitage**

Twenty-eight-year-old gang member Deunta Finch, of Big Oak Drive in Nashville, is heading to federal prison for more than 24 years on federal firearms and robbery charges in a case that was investigated by the MNPD's Gang Unit and the ATF.

According to court documents, Finch was a ranking member of the Athens Park Bloods street gang and had multiple, previous state felony convictions, including two convictions for being a felon in possession of firearms, a conviction for robbery and a conviction for reckless endangerment with a weapon. As a convicted felon, Finch was prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition.

Court documents outline that on June 21, 2015, Finch pulled a gun and stole another firearm from a juvenile, while in the J.C. Napier public housing development. Two days later, Finch was riding in a car with another juvenile and became involved in a shootout with the occupants of another vehicle. Finch was injured in the shootout, but left the scene and was later located and transported to a local hospital for treatment. After treatment, he was arrested on outstanding state warrants and then bonded out of custody. Finch failed to appear in court as required and was arrested by Metro Nashville SWAT officers in another car on November 12, 2015. A nine millimeter pistol was recovered from the glove compartment of that car during this arrest. Ballistics evidence revealed that the recovered firearm had been used one week earlier, on November 5, 2015, in a drug related shooting, in which Finch robbed a drug dealer at Lexington Garden Apartments in Madison. His intended victim resisted, and Finch shot and severely wounded him. Finch then left the area with a quantity of cocaine which he took from his victim.

Finch entered into a plea agreement with the government on January 24, 2017, and agreed to a 15-year sentence. Seven weeks after Finch entered into the agreement, he assaulted another federal prisoner at the Grayson County Detention Facility, in Leitchfield, Kentucky, and seriously injured him, including breaking his jaw and ribs. The government then filed a motion to withdraw from the plea agreement, citing Finch's criminal conduct in committing the assault that violated the terms of the agreement.

U.S. District Judge Marvin Aspen noted Finch's extensive criminal history and countless opportunities to rehabilitate and remarked that, "the protection of society was the most important factor," before sentencing him to 290 months in federal prison.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sunny A.M. Koshy.

## **North**

Twenty-one-year-old convicted felon Tevin Griffin, who is serving a jail stint for shooting a man on Blank Street last September 8<sup>th</sup>, has now been served with a first-degree murder indictment for the February 12, 2017 murder of David White in the 900 block of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North near Herman Street.

Investigation by North Precinct Detective Melody Saxon led to Griffin's indictment this month. He is accused of shooting White, 24, multiple times during an argument.

Griffin was convicted last November of aggravated assault for the Blank Street shooting and felony cocaine possession. He was sentenced to spend one-year in jail and the next five years on probation.

North Precinct officers arrested the suspected gunman who shot a man during an argument outside the Marathon gas station at 2801 John A. Merritt Boulevard.

A citizen's tip led to the arrest of convicted felon Andre Chamberlain, 52, at a Clarksville Pike mobile home park. He has prior convictions for robbery, aggravated assault, and felony drug possession. Chamberlain is charged with attempted criminal homicide, felon in possession of a firearm, and felony vandalism. He is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bond.

The driver of the getaway car, Raymond Charette, 61, was also arrested at the mobile home park. He is charged with accessory after the fact and remains jailed on \$10,000 bond. The car, a 2003 Hyundai Sonata, was also recovered.

The shooting victim was struck in both legs. He is recovering from non-life threatening injuries.

## **Central**

Central Precinct detectives have charged two minors, ages 11 and 12, with aggravated assault for shooting two persons with a BB gun downtown on April 15<sup>th</sup>. One victim, a 58-year-old homeless man, was struck in the eye by a BB round; the other, a 35-year-old Nashville man, was hit in the chest. The man with the eye wound required treatment at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Detectives received information that the two juveniles shoplifted the BB pistol from a West Nashville sporting goods store and shoplifted the BBs from another retailer. They reportedly shot at several windows of a downtown office building, and at the window of an MTA bus. The 58-year-old victim was hit while under the pedestrian bridge on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South. The 35-year-old victim was hit as he called 911.

After shooting the two men, the juveniles ran toward East Nashville on the bridge. They were apprehended near Nissan Stadium. The 12-year-old claims he tossed the BB pistol into the Cumberland River.

The 11-year-old charged in this aggravated assault was arrested for robbery on Friday evening. He and a 13-year-old are accused of robbing a 49-year-old woman as she was driving near Academy Place and Lindsley Avenue downtown. She said the two were among the juveniles who ripped her car door open, punched her in the face, and stole her belongings, including her cell phone and debit card. Both were charged with robbery at juvenile detention Friday night after admitting their involvement in the case.



**Preds' mascot Gnash visits officers and staff at Central Precinct.**

## South

Members of the police department's Special Response Team on April 9<sup>th</sup> arrested Trevario T. Pillar, 23, on a grand jury indictment charging him with the shooting death last August 31<sup>st</sup> of Kevion Tate, 18, in a parking lot of Hickory Trace Apartments on Hickory Hollow Place.

Pillar, of Forest Ridge Court, is charged with first-degree murder and especially aggravated robbery. He is being held without bond pending arraignment in Criminal Court.

The investigation by South Precinct detectives strongly suggests the murder is connected to unlawful drug activity.

## Domestic Violence Division

The Family Intervention Program/Dando Valor on April 8<sup>th</sup> participated in the Crime Victims' Rights Ceremony at Centennial Park in observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.



North Precinct Detective Melody Saxon was recognized for her compassionate assistance to families and outstanding investigative skills during the Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony at Centennial Park.



### **Juvenile Crime Task Force**

The police department's Juvenile Crime Task Force has arrested a 17-year-old familiar face.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Task Force members were in the area of 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Clifton Avenue when they heard gunfire, responded to it, and found a wounded 17-year-old. They rendered first aid to him prior to the arrival of an ambulance and later arrested 53-year-old John Edward Armstrong for the gunfire.

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Task Force members were in the area of 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Indiana Avenue when they saw the same 17-year-old on apartment property clearly posted with no trespassing signs. As officers approached, the teen took off and tossed a pistol in a line of bushes. He was quickly apprehended. The fully loaded .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol he carried was stolen in a 2016 home burglary on Prim Drive in Madison. The 17-year-old claimed that he recently found the gun and was carrying it for protection.

The teen was charged at juvenile court with 2<sup>nd</sup> offense unlawful gun possession, theft, evading arrest and criminal trespassing.

The MNPD's Juvenile Crime Task Force has recovered yet another stolen vehicle and two more guns from five young men who did their best to avoid apprehension.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, task force officers got behind a Toyota Corolla that was stolen during an April 11<sup>th</sup> robbery on Morton Avenue. They tried to stop the car on Kipling Drive. The car proceeded a short distance before its five occupants bailed out and ran. A 16-year-old passenger was quickly apprehended without incident. A police dog tracked another passenger, Amier Neguse, 19, to the rear of a home on Kipling Drive, while another police dog tracked Felix Reyes-Santos, 18, to an area between Kipling Drive and Aladdin Drive.

The driver of the stolen car managed to get away, although officers recognized him as a 16-year-old who has had prior arrests. He is being sought. Another passenger also got away.

During the search, officers recovered a .380 caliber pistol behind a home. They recovered a .25 caliber pistol from the Toyota. Also in the car were more than 100 rounds of AR-15 ammunition, more than 100 rounds of nine millimeter ammunition, keys to 3 other vehicles, a small amount of marijuana and digital scales.

Reyes-Santos and Neguse are both in the Metro Jail on charges of vehicle theft, evading arrest, unlawful gun possession, resisting arrest, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, marijuana possession, and possession of drug paraphernalia. In addition, Reyes-Santos was booked on outstanding warrants charging him with three South Nashville robberies. He is alleged to have shot one of the victims.

The 16-year-old arrested was taken to Juvenile detention on charges of vehicle theft, unlawful gun possession, evading arrest, marijuana possession, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

### **Special Operations Division**

Great observation skills by MNPD helicopter pilot Steve Combs and Officer Ben Miller on April 18<sup>th</sup> led to the discovery of the silver Honda SUV suspected of being involved in the following robberies that occurred earlier that day:

- A woman was robbed in an apartment complex parking lot, 830 Glastonbury Road, at 2:30 a.m.;
- A man was shot in the leg after he was robbed at 3110 Elm Hill Pike;
- A man driving to work was struck from behind by the driver of a silver SUV at the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North and Madison Street at 3:30 a.m. A gunman got out of the SUV, took the victim's wallet, and then shot the victim in the torso. The victim remains in extremely critical condition at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

The 16-year-old driver who bailed from the vehicle at 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Britt Place was captured near railroad tracks. A loaded AR-15 was recovered near the SUV.

## Retirement Celebration

Detective Wayne Michon celebrated 36 years of service



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Anderson and Detective Michon**

### Congratulations:



April Weatherly, Chief of Police/Public Information Office, and her husband, Allan Weatherly, welcomed their son, Anson Allan Weatherly, on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Jonathan Seidl, Midtown Hills Precinct, and his wife, Miriam, welcomed their daughter, May Pearl Seidl, on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Zach Grunow, MDHA Task Force, and his wife, Lauren, welcomed their daughter, Mackenzie Grace, on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Jerre Fly, Traffic Unit, and his wife, Meredith, welcomed their daughter, Caroline Leigh Fly, on April 11<sup>th</sup>.



### **Condolences:**

Farrell Ripp, the father of Officer Candace Ripp, who died in the line of duty in 2001, passed away in Tyler, Texas.

John Louis Downs Jr., the father of John Downs, Specialized Investigations Division, passed away on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dorothy Lee Griggers, the mother of Sergeant Ralph Griggers, Domestic Violence Division, passed away.

Sergeant Major Charles M. Fisher (USMC Retired), the father of Officer Curtis Fisher, Hermitage Precinct, passed away on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Retired Officer Steve Underwood passed away. Officer Underwood served from 1981 until his retirement in 2012.

Luella Mayhew, the wife of retired Sergeant Houston Mayhew, passed away on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Paul Thomas, the father of Sergeant Michael Thomas, Midtown Hills Precinct, passed away.

The father of Ryan Duprey, Behavioral Health Services, passed away on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

MNPD narcotics dog Caine, who retired on March 1<sup>st</sup>, died of a heart condition on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Caine was Officer Tom Spence's partner for eight years. He was instrumental in the seizures of 2,300 pounds of marijuana, 47 pounds of cocaine, 20 pounds of methamphetamine, one pound of heroin, and \$1.4 million cash.



**Officer Spence and Caine**