



Prince George's County, Maryland Office of the Sheriff

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1696 **News**

A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

How Do We Know We've Moved the Needle?

The needle on a scale tells us if we've gained or lost weight; the speedometer shows us when we've sped up or slowed down, and a clock tells us if it's early or



late. What though tells us if the plans we've laid have been successful? If we are trying to improve, what signals tell us that we've succeeded? That's what I mean when I ask: How do we know we've moved the needle?

Each year, as we begin the budget process, we develop a set of goals for the Sheriff's Office and build a resource needs module to support them.

In the Sheriff's Office, in addition to seeking opportunities to make improvements as we fulfill the core roles and responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office, we made plans to raise awareness about family and domestic violence, to have deputies engaged in the lives of our county's young people, and to build partnerships to strengthen our county. I want to share with readers how I believe we've moved the needle on these fronts.

In 2014, we launched the Purple Light Nights Campaign to raise awareness about domestic violence and to invite citizens to join us to create a unified community voice against domestic violence.

...cont. p. 4



Melvin C. High
Sheriff



Colonel Darrin C. Palmer
Chief Assistant Sheriff

Finding Kelley:

Case Spotlights Warrant/Fugitive Division Skill

The Kenneth Kelley story of the drunk driver convicted of killing five people, including two children, in a vehicle crash became a high-profile example of why violent offender arrests is a the top priority of the Sheriff's Warrant/Fugitive Division. They represent potential harm to citizens.

Kenneth Kelley became a priority when he failed to appear for his sentencing hearing; a warrant was issued for his arrest after he was released on \$100,000

bond against the wishes of the state's attorney's office....cont. p. 2



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FINDING KELLEY, Continued from p. 1

Media followed the search for Kelley throughout the weekend, attempting to clarify differing accounts about whether Kelley had been wearing a court-ordered GPS anklet or not and whether it had been removed.

Warrant in hand, Sheriff's Deputies began an intensive search for Kelley, including posting "Wanted" posters on social media sites and distributing them as they spoke with residents while canvassing areas where they thought Kelley might be.



The search for Kelley continued throughout the weekend when finally a tip led to his being captured at a hotel, where Kelley may have been planning to flee. Kelley was sentenced to 50 years in prison - 10 years for each life that was tragically lost.

Not every case or every warrant gets the attention the tragic Kelley case got, but the investigative work of developing and following leads, and, contacting relatives and known associates of violent offenders is standard protocol.

Deputies' daily efforts to get violent offenders off the streets are augmented with violent offender operations funded by the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). Funding enables the Sheriff to partner with other state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies to maximize warrant operations with additional manpower, focusing on violent offenders. These captures contribute to crime reduction.

Although our top priority, violent offender warrants are among another 2,000+ new warrants the Sheriff's Office receives each month. Serving them quickly and safely and staying current on new warrants are the tactical elements of the Sheriff's Warrant Strategy that has reduced the warrant backlog from more than 53,000 to under 34,000, an overall decline of 31% since Sheriff High took office.

Moving the needle!

Retirements/ Separations

Captain Rolf Thorsen ~ Lt. Julia Murphy ~ Cpl. Mauricio Casanova ~ Dfc Jamal Dedier ~ DS Berney Williams ~ Mark Smith ~ Adenike Campbell-Fatoki ~ Marie Brown ~ Deborah James-Morris ~ Tracye Malcolm ~ Jacob Mendez

New Hires

Academy Graduates: Kamal Ashkar~Matthew Berry~ Ebony Brady~ Diana Chavez Dela Cruz ~ Kyree Curmon ~ Adam Dymond~ Andres Hernandez ~Brent Huffman ~ Michael Kay~ Tristan Leeper~ Devon Simpson ~ Marcus Sims ~ Brandon Turner ~ Paul Washington III~ Jose Zapata Jr.

In the Academy: Ebenezer Akuetteh ~ Alejandra Alonso-Warren ~ Letitia Brown ~ Alton Bryant ~ Dawayne Bryant ~ Tyana Clarke ~ Frank King ~ Tyrone Lester, Jr.

EPOs: Andrea Givens ~ Ancil DeLancy

Civilian: Melvin Forbes ~ Dallana Perea ~ Tabatha Patterson

Promotions

Corporal: Titus M. Coleman ~ Andre J. Hinds ~ Aaron M. Williams ~ Mary A. Windsor

Deputy First Class : David J. Adams ~ Larry D. Cavins ~ Christopher M. Cormier ~ Paul Froutz ~ Arthur Grinage ~ Terrence F. Mordecai ~ Keina L. Muschette ~ Miteka C. Trueheart

Civilians: Pamela Cherry, Administrative Aide IV ~ Leslie Brown, Administrative Aide I

Remember the Fallen & Celebrate the Future

In fulfilling their oath and pledge to protect others, the men and women in law enforcement play an important role in communities. Law enforcement families pledge their support, too, letting their loved ones leave home and family every day, knowing they have sworn an oath. They pray that their loved one will return home at day's end. Sometimes they don't. ...*cont. p.3*



REMEMBER, Continued from p.2

National Police Week in May is a time when the nation remembers police and other law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty. Officers from departments all over the nation come to lay wreaths at the Police Memorial in Washington D.C., and to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Members in the Sheriff's Office also held the yearly ceremony in memory of Sergeant James Arnaud and Deputy First Class Elizabeth Magruder, whose lives were lost in August 2002. This is our time to remember and be with family.



Spending time with each other and with the family and friends of the Sheriff's Office's fallen was especially poignant this year for the leadership of the Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA) and for members. The son of Deputy First Class Elizabeth Magruder, Devinn Magruder, who was three when his mother was killed in the line of duty, was to be a 2017 high school graduate. In recognition of Devinn's graduation and plans for college, DSA President Sgt. William Milam awarded Devinn a \$5,000 college scholarship.

The Sheriff, the DSA, the Arnaud family, and all our members celebrated with Devinn and his father Derwin.



That's what family does.

A Message of Resiliency for Melvin C. High Scholars

The 2017 Melvin C. High Scholarship awardees were Pharist O'Neal, Jessica Jenkins, and Awaoluwa Ogundana, graduates of Charles Herbert Flowers, Bishop McNamara, and Frederick Douglas High Schools, respectively. The scholars were selected from among 10 finalists who were chosen from about 100 applicants. These scholars represent the 7th year Sheriff High has awarded scholarships to Prince George's County High School graduates who are recognized for their academic achievements, as well as their involvement in community and school activities.



Sheriff High said he is as excited to meet each year's scholars as he was to meet the first scholars in 2011. The message to this year's winners was about resiliency. "Every opportunity we have to support young people in their drive toward personal excellence and achieving their aspirations builds resiliency," said Sheriff High.



"Our excitement about young people guides us in the activities we have or create to engage with young people in order to enjoy their company and to impact them positively. Whether our efforts touch our summer interns, our Positive D.A.Y. cadets, or the summer campers, when we help them build skills that enable them to recover from life's inevitable difficulties, we're helping them to be resilient."

Guest speaker Carlton Atkinson, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin's state director, urged the young people to take advantage of every opportunity presented by campus life, to ask lots of questions, and to enjoy the environment.

Having personally funded the Melvin C. High Scholars, Sheriff High recently registered the scholarship fund as a non-profit 501(c)3 in order to help more county graduates.

Dogwood Acres Pet Retreat Donates K-9 Gear

The Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit was the beneficiary of the Dogwood Acres Pet Retreat, which picks a law enforcement K-9 Unit to support, providing new Kevlar Protective Vests, with plenty of attention and treats to go around. Acting Sgt. Christine Coleman said, "We had a great time with the Dogwood Acres team. They appreciate how hard our dogs work helping us do our work. The new vests are a great addition and a great help to our team, and we can't underestimate their importance in protecting our dogs."



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Since then, professionals engaged in this work from government agencies, community organizations, and churches in the county have become more acquainted with each other and are collaborating and sharing resources and information. This strengthens the public's understanding about the range of resources available for victims and how to get help. Domestic violence thrives in darkness and in silence, but it can be defeated in the light of awareness and through the strength of partnership; working together, we can move the needle.

Our commitment to young people is rooted in excitement about the future of our county. We have the ability to impact young people with sound guidance, respectful treatment, and encouragement of their dreams and aspirations. Those are the tenets upon which we built the Positive D.A.Y. (Deputies Assisting Youth) mentoring program in county middle schools.

The results of Positive D.A.Y. have been rewarding and tell a great story of students with fewer suspensions, fewer absences, fewer disciplinary actions, and increases in their Grade Point Averages (GPA). We apply the same tenets when working with teens in our Explorer Post #1696, the tremendous young people who are our Summer Interns, the boys that deputies mentor in HERO Boys, which introduces boys to positive role models from the community, and even the little ones we read to in the Prince George's County Educators' *Read Across America*.



We are fortunate to have a strong partnership with law enforcement agencies at all levels of government. That has been important to our success, particularly in the county where our municipal police departments are led by experienced chiefs who know their communities well. They are as equally interested in capturing violent offenders as we are. Their assistance in warrant operations adds manpower and a familiarity with their communities that makes the Warrant/Fugitive Division operations consistently successful. We respond In-kind, when any of these partners have called upon us to support law enforcement initiatives, or other events and activities that strengthen the bonds of community.

No matter the goal, I believe the odds of *moving the needle* are vastly improved when we work together.

Thank you for your hard work. I am so proud of our work together, for your support of our community, and for continuing to move the needle.

Sheriff Melvin C. High