METRO NASHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2007 Annual Report

Serving Our Community with Pride and Professionalism

MNPD
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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department is to provide community-based police products to the public so they can experience a safe and peaceful Nashville.

MISSION VALUES

In carrying out our mission, members of the department will continue to value:

- Organizational Excellence and Professionalism
- The Impartial Enforcement of the Law
- The People We Serve and Each Other
- Problem-Solving Partnerships
- Open Communications
- Ethics and Integrity
To the Citizens of Nashville:

It is my distinct privilege to report that overall major crime in Nashville during 2007 dropped for the fourth consecutive year to the lowest level in 17 years. The outstanding work of our police officers and professional support staff, combined with the strong support and partnership of citizens throughout Nashville, led to reductions in homicide, aggravated assault, burglary, auto theft, and larceny. The overall crime rate, which is based on Nashville’s population estimate, was the lowest since 1989. The violent crime rate was the lowest since 1990. The property crime rate was the lowest since 1979. The auto theft rate was the lowest in the history of the Metropolitan government. With crime dropping, it is no coincidence that the number of neighborhood watch groups has grown by 45% since 2004 and now total 364.

The men and women of your police department are working harder than ever before to enhance Nashville’s safety and improve quality of life across the board. Traffic deaths last year fell by 24%. The number of fatal crashes was the lowest in more than 15 years. Still, victims in more than half of the fatal crashes (57%) chose not to wear seatbelts in cases where seatbelts were available. The number of DUI arrests in 2007 increased by 32% to the highest number in 15 years, while injury collisions declined. I am convinced that our commitment to DUI enforcement is saving lives.

The first full year of our Operation Safer Streets gang enforcement initiative recorded 2,078 arrest actions, 432 drug seizures, and 45 gun seizures. This program, which features enforcement activity in known gang areas each weekend, continues to be highly successful. We will look for ways to expand it during 2008.

As I look at the months ahead, it is clear that recidivism and juvenile crime will challenge our efforts to build on public safety successes. Our police officers are fed up with dealing with the same criminals over and over again. The legislature heard our call and enacted the new Crooks with Guns law, which calls for mandatory prison sentences and restricts parole for those who commit violent felonies or drug crimes while carrying firearms. The law takes effect January 1, 2008, and will help make our communities safer. As for juvenile crime, the police department is a full partner in Mayor Dean’s efforts to reduce the teenage dropout rate. Our continuing outreach to the clergy and other community groups will have an impact on gangs and other negative influences young people face.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence. Nashville is a very special place to live, work, and raise a family. Working together, we can make our city even better.

Ronal W. Serpas - Chief of Police
Citizen Police Academy

Forty-eight persons from neighborhoods throughout Nashville graduated on January 16th, 2007, from the 19th session of the Metropolitan Police Department’s Citizen Police Academy. Mayor Purcell and Chief Serpas were there to congratulate the graduates. The ceremony was held in the community room of the Hermitage Precinct.

The 48 graduates, including eight volunteer police chaplains, spent ten weeks learning about the inner-workings of the police department. Topics included community policing, drug & prostitution enforcement, officer survival/use of force, traffic & DUI enforcement, workplace violence, and the judicial process.

Diana Page (class member) spoke at the ceremony: “I think it is safe to say that each of us learned something new about the people and policies of the MNPD during our ten-week odyssey, and if we take nothing else with us, we take away a renewed respect for the dedication, devotion, and integrity of each police department representative we have encountered along the way.”

Bobby Sasser (class member) also spoke at the ceremony: “I want to convey to you that I am very impressed with the way all of you have reached out to us in the community. The Academy is a class act! You are to be commended on the good job you are doing.”

Also on August 14th, 2007, forty-six persons from neighborhoods throughout Nashville graduated from the 20th session of the Metropolitan Police Department’s Citizen Police Academy. This ceremony was also held in the community room of the Hermitage Precinct.

The 46 graduates spent the past eleven weeks learning about the inner-workings of the police department. The class also toured the Emergency Communications Center and visited the police department’s gun range, where they had the opportunity to shoot real firearms.

Including these graduates, 878 persons have completed the police department’s Citizen Police Academy since it began in 1995.
Nashville’s Newest Police Officers

The Metro police force grew by nine on April 5th, 2007, as the city’s new police officers graduated from five months of training, received their badges, and took the oath of office. This graduating class began training on November 1, 2006. After graduating, the new officers spent the next six months with precinct field training officers before patrolling the streets by themselves. Prior to graduation, members of Session 52 and the Training Academy staff visited Harris-Hillman School. The school serves approximately 100 students with multiple disabilities. The staff at Harris-Hillman is dedicated to providing students with individualized educational programs, therapies, and nursing care. The trainees and academy staff members had an extremely rewarding and positive experience in assisting students with their classes and in speaking with the school staff about how to best interact with special needs citizens in a personal and professional capacity. The Training Academy is updating the curricula to include information on this broad topic.

The Metro police force also grew by 16 on Tuesday, June 26, 2007, as more police officers took the oath of office. The members of Session 53 began training on February 1.
Twenty-eight new police officers graduated on September 13th, 2007, from the department’s training academy in what was the 18th and last police graduation ceremony over which Mayor Bill Purcell presided. Nearly 500 officers graduated from the academy during Purcell’s eight years as mayor.

Finally seventeen more new officers graduated on December 3rd, 2007, from the department’s training academy in the first police graduation ceremony over which Mayor Karl Dean presided. Officer Ben Bryner won the Top Cop, Academic Excellence, Firearms, and Law Awards. Officer Raymond Jones was given The Christy Dedman Spirit Award and Officer Justin Coker, class president, won the Leadership Award. After the graduation, the 17 new officers spent the next six months with precinct field training officers before patrolling the streets by themselves.
Field Training Officer Robert Bandish was named Officer of the Year by the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce for his tireless dedication and outstanding commitment to families and businesses in the Hermitage area. Bandish was honored at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon on November 8th, 2007, at The Club at Gaylord Springs Golf Links.

In his nomination of Bandish for Officer of the Year honors, Sergeant Daniel Newbern wrote, “Officer Bandish has proven himself to be an irreplaceable asset to the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, the Hermitage Precinct, and the Nashville community. He has dedicated himself to the safety and protection of our citizens through crime reduction initiatives and his response to numerous calls for service in both uniform and plainclothes assignments. Officer Bandish’s unquestionable character has set an example for his fellow officers. He has an excellent attitude and strives to maintain the highest level of integrity in both his professional and personal life.”

From March through October 2007, Bandish, who works the midnight shift, performed 1,522 business checks, 121 community contacts, made 130 arrests, served 50 outstanding warrants, and issued 28 misdemeanor citations. “Robert Bandish is truly making a difference, every day, in making the Donelson-Hermitage area a safer place,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “I am very proud of him and his outstanding work. I am also sincerely grateful to the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce for annually honoring an officer like Robert.” Bandish, 36, is an eleven-year Metro Police Department veteran.

Photo caption: Chief Ronal Serpas (left) congratulates Officer Robert Bandish.
Officers & Investigators Of The Year

On January 18th, 2008, the Metropolitan Police Department recognized its 2007 Officers and Investigators of the Year.

Sergeant Pat Postiglione and Detective Lee Freeman from the Homicide/Cold Case Unit were the Investigative Services Bureau Investigators of the Year for their work on the case of truck driver and accused serial killer Bruce Mendenhall. Mendenhall was arrested in Nashville on July 12, 2007, and was charged with killing Sara Hulbert at a truck stop near downtown. He implicated himself in at least six homicides, five of them in other jurisdictions.

Hermitage Precinct Officer Phillip Meador was the department’s Patrol Officer of the Year. When a man terrorized two families in Old Hickory, Tennessee, last February, including a woman & her two year old child, Officer Meador was quick to respond. The suspect had tried to force his way into one home, got punched by the resident, and then ran to a nearby garage where he tried to carjack a woman, who was accompanied by her two-year-old child. Officer Meador’s decisive action and outstanding response led to the apprehension of this dangerous man without serious injury to anyone involved.

Hermitage Precinct Officers Cindy Huffines and Cedric Connolly were the department’s Police Officers of the Year. Within hours of a July 24th homicide in Tony Sudekum public housing, Officer Huffines received a telephone call in the middle of the night from a citizen who witnessed the shooting and provided the suspect’s nickname. Officers Huffines and Connolly then meticulously searched MDHA and police computer data bases until they matched the nickname with the suspect’s true identity. The eyewitness confirmed these officers had found the right man.

East Precinct Detectives Paul Harris & Rex Davenport were the department’s Field Services Bureau Investigators of the Year. These two detectives put in more than 170 man hours investigating the murder of Jose Flores, who was killed at his Joseph Avenue home during an attempted robbery. The teamwork of Detectives Harris & Davenport in interviewing witnesses & potential suspects ultimately led to the arrest of four dangerous teenagers who were linked not only to the murder, but several other crimes.

“The outstanding acts of our 2007 Officers and Investigators of the Year are representative of the tremendous police work that takes place in this department every day of the year,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “I am exceptionally proud of our award winners.”
Field Operations Investigator Of The Year

On January 19th, 2007, a South Precinct detective was named the Field Operations Investigator of the Year for 2006. Detective David Achord, a 17-year-veteran, received the award for tracking down four suspects involved in a brutal home invasion robbery, kidnapping, and rape in November.

Despite beginning his investigation with very little information, Detective Achord was able to locate the first suspect, known only as Cortez, at General Hospital. Cortez had shot himself in the foot during the robbery. A second suspect was also in the hospital room.

Detective Achord interviewed the second suspect who identified the remaining two. All four suspects were arrested and charged with especially aggravated robbery, kidnapping, and rape.
The Precinct of the Year Award was presented to the men and women of the Central Precinct for leading the police department in total arrests, warrants served, curfew and truancy arrests, traffic violations, and warrant service attempts for the year 2006.

During 2006, felony arrests in the Central precinct increased by 11%, while misdemeanor arrests were up by 27%. The Central Precinct’s largest percentage increases in curfew and truancy arrests were important categories in efforts to lower juvenile crime.

Overall major crime in Nashville last year fell to a 16-year low. While all six precincts recorded overall major crime reductions last year, the Central Precinct led the way with a decrease of 8.89%. Total burglary in Central dropped by 27%. Vehicle theft was also down by 27%.
Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy (SECLA)

Lieutenant James Stephens, Strategic Development Division, and Sergeant Kim Forsyth, South Precinct, graduated from the Southeastern Command & Leadership Academy on January 19th, 2007. Lieutenant Stephens received the highly regarded Law Enforcement Innovation Innovator Award for his efforts at the academy.

Pictured (l-r) are Lieutenant Stephens and SECLA Law Enforcement Innovative Center Program Manager, Mike Hill.

Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Mary H. Jinks, Assistant Vice President of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service, Sergeant Forsyth, and Dr. John D. Petersen, President of the University of Tennessee.

The Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy (SECLA) is a dynamic seven-week law enforcement leadership and management program designed for progressive and innovative police managers. SECLA prepares mid and upper-level supervisory personnel for the increased responsibility of administrative command positions by providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful leadership in their agency and community. The course requires 280 hours of in-class instruction.
NPD’s Drill and Ceremony Team Judged National Champion

On May 14th, 2007, the Metropolitan Police Department’s Drill and Ceremony Team was judged National Champion at the fifth annual Honor Guard Competition in Washington, D.C.

The event, which is sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, involved 21 drill and ceremony teams from across the United States and Canada. The teams gathered at John Marshall Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue to demonstrate their precision in three tasks: the team inspection drill, posting of the colors, and exhibition. The Nashville Police Department’s team took top honors.

“Our Drill and Ceremony Team is the best because of the dedication, hard work and pride of each member,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “It is particularly fitting that our team showcased its precision and skill in Washington at the beginning of National Police Week, the time each year that our nation pays tribute to the ultimate sacrifice made by officers who died in service to their communities.”

The five drill team members that participated in the competition were Sergeant Chris West and Officers James Boone, Ryan Catron, Bryan Doersam and Chad High. Drill Team members that assisted in support roles were Lieutenant Ben Rodgers and Officers Jimmy Knight and Leonard Keeler.

The generosity of the 100 Club of Nashville made possible the purchase of the Drill and Ceremony team’s special dress uniforms in 2006.
Odd Fellow Awards

Outstanding police work by West Precinct Officer Robert Peterson that resulted in the arrest of a dangerous serial bank robber and ex-convict in March of 2006 earned Peterson the Judge John L. Draper Joint Nashville Police Odd Fellow Award for the first half of 2006. Peterson received a $500 cash award during a ceremony on February 2nd, 2007.

On March 18, 2006, Officer Peterson noticed that the driver of a gray Plymouth Acclaim traveling on Jo Johnston Avenue wasn’t wearing a seatbelt. Peterson stopped the car and realized that the man behind the wheel was none other than Timothy Weakley, who, between January 5th and March 17th, robbed ten banks in various Nashville communities. Weakley was a convicted bank robber who had already served hard federal time.

Peterson took Weakley into custody without incident, bringing to an end an extensive effort by various Metro police components and the FBI’s Violent Crimes Task Force to get Weakley off the streets.

“Officer Peterson’s keen awareness and dedication made Nashville a safer place last March and, without a doubt, caused bank employees and customers to breathe a sigh of relief,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “I am very appreciative of the Odd Fellows for consistently recognizing the tremendous efforts of our police officers.”

Pictured (l-r) are Chief Ronal Serpas, Officer Robert Peterson, and Odd Fellows Association member Patrick Wells
Courageous police work by South Precinct Officer Jason Mayo that resulted in the arrest of two dangerous robbers and kidnappers in July of 2006 earned Mayo the Judge John L. Draper Joint Nashville Police Odd Fellow Award for the second half of 2006. Mayo received a $500 cash award during a ceremony on November 2nd, 2007.

On July 26, 2006, Officer Mayo attempted to stop a minivan for speeding and erratic driving. A short time earlier, two of the van’s occupants robbed, tied up and kidnapped two men who had been selling jewelry in a parking lot in the 5700 block of Nolensville Pike. They also robbed a South Nashville bakery.

Officer Mayo pursued the van to Hickory View Drive where the two suspects fled on foot through Turtle Creek Apartments. Officer Mayo chased them and, in the process, was shot at. He did not return the fire. The two suspects ran into an apartment and eventually surrendered without further incident. The kidnapping victims, who were freed from the van by officers responding to backup Officer Mayo, were not hurt.

“Officer Jason Mayo’s absolutely outstanding police work probably saved the lives of the kidnapping victims and took two very dangerous criminals off the streets of South Nashville,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “I am very appreciative of the Odd Fellows for consistently recognizing the tremendous efforts of our police officers.”
On April 24\textsuperscript{th}, 2007, the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department held its annual awards ceremony at the North Precinct. The Awards Committee reviewed 131 nominations for the year 2006. The below listed award recipients were officially recognized at the ceremony for their acts of heroism and outstanding service:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Name</th>
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<td>Officer Gregory D. McDaniel</td>
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<td>Officer Leon Taylor</td>
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<td>Sgt. Charles Widener</td>
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<td>Officer Larry A. Carter</td>
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<td>Mr. Roger Dale Moore, Jr.</td>
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<td>Mr. Stephen Adams</td>
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<td>Sgt. Robert T. Durbin</td>
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<td>Officer Christopher Brennan</td>
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<td>SRO Mark E. Bennett</td>
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<td>Mr. Steve Hritz</td>
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<td>Mr. Steve Smith</td>
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<td>Officer Danita Marsh</td>
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<td>Mr. Sam Hufstedler</td>
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<td>Sgt. James Johnson</td>
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Some of the award recipients below:
Metro Police Officer Dan Alford, who was critically wounded three years ago by an armed convicted felon in the John Henry Hale public housing development, is the latest recipient of the prestigious Theodore Roosevelt Association Police Award. Alford received the award on May 23rd, 2007, during a ceremony in the community room of the Hermitage Precinct.

The Theodore Roosevelt Association Police Award is given to a police officer who has rendered outstanding and praiseworthy service to the department and the community despite a serious handicap, illness or injury.

On the morning of July 14, 2005, Officer Alford and his colleagues on the West Precinct’s Flex Unit were on foot patrol in John Henry Hale looking for signs of drug dealing. Most of the buildings were abandoned and had been scheduled for demolition. When a group of individuals saw the uniformed presence, they split up and ran into two vacant apartments. As Officer Alford worked to clear a second story bedroom of one apartment, he heard movement in a closet and suddenly saw a gun protrude from the closet door.

“The next moment, the shooter was peppering me,” Alford said. “I remember the blast waves of heat and pressure slapping me in the face.”

Alford was hit several times. One of the rounds was stopped by his bulletproof vest before it could enter his chest. Another bullet entered his lower left side, just under his vest. He was also hit in the left shoulder and suffered a shrapnel wound to his left cheek.

Although critically wounded, Alford managed to return the fire. The gunman, who was carrying cocaine, marijuana, and a wad of cash, was wounded in the right arm. He was quickly taken into custody by Alford’s fellow officers.

Officer Alford spent several days at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and then several months at home recovering. Determined to resume his career at the Metropolitan Police Department, Alford returned to light duty on December 6, 2005. He underwent follow-up surgery in February 2006 and resumed his police work in May. When asked about his determination, Alford said, “I can’t let him, or it, or them beat me.”

Alford, 35, is a ten-year police department veteran. He is now a member of the Bomb Squad, an assignment he requested.

“Dan Alford stared death in the face, recovered from his gunshot wounds, and is on the streets today serving Nashville’s families,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “I am tremendously proud of him, his perseverance, and his love of police work.”

“I am most appreciative that the Theodore Roosevelt Association’s Jim Summerville and his colleagues take time each year to recognize truly outstanding officers and their contributions to our city,” Serpas said.

The Theodore Roosevelt Association established this awards program in honor of Theodore Roosevelt’s distinguished service as President of the Board of Police Commissioners of New York City from 1895 to 1897, and in recognition of his lifelong admiration for the police.
Nashville is one of a handful of cities in the United States to present the Roosevelt Award. Others include New York City, Buffalo and upstate New York, Boston, Long Island, Dallas and Philadelphia.

“All his life, Theodore Roosevelt had an interest in the work of the police, and declared that there were no better people anywhere,” said Theodore Roosevelt Association President Norm Parsons of Sea Cliff, New York. “He would have been proud to be in Nashville to shake the hand of Officer Alford and say, ‘Bully!’”

The generous support of Sprint/Nextel Communications makes the 2007’s award possible. Through Sprint/Nextel’s generosity, and that of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, Officer Alford received a $1,000 cash award, a medal, and a bust of Theodore Roosevelt. A bronze plaque, which bears a likeness of Roosevelt, and which is currently on display in the lobby of police headquarters, now includes the inscription of Officer Alford’s name.


Pictured at today’s ceremony are (l-r) Theodore Roosevelt Association Trustee Jim Summerville, Sprint/Nextel executive Brenda Wilt, Officer Dan Alford, and Chief Ronal Serpas.
Identification Division Receives Laureate’s Medal

On June 4, 2007, representatives of the police department’s Identification Division traveled to Washington, D.C. to accept a Laureate’s medal at the Computer World magazine Honors Program.

Established in 1988, the Honors Program brings together the principals of the world’s foremost information technology companies to recognize and document the achievements of organizations around the world, whose applications of information technology promote positive social, economic, and educational change.

The ID Division was honored for its achievements in utilizing AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) technology to improve the department’s crime-solving productivity. The NEC Corp America AFIS system stands out thanks to the program written by the MNPD IT section that allows for the AFIS to store EVERY print card of an arrestee in Archives. This allows the AFIS system to not only select the best prints of an arrestee, but also allows us to store every fingerprint card taken on an arrestee which eliminates any court challenges to the validity of the fingerprint card. This feature distinguishes our system from many others and also gives us better capabilities than many of our peers.

Laureates' achievements were recognized at two distinct events. During the Laureate Medal Ceremony, case studies are formally inducted into the program’s International Archives, and honorees are presented with a medallion inscribed with the program's mission, "A Search for New Heroes." Later that day, Laureates join members of the Chairmen’s Committee and other industry luminaries for the Gala Awards evening. Both events took place at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium in downtown Washington D.C.
In August, 2007, Metro police helicopter pilot Sergeant James Johnson was awarded the Airborne Law Enforcement Association’s (ALEA) Captain Gus Crawford Memorial Aircrew of the Year Award for his efforts to apprehend the man who opened fire on Officer Danita Marsh last October.

Upon receiving word that Officer Marsh had been shot and the gunman was being pursued, Sergeant Johnson loaded a police canine team into the back of a helicopter and took off in a driving rain storm. He flew to Benton County and, from the air, saw the gunman trying to speed away from pursuing officers.

The suspect crashed and fled on foot toward a nearby pond. Sergeant Johnson maneuvered the helicopter between power lines and, although he couldn’t land on the hilly terrain, placed one skid on the ground. That allowed the canine team to deploy from the helicopter. The gunman swam to the middle of the pond. Officer Joe Shelton and police dog Memphis also entered the water to take the suspect into custody.

“This police department and the citizens of Nashville are very fortunate to have the resources of an aviation component that is staffed by extremely talented and dedicated professionals like Sergeant James Johnson,” Chief Ronal Serpas said.

Exemplars attend classes and seminars on law enforcement subjects as well as assist the Metro Police Department in searching for lost people, parades, crime prevention programs and other functions. Explorer Post 911 is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, and was organized to give young men and women the opportunity to learn about law enforcement as a career.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be between the ages of 14 and 20 years old.
- Must not have a serious arrest record.
- Must pass an oral interview and a background investigation.
- Must maintain a "C" grade average or higher in school.
- Must be in good physical condition.

Anyone interested in joining Explorer Post 911 can email Officer Bradley Nave at bradley.nave@nashville.gov.
Three remarkable police officers, Sgt. James H. Johnson, Officer Joe Shelton, and K-9 officer Memphis, were honored by the Printers Alley Merchants Association and Metro Animal Control on October 6, 2007, on the steps of the newly restored, historic Metro Court House. The recognition honored their service, above and beyond the call of duty, during the capture of the fleeing felon who attacked Officer Danita Marsh and the domestic violence victim whom she was assisting. Metro police dog Memphis was recognized as Dog of the Year. Officer Shelton and Sergeant Johnson received plaques of appreciation at the awards ceremony. Officer Terry Burnett and his wife, Jamie, also participated in the ceremony. Officer Burnett was the partner of K-9 officer Aron, the MNPD dog of the decade, and possibly of the century. Terry and Jamie lost Aron in the line of duty, and acted in his memory and in the honor of all K-9 officers and their police officer partners.

On October 27th, 2006, Sgt. Johnson received a call for aviation support due to a pursuit involving a suspect that had shot a police officer and another subject. Sgt. Johnson met K-9 Officer Joe Shelton at the hanger and loaded the handler and the K-9 into the rear of the helicopter. Sgt. Johnson then lifted off in a heavy rainstorm to locate the pursuit. A second helicopter with two back up officers lifted off, but due to the heavy rain only made it a short distance before having to turn back. Sgt. Johnson located the pursuit and followed it until the suspect wrecked his vehicle and then fled on foot. The suspect ran toward a lake and an occupied home in a rural area while officers on the ground chased after him. Sgt. Johnson maneuvered his aircraft between a TVA high power line and a home service power line that was perpendicular to the other line. Sgt. Johnson then attempted to land his helicopter and deploy the K-9 unit, but the slope of the hill was too extreme to do so. Sgt. Johnson then set one skid on the slope and remained at a hover to allow deployment of the K-9 team. The helicopter and the K-9 team deployment blocked the escape route of the suspect and prevented him from making it to the house. Sgt. Johnson then lifted off and provided aerial support during the apprehension. Sgt. Johnson’s skill and courage led to the successfully apprehension of an extremely dangerous subject, and possible prevented a hostage situation. There are very few pilots that could have flown through the storm and deployed the K-9 unit in the landing area. Sgt. Johnson should be commended for his courage and skill that allowed him to perform this exceptional act, and ended in the safe and successful apprehension of a violent and dangerous subject.
The 100 Club of Nashville generously provided Officer Danita Marsh with a brand new modified minivan that greatly enhances her mobility. The 2007 Buick Terraza is equipped with a wheelchair lift, customized restraint system, and special controls.

Officer Marsh continues to recover from gunshot wounds she sustained while assisting a domestic violence victim in October of 2006. She is paralyzed from the waist down. Additional surgery in August, 2007, to help repair bullet damage to her left arm was successful.

The 100 Club is committed to assisting Officer Marsh and her son to regain the basic choices of life through the purchase of a vehicle and permanent accessible housing.

"Officer Marsh and this police department are humbled and most grateful to 100 Club President Reed Trickett, club members, and the countless persons who have contributed funds to help Danita," Chief Ronal Serpas said.

The 100 Club was founded 27 years ago to aid the families of Nashville’s police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty, as well as officers and firefighters who receive serious, traumatic and disabling injuries while working to protect our community.

Persons wanting to make a tax deductible contribution to assist Officer Marsh are urged to make checks payable to the 100 Club of Nashville and include the Marsh name on the memo portion. One hundred percent of the money donated will go to the Marsh fund.

Checks can be mailed to The Hundred Club of Nashville, P.O. Box 190428, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219-0428.
Project Safe Neighborhood Continues to Make a Difference

Craig Morford, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee, Torry Johnson, District Attorney General, Ronal Serpas, Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief and James Cavanaugh, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, jointly announced May 4th, 2007, the mid-year results for the Metro Nashville Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative. The announcement, which covered the first six months of Fiscal year 2007 (October 1, 2006-March 31, 2007), was made at a joint news conference at the North Precinct of the Nashville Metro Police Department, where the police were preparing to destroy over 1400 guns that have been seized from criminals on the streets of Nashville.

These 1400 guns, which were recovered/seized by Metro Police officers over a period of several months, were destroyed today pursuant to court order. Seized/recovered guns which are no longer needed for evidence are periodically destroyed by the department.

The officials announced that during the six months from October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, approximately sixty-two individuals were indicted on Federal firearms and related charges. Approximately thirty defendants have been convicted or sentenced during this time period. One defendant received a sentence of 252 months in prison and another was sentenced to 300 months in prison. Federal Courts imposed an average sentence of ninety-six months incarceration with no eligibility for parole. During that same period, another 296 individuals were arrested on state charges. In addition, Metro Nashville Police Officers seized recovered 1,093 firearms, 844 of which were crime guns.
The offices of the United States Attorney, Davidson County District Attorney, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives (ATF&E), and Nashville Metro Police Department work together in a collaborative effort through the Project Safe Neighborhood initiative to curb gun violence by targeting criminals who illegally use and possess firearms. Federal and state prosecutors meet and screen cases to ensure that their respective resources are used in the manner that will produce the greatest number of prosecutions, while ensuring that the most dangerous offenders are prosecuted in the forum where they will receive the highest likely sentence. As part of the initiative, the Nashville Metro Police Department has assigned one detective from each of the six precincts to review, investigate and prepare crime gun cases for federal prosecution.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is the lead federal law enforcement agency in the PSN initiative and through partnerships with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies nationwide, investigate violent firearms offenders, firearms traffickers, and gangs who use firearms. In addition, the Department of Justice provides funding through grants to support the PSN Initiative. The Middle District of Tennessee has been allocated $157,639 for the PSN Program for FY07 and has also been allocated an additional $257,513 for related anti-gang initiatives for FY07.

"Project Safe Neighborhoods has stood the test of time because it works," said United States Attorney Craig Morford. “Through our PSN initiative, we are able to take record numbers of guns out of the hands of criminals and record numbers of criminals off of our streets. We reassure citizens that we are committed to making our communities safer and we assure criminals that if they pick up a gun they are going to pick up major prison time. My office is fully committed to this highly effective initiative and we are fortunate to have in Chief Serpas and General Johnson a Police Chief and District Attorney who are so committed to working together with us to combat violent gun crime.”

These members of Nashville’s law enforcement community are partnering together to attack gun crime and the convicted felons who are illegally carrying weapons in Nashville. Pictured (l-r) are ATF Supervisor Bob Findlay, Chief Ronal Serpas, District Attorney Torry Johnson, and United States Attorney Craig Morford.
The Metro Police Department’s El Protector Program, which strives to provide crime information and build trust with Nashville’s Latino community, unveiled its new logo on July 11th, 2007, during a celebration in the South Precinct’s community room at 5101 Harding Place.

The logo, which was created by Glenciff High School student Nailet Perez during art class competition, appears on all El Protector printed materials. Chief Serpas and members of the community-based El Protector Board of Directors presented Perez with $200. Germany Butler, whose El Protector drawing came in second, received $150. Danielle Ogle, the third place artist, received $100.

Officers Juan Borges (South Precinct) and Rafael Fernandez (Hermitage Precinct) are dedicated to the El Protector program, which began in 2004. Both are fluent in Spanish and regularly attend Latino community meetings, as well as make frequent appearances on Hispanic radio stations.

Chief Serpas and South Precinct Commander Rick Lankford are pictured with the winners of the El Protector logo competition. Pictured (top l-r-bottom) are first prize winner Nailet Perez, runner up Germany Butler, and third place artist Danielle Ogle.
Operation Safer Streets

The Metro Police Department’s Operation Safer Streets gang enforcement initiative ended 2007 with 2,078 arrests, 432 drug seizures, the confiscation of 45 guns, and the service of 377 outstanding warrants. The arrests encompass 369 felony and 2,299 misdemeanor charges.

“The first full year of Operation Safer Streets reinforces my belief that the program continues to be strongly successful and is making a positive difference in communities throughout Nashville,” Chief Ronal Serpas said.

At least three times a week, officers and supervisors from the precincts, Canine Unit, and undercover detectives from the Specialized Investigations Division partner together to saturate areas of the city known for gang activity.

The initiative which took place during the last weekend in December, resulted in 38 arrests involving three felonies, 37 misdemeanors, and three outstanding warrants. Seized were 15 grams of marijuana and .3 grams of cocaine. Two stolen vehicles were recovered with drivers behind the wheels.
Nashville’s Fugitive Safe Surrender Program proved to be an overwhelming success. A total of 561 persons peacefully and voluntarily surrendered themselves at Galilee Baptist Church between the morning of Wednesday, August 1st, 2007, and Saturday, August 4th, 2007. August 4th saw the highest daily total of the four days, as 237 individuals walked into the church to address the outstanding charges against them.

“The logistics of turning Galilee Church into a fully functioning booking room and courthouse was a phenomenal undertaking,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “This program could not have succeeded without the strong mutual trust and respect between law enforcement and Nashville’s clergy.”

Chief Serpas and United States Marshal Denny King, who brought the idea for the program to Nashville, thanked the Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship, a full partner in the Safe Surrender effort, which arranged for more than 100 smiling volunteers to help staff the program. Most of the volunteers worked each of the four days.

Chief Serpas and Marshal King also credited the following individuals with making Safe Surrender possible by providing crucial staffing:

- District Attorney General Torry Johnson and his staff of prosecutors;
- Public Defender Ross Alderman and his staff of attorneys;
- Judges from the Criminal & General Sessions Courts;
- Criminal Court Clerk David Torrence and his staff;
- Davidson County Sheriff Daron Hall and his staff;
- Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole staff.

“Nashville is the fifth city in the nation to host Fugitive Safe Surrender and put its program together faster than any other city,” Marshal King said. “After four long days, I am extremely pleased with the results. The 4,000th person from the five cities involved in this program surrendered in Nashville.” The daily surrender tally was: Wednesday-94, Thursday-92, Friday-138 and Saturday-237. Of the 561 people surrendering, only seven percent (38 individuals) were arrested due to the seriousness of their charges. Twenty percent of the 561 (115 individuals) had outstanding felony matters.
Volunteer greeting fugitive

Volunteer helping fugitive fill out survey

Fugitive thanking church member
**Precinct News**

**Hermitage Precinct:**

A knock and talk by members of the Hermitage Crime Suppression Unit resulted in officers recovering 50 pounds of Graba, a form of the khat plant. It is a Schedule I drug if it is found within 48 hours of harvest, but drops to a Schedule IV drug after 48 hours of harvest. Users usually chew it or make it into a tea. Officers could see a large smoking pipe in plain view with several zip lock baggies full of the green leafy substance. The suspects were of Somali descent.

**North Precinct:**

A two-month long investigation by North Precinct undercover detectives into the distribution of cocaine from a home at 509 Mill Station Drive resulted in the arrest of three persons and the seizure of two cocaine bricks weighing a total of 4.4 pounds, 53 pounds of marijuana, 388 Lortab pills, electronic scales, two pistols, and four vehicles. Christopher L. Crockett, 28, who lived at the residence with his girlfriend, Arenthia Burkeren, 25, was charged with possession of marijuana and Lortab for resale and unlawful gun possession by a convicted felon. Burkeren was charged with possession of marijuana and Lortab resale, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Rodney Lamar Gool, 37, of Cordova, Tennessee, was charged with possession of cocaine for resale and misdemeanor marijuana possession. Undercover officers arrived to execute a search warrant on the home just as Crockett and Burkeren returned from dinner. Gool was parked on the street in front of the residence. Detectives had not encountered Gool in the past and had not expected him to be there. Gool had a marijuana cigarette in the ashtray of his car, which prompted officers to examine the vehicle further. When they did, they found two cocaine bricks in the trunk. During the search of 509 Mill Station Drive, officers found the marijuana, a large set of electronic scales, Lortab pills, and pistols. Crockett is prohibited from having guns due to his 1998 felony cocaine conviction. “This investigation by the North Precinct’s undercover drug team is outstanding and significant as we believe these large amounts of cocaine, marijuana, and Lortab were destined for the streets of Nashville,” Chief Ronal Serpas said.

**Central:**

The biggest Investigative Case for 2007 that was solved was 800 2nd Ave. S. which was the Election Commission Burglary. The burglary occurred over the Christmas Holidays. Two laptops were taken along with a computer router, and a digital camera, and other small items. One of the computers contained the addresses and social security numbers from three hundred thirty thousand plus registered voters. The case was made when we were able to match up DNA from blood on a cardboard box to a known suspect. Robert Osbourne was charged and cooperated with information on where he had taken the laptop. We were able to do a search warrant on the Kung Foo Coffee House on 4th Ave. S. and located the router and later charged Randall Cheek and Brent Rucker. The laptops were recovered and our IT unit advised the information on voters had not been tampered with.

Officer John Wright was traveling behind a vehicle on 1st Avenue South when he noticed a strong odor of marijuana. Officer Wright stopped the vehicle and confirmed that the source of the odor was coming from inside the vehicle. A probable cause search led to the seizure of 38.5 grams of marijuana. The driver was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana for resale.
**West:**

An investigation by West Precinct undercover detectives resulted in the seizure of 57 pounds of marijuana and the arrest of an Arlington, Texas, man. Leon Valdez, 27, drove to Nashville in a rented Lincoln Continental. Valdez was parked outside the Krystal Restaurant at 5209 Charlotte Pike when officers became suspicious. The area had been under surveillance because of suspected drug activity. A K-9 Unit was called and a search of the vehicle uncovered several bags of marijuana inside the Lincoln’s trunk. Valdez was charged with possession of marijuana for resale. The estimated street value of the marijuana is $60,000.

**East:**

Outstanding police work by officers assigned to the East Precinct’s Flex Team led to a 500 pound marijuana seizure and the arrest of one of the city’s larger marijuana distributors. Flex Officer Marty Reed and Officer in Training Jason Wong stopped a car for running the stop sign at North 2nd and Meridian Streets. The driver had information about neighborhood drug activity which ultimately led to the arrest of Joseph Edward Fugh, 28, and the recovery of 500 pounds of marijuana from his apartment at the Mission Brentwood complex on Enclave Circle. The marijuana has a wholesale value of at least $400,000. Detectives believe that Fugh received shipments of marijuana from Mexico and would then sell it in pound quantities to Nashville area drug dealers.

**South:**

Flex and Crime Suppression Unit officers teamed up to investigate a residence in the 1300 block of Pillow Street. A search warrant was issued for the home and 2,777 Dilaudid pills, 30 grams of cocaine, 20 grams of marijuana, digital scales, six weapons, and two vehicles were seized.

A search warrant was executed at a residence on Wallace Road. Officers were greeted by a gun-toting man who thought better of his actions, dropped his weapon, and ran into the bathroom. A search of the apartment led to the seizure of two pounds of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, $2,800.00 cash, and the handgun. Officers determined the man with the weapon lived in an apartment below the target apartment. Officer Joshuah Blaisdell did an excellent job of talking to the man who gave officers permission to search his apartment. Seizures in the search of the second apartment included 43 grams of crack cocaine, one weapon, and $5360.00 cash. Four people were arrested including a convicted felon.
Aviation Unit

In 1990, the Metro Nashville Police Department’s Aviation Unit purchased McDonnell Douglas 500E helicopters. One of the helicopters was purchased with confiscated drug monies. The 500E helicopters are equipped with Allison C-20B250 jet engines. Their top speed is over 150 mph. They can sustain a cruising speed of approximately 130 mph.

The helicopters have special search equipment including Sunburst 15 million candlepower search lights, Avalex brand moving map systems, and F.L.I.R. brand (forward looking infrared) color camera systems with microwave downlinks. The F.L.I.R. systems provide the crew with night vision (thermal imaging) and digital recording capabilities.

Aviation crews had over 1850 hours of flight time and responded to over 3,000 calls for service in 2007. These calls include searches for lost children, escaped prisoners, fleeing felons, vehicle pursuits, vice operations, drug eradications, and searches for victims of murder or suicide. The Aviation Unit will respond to any call for service that is better handled by the performance of an aerial equipment platform.

The Aviation Unit also participates in marijuana eradication during the outdoor marijuana growing season. Aviation officers have been very successful in spotting outdoor marijuana grow operations. Once an operation is located an investigation and subsequent eradication is conducted.

The aviation section located and seized over 350 marijuana plants with a street value of $384,000.00 in 2007.

Officer Hansel and Sgt. Johnson with seized marijuana plants:
The Police Unity Tour is a cross-country bike ride whose purpose is to honor fallen police officers. The first year the Police Unity Tour started out with eighteen members and raised $18,000 for the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington DC. This year approximately $1,300,000 was raised. In 2007 over twenty officers from Tennessee participated in the event.

Sixteen Metro Nashville Police Officers and/or their family members participated in this year’s ride.
2007 CASE SUMMARY

Complaints and Investigation Brought Over From 2006 ................................................. 32
Complaints and Investigations Initiated In 2007 ............................................................. 73
Total Investigations In 2007 ......................................................................................... 105
Total Investigations Completed In 2007 .................................................................... 81
Investigations Carried Over Into 2008 ....................................................................... 25

Of the 81 completed cases, the alleged violations were resolved as follows:

Charges Exonerated ........................................................................................................ 7
Charges Sustained ......................................................................................................... 16
Charges Unfounded ....................................................................................................... 12
Charges Not Sustained ................................................................................................. 6
Policy Failure ............................................................................................................. 2
Matter of Record .......................................................................................................... 1
Total Charges Resolved ............................................................................................... 44

“Exonerated” means an incident did occur but the action was consistent with
established policy, rules, or procedure.

“Sustained” means that the allegation(s) is supported by sufficient evidence and
further action is recommended.

“Unfounded” means that allegation(s) is not valid or is untrue.

“Not Sustained” means that there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the
allegation(s).

Total Disciplinary Actions:

Termination ................................................................................................................ 2
Resignation Prior to Hearing .................................................................................... 4
Oral Reprimand ......................................................................................................... 35
Written Reprimand ................................................................................................. 154
Suspension ............................................................................................................... 147
On May 4th, 2007, Chief Ronal Serpas and Mayor Bill Purcell got their first detailed look at the police department’s new armored rescue vehicle, acquired through a $250,000 Department of Homeland Security federal grant.

The armored rescue vehicle, which is used to assist in SWAT operations and the execution of high risk search and arrest warrants, replaces the department’s 25-year-old armored vehicle. It is equipped with thermal imaging equipment, weapons of mass destruction detection equipment, a radiological detection package, and explosive detection equipment.
For the first time in a decade, our state lawmakers voted to significantly strengthen the criminal code and appropriate millions of dollars to keep the most persistent and dangerous felons in prison longer. The so-called “Crooks with Guns” bill was approved by the state senate on June 11th, 2007. When “Crooks with Guns” was first introduced in February of 2007, there was no funding identified to support it, and the subsequent fiscal note (the cost of enactment) hovered around $60 million. Admittedly, the bill that was passed was not all that we asked for. However, we did get $24 million new dollars to keep crooks with guns in prison longer and away from our citizens and officers.

This new law does a number of important things:

- It is now a felony to possess a firearm while committing or attempting to commit a dangerous felony;
- It is now a felony to possess a firearm while fleeing or escaping from the commission of, or the attempted commission of, a dangerous felony;
- Mandatory minimum sentences for violations range from 3 years to 10 years, depending on the defendant’s record. These sentences are not eligible for pretrial diversion, probation, community correction or any other form of supervised/unsupervised release. They also must be served consecutively to sentences for any other offenses.
- Persons convicted under the new law are not eligible for parole until they have served at least 85% of the minimum mandatory sentences.
- “Dangerous felony” includes most violent crimes against persons. Also included are the crimes of aggravated burglary and especially aggravated burglary, and felonies involving the sale, manufacture, distribution, and possession to distribute controlled substances.
- Addresses recidivism by providing that persons who commit the crime of aggravated robbery after January 1, 2008 must serve at least 85% of their sentences if the defendants have at least one prior conviction for aggravated robbery.

This significant legislation became law thanks in no small part to the men and women of this police department who steadfastly increased their efforts to hold criminals accountable for victimizing Nashville’s families and visitors. And thankfully our commanders, community coordinating sergeants, and the staff of the Strategic Development Division put in front of our community the incredible data we uncovered about repeat offenders and their impact on our city’s criminal justice system. Many thanks went to the many members of the house and senate who rallied around this bill and appropriated the money to make it law. Senator Mark Norris and Representative John Deberry also worked tirelessly to get this bill passed. House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh and Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey both pledged their support of this legislation. Nashville State Representatives Rob Briley and Janis Sontany also worked extremely hard. It was also important to express our gratitude to Governor Bredesen and his staff. To find funding for programs such as these is always a challenge, particularly when, in February of 2007, there were zero dollars identified for this bill. The governor’s office weighed in and identified the $24 million dollars required to fund the legislation. What we had on June 11th, 2007, was $24 million that was not in place the week before to hold the most dangerous criminals accountable, to require them to do hard time, day for day. The Public Safety Coalition, made up of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, the Tennessee Sheriff’s Association, and the Conference of District Attorneys General tirelessly lobbied for this legislation. Of special note, District Attorney General Torry Johnson was the prime author of the original Crooks with Guns bill that was filed at the first of 2007. Credit also went to Maggi Duncan of the Chief’s Association for her relentless pursuit of this agenda.

The week of June 11th, 2007, was particularly good and encouraging. A positive step was made to make Nashville and Tennessee significantly safer.
New State-Of-The-Art East Precinct Station

East Nashville residents and the police officers who serve them came together July 24th, 2007, to celebrate the opening of the brand new, state-of-the-art East Precinct station located at 936 East Trinity Lane.

Mayor Bill Purcell, Chief Ronal Serpas, and community leader Bob Acuff spoke at the grand opening ceremony.

The 20,000 square foot building, which had been under construction for ten months, is now home to more than 130 officers, detectives, and administrative staff. It is six times larger than the extremely cramped East Precinct building on Dr. Richard G. Adams Boulevard, which opened in 1988. Decentralization of police department services in 2004 created the necessity for a portable building to be placed behind the old precinct to accommodate officers.

“For years to come, the safety of East Nashville will begin at 936 East Trinity Lane,” Mayor Purcell said. “Nashville deserves this new precinct building. The officers deserve it. The public deserves it.”

“This new facility provides much needed room for East Precinct officers and detectives to advance investigations and help build on the safety of this area,” Chief Serpas said. “It also offers a unique space for citizens to hold neighborhood meetings. We want the entire East Nashville community to feel welcome here.”

The new East Precinct was designed by Architectural Affiliates, PLLC, and constructed by Knestrick Contractor, Inc., at a total cost of just more than $4 million.
1st Annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase

The very 1st Annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase was held on October 22nd of 2007. The event was sponsored by the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). The proceeds from the event were split between the NCADV and Officer Danita Marsh.

The event was held at the Wild Horse Saloon in downtown Nashville which was open to the public.

Entertainers could only be Law Enforcement employees (sworn or civilian). Thanks to Captain Marlene Pardue from the Youth Services Division, the event was a big success. It really was a great opportunity to raise money for a good cause. This was not a contest, but a celebration of talent.

East Precinct Commander Bob Nash was accompanied by Sgts. Dan Ogren on drums & Bill York on bass.

Pictured (l-r) are Officers Bonita Blue, Angela Booker, Alisha Shoates, and Candace Jones.
Nashvillians turned out at the Wildhorse Saloon October 22nd to see some very talented members of the department perform for a great cause. The talent showcase and silent auction raised over $8,000 to benefit the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Nashville 100 Club for Officer Danita Marsh.

Mayor Karl Dean gave opening remarks & Harry Chapman, formerly of News Channel 5, served as master of ceremonies.

A special thanks goes to all in the department who volunteered their time and talents to make the showcase such a success. Rest assured, organizers say, there will definitely be a 2nd annual showcase! DVDs of the talent show were made in which the proceeds are used to help fund future benefits.
The 8th Annual Polar Bear Plunge benefiting Tennessee Special Olympics was held on February 17, 2007, at Nashville Shores. It was a huge success!

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Nashville Police Law Enforcement Torch Run program, with assistance from the Metro Fire Department, the event featured 35 brave souls who plunged into the icy waters of Percy Priest Lake and raised $6,350.00 for Special Olympics. Plungers collected a minimum of $20 in donations for Special Olympics.

The Metropolitan Police Department has a long-standing commitment to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics, the nation’s largest provider of athletic events and sporting activities for mentally challenged children and young adults. Thanks to Officer Herb Kajihara, Kay Holder, Sergeant Anna-Maria Williams, and Glenda Taylor for preparing the plunge site.

The Polar Plunge is a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations and businesses to support Special Olympics athletes by jumping into the frigid waters of Tennessee. The Plunge is organized by law enforcement agencies and a partner event to the Law enforcement Torch Run.

Proceeds from the Plunge help make it possible for Special Olympics Tennessee to provide year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Businesses that sponsored this year’s plunge, in addition to Nashville Shores, were the Gold Rush restaurant, Coca Cola, the Worx Group, Pool & Spa Depot, and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

Below were some of our daring and helpful volunteers which participated in helping out with the event.
Law Enforcement Torch Run – Special Olympics

Fellow Law Enforcement Officers ran from across the state Friday, May 18th of 2007, as they carried the flame of hope into Lipscomb University for the 2007 Special Olympics Summer Games Opening Ceremonies.

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." - athlete oath

Those who wear a badge and protect our communities in the face of adversity are special. Those who wear the badge and bear the title of Law Enforcement Torch Runners are UNIQUE!
Boswell’s 12th Annual Toy Parade

Boswell’s 12th Annual Toy Parade, the backbone fundraiser for the Metropolitan Police Department’s Christmas Basket Program benefiting needy Nashvillians, was held on November 17th, 2007. Motorcycle enthusiasts from across Middle Tennessee also took part in the fundraiser. Motorcycle riders lined up in Centennial Park for a fun ride to Boswell’s Fesslers Lane store where a large outdoor cookout awaited.

“Middle Tennessee is loaded with great and caring motorcycle riders, and this shows the community how we contribute to a very needy cause,” said Bubba Boswell, President of Boswell’s Harley-Davidson, noting that nearly $100,000 has been raised over the past three years.

Participating riders were asked to bring a new toy and make a cash donation. The money and toys were used to support the police department’s annual Christmas Basket Program, which was in its 46th year, through which police officers delivered food and toys to needy Nashvillians on Christmas Eve morning. Hundreds of men, women and children comprising more than 200 underprivileged families received surprise gifts of food and toys in 2007.
Christmas Basket Program

Officers and horses from the police department’s Mounted Patrol were in the parking lot of the Nashville Zoo on November 17th and 18th, 2007, to greet zoo visitors and receive new, unwrapped toys for the department’s annual Christmas Basket Program. The mounted team collected the toys from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. both days and offered a complimentary Nashville Zoo admission ticket for each new toy donated. Officers also accepted letters children had written to Santa Claus. Delivery to the North Pole was guaranteed in time for Christmas. “I am sincerely grateful to the Nashville Zoo for once again partnering with us to ensure that hundreds of underprivileged children have a meaningful Christmas,” Chief Ronal Serpas said.

Hundreds of men, women and children comprising more than 200 needy Nashville families received food and toys from Metro police officers Christmas Eve morning as the police department’s annual Christmas Basket Program entered its 46th year. In its inception, the program served two families. Over the years, requests for assistance and those actually helped by the program have steadily grown. Families are chosen at the recommendation of police officers who come into contact with them during the year. This Christmas, approximately 400 needy children received toys from the Christmas Basket Program. Thirty needy elderly citizens and 15 Alive Hospice families were also served. Contributions from hundreds of police department personnel, both sworn and civilian, and from the Nashville community fund the program.

“The Christmas Basket Program is one of our police department’s most important continuing outreach programs and has helped disadvantaged Nashville families and elderly persons since 1961,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “I am very proud of the dedicated police department staff and the generosity of persons in our community who have helped make this tradition such a long lasting success.”

Officers began gathering to put the finishing touches on the baskets at 5 a.m., December 24, inside the cafeteria of the old Tennessee State Prison located just off Centennial Boulevard in West Nashville. Assisting in the deliveries this year will be Tennessee Correction Commissioner George Little. Central Precinct Commander Andy Garrett is the police department’s volunteer coordinator and “Chief Elf” of the Christmas Basket Program.
Police Working With Jewish Community

On April 2nd, 2007, Rabbi Roth and his congregation made the donation in honor of Chief Serpas helping the Jewish community of Nashville celebrate the holiday of Passover by purchasing leavened products, known as “chametz,” during the eight days of Passover. Jews are prohibited from owning leavened products 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 the eight days. A rabbi is given the power of attorney to sell all of the products to a non-Jew until Passover has ended. After the holiday ended, Rabbi Roth bought back the leavened products from Chief Serpas.

According to the Bible, when the Jews left slavery in Egypt, they were in such a hurry that their bread did not have a chance to rise. Therefore, during Passover, the holiday that commemorates the Exodus, Jews are forbidden to eat any leavened product. In place of bread, flat unleavened wafers are eaten during the eight days of the festival.

The donation was designated to The 100 Club’s Danita Marsh Fund. The 100 Club is committed to helping Officer Marsh regain some of life’s basic choices by financing the purchase of accessible housing and a specially equipped vehicle. The 100 Club was founded to assist police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty, as well as officers who receive serious and disabling injuries while working to protect our community.
Commander Rick Lankford Retires

South Precinct Commander Rick Lankford announced his retirement after serving the Nashville community over 30 years. Commander Lankford officially left in January 2008 after a two-week training of his replacement in December, 2007.

Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Councilman Rip Ryman, Commander Rick Lankford and Councilman Michael Craddock.

Chief Serpas stated “Over the past four years, I have come to know Rick as a forward-thinking law enforcement professional and friend who continues to serve the citizens of South Nashville and this police department in an exemplary fashion. I certainly respect his decision to retire, and it has been my pleasure to work with him over these four years.” A ceremony honoring South Precinct Commander Rick Lankford on his retirement was held in December of 2007 at Compstat.

Commander Lankford commanded the South Precinct since 1989. He also worked in the West Sector as a Sergeant and in the Youth Services Division as a school officer at McGavock High School.

Lankford, an avid sportsman, has stated he will devote his “new found time” to fishing, however, we suspect it will be devoted to his new granddaughter.
Overall, in Nashville and Davidson County, reported index crimes decreased by 2.1% from calendar year 2006 to 2007—major crimes fell for the fourth straight year and were at the lowest level since 1990 (17 years). Murder, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft all demonstrated decreases. At the same time, the total physical arrests increased by 7.6% from 2006 to 2007. A record high 650 incident numbers per sworn strength were issued during 2007 (a 7.8% increase from 2006 to 2007). The 2007 statistics demonstrate that the number of burglaries is at its lowest level since 1968 (39 years) and declined 5.4% from 2006. Murder was also the crime category with the most significant percent of change from 2006 to 2007 with a 9.9% decrease. Motor vehicle theft was down 8.6%, larceny was down 1.2%, and aggravated assault was down 1.2%. Overall, property crimes decreased 2.7%. On the other hand, two crime categories that demonstrated increases were rape and robbery. Forcible rape was up 1.8% (only six incidents) and robbery was up 3.2%. The increase in robbery impacted the total violent crime count. As a result, violent crimes increased 0.1%.

However, if one assesses the crime rate determined by comparing reported crimes against Davidson County population estimates, female population estimates for rape, and the number of registered vehicles for auto theft, significant decreases can be noted. Auto theft was at its lowest rate ever since inception of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department in 1963. Furthermore, burglary was at its lowest crime rate since 1965 (42 years). The property crime rate was the lowest since 1979, a 28 year low. Rape was at its second lowest rate in 28 years with only 2006 with a lower rate.

In 2007, 74 persons died in 66 fatal crashes. Motor vehicle crash related deaths decreased by 23.7% and fatal crashes decreased by 24.1%. This decrease in motor vehicle related deaths and fatal crashes occurred during a period that officers stepped up traffic enforcement initiatives throughout the city. Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests were up 31.6%.

### Part One Offenses

Because of their seriousness and frequency of occurrence, these seven crimes, called Part One Offenses, serve as a basis for indicating the nation’s crime rate. The FBI uses Part One totals to calculate the crime index for cities in the United States and to make comparisons.

These charts depict a yearly summary for the past five years of reported criminal offenses in Nashville using Uniform Crime Reporting definitions and standards.

### 2007 UCR Stats:

- **Homicide** = 73
- **Rape** = 339
- **Robbery** = 2,603
- **Aggravated Assault** = 5,839
- **Burglary** = 6,243
- **Larceny** = 24,826
- **Auto Theft** = 2,817

![Homicide Graph](image)
Chief Ronal Serpas announced on February 22nd, 2008, that overall major crime in Nashville fell for the fourth consecutive year during 2007 to the lowest level in 17 years. Last year’s major crime total was 2.1% below that of 2006 with five of the seven major crime reporting categories reflecting reductions. Homicide last year declined 9.9% to its lowest level since 2004; Burglary declined 5.4% to its lowest level since 1968; Auto Theft declined 8.6% to its lowest level since 1989; Aggravated Assault declined 1.2% to its lowest level since 1998; and larceny declined 1.3% to its lowest level since 1991. Rape last year increased by six cases (1.8%). Robbery increased by 82 cases (3.3%). The 2007 overall crime rate, which is based on Nashville’s population estimates, was the lowest since 1989. The violent crime rate last year was the lowest since 1990. The property crime rate was the lowest since 1979. The auto theft rate was the lowest in the history of the Metropolitan government. Final crime tabulations for 2007 show that five of the six police precincts recorded crime reductions. The East Precinct led the way with an 8.1% decrease; the South Precinct had a 3.41% decline; the Hermitage Precinct had a 3.40% decline; the West Precinct had a 2.4% decline; and the Central Precinct had a 0.7% decline. The North Precinct, the police department’s largest which covers a land area of 189 square miles, experienced a 3.3% crime increase.

On the drug and prostitution front, precinct-based undercover officers during 2007 charged 5,099 persons with mostly narcotic and prostitution offenses, a 13% increase over 2006. Those detectives recovered 391 firearms, a 30% increase over 2006; seized 103 pounds of cocaine, a 99% increase over 2006; and seized 1,627 pounds of marijuana, a 59% increase over 2006.
Traffic deaths last year totaled 74, a 24% reduction from 2006. Still, victims in more than half of the fatal crashes where seatbelts were available (57%) chose not to wear them. The number of fatal crashes last year was the lowest in more than 15 years. The number of DUI arrests in 2007 increased by 32% and totaled 4,986, the highest number in 15 years. Injury collisions declined 2.3% last year. “I am convinced that our commitment to DUI enforcement is saving lives,” Chief Serpas said. “The true stranger crime that is most likely to kill or seriously injure Nashvillians is drunk driving.” Metro police officers made 260,955 traffic stops during 2007, a 4% decrease from 2006. Motorists received warnings 46% of the time.

“The tremendous work of men and women in all parts of the police department, combined with the strong community partnerships we have formed in neighborhood’s throughout Nashville, have led us to our fourth year in a row of overall crime reduction,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “While that is good news for our city as a whole, significant challenges persist in 2008. Among them are our continuing efforts to deal with repeat offenders who refuse to be rehabilitated, as well as those teenagers who choose crime over education.”

Chief Serpas said he strongly believes the tough new Crooks with Guns law will make Nashville an ever safer place this year. The statute dictates minimum mandatory prison sentences for persons who commit violent felonies or drug crimes while carrying firearms. Between January 1, 2008, and February 22, 2008, Metro officers had charged 29 persons under the Crooks with Guns law.

As for juvenile crime, Chief Serpas said he is very optimistic Mayor Karl Dean’s initiative to reduce the teenage dropout rate, coupled with the police department’s continuing outreach to the clergy and other community groups, will have an impact on the gang and other negative influences young people face.

Recruitment and retention, along with advocating for an evolving and outstanding pay and benefits package, also remain high on the chief’s priority list.

“In looking back at 2007, I am most proud of the amazing work and dedication of our officers and professional support staff,” Serpas said. Once again last year, the department was about 5% below full staffing, but our officer ranks are increasing and we should be very close to our authorized strength of 1312 sworn members by the end of 2008. That is very good news for the police department and the neighborhoods we serve.”
FY 2007 BUDGET TOTAL:

$159,312,362

- Local Salaries and Benefits $125,444,100
- Internal Service Fees $13,011,300
- All Other (Local) $6,046,600
- Fleet Operations $4,120,600
- Radio Shop Charge $1,418,700
- Telecommunications $848,000
- Uniforms $705,800
- Grants & Other Funds $5,672,837
- Capital Projects $2,044,425

F 2007 BUDGET TOTAL

2007 MNPD Annual Report
METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 James Robertson Parkway ■ Nashville, Tennessee 37201
Website:  http://www.joinmnpd.com

For Information Call (Toll Free): (888) 638-7633 or (615) 862-7341
For An Application Call The Metropolitan Government Human Resources Job Line: (615) 880-3402

Mailing Address:
Metro Nashville Police Department
Recruitment & Background Unit
2231 26th Avenue North, Room 126
Nashville, TN  37208

Qualifications

May apply two months prior to 21st birthday. Possess a minimum of 60 semester hours from an accredited academic university with a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average (C) on a 4.0 scale, or High School Diploma or GED and documentation of two (2) years military experience (Honorable Discharge), or High School Diploma or GED and documentation of minimum of two (2) years prior law enforcement experience in patrol capacity with P.O.S.T. certification or equivalent, or High School Diploma or GED and five (5) years of responsible work experience. Additionally, eyesight must be no worse than 20/100 (Snellen) uncorrected, 20/20 in better eye, 20/30 in other eye. Be in excellent physical and mental health with no restrictions that could restrict or impair police work.

Benefits

■ Competitive Pay ■ 20 Vacation Days ■ 3 Personal Days ■ 10 Holidays
■ 1 Sick Day/Month (May Build to 120) ■ Generous Health/Dental Benefits ■ 20 Paid Military Days
■ Excellent Retirement Benefits