



Prince George's County, Maryland Office of the Sheriff

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1696 **News**

A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

Our Way Forward – Launching From a Solid Foundation

It's almost impossible to begin a new year, in life or in work, without thinking about what it will bring. In fact, much of

what the new year will bring is influenced by what each of us do intentionally. At the Sheriff's Office, the way we begin to think about how we can be intentionally influential in achieving our mission is by planning well to meet the agency's needs and by developing good processes and procedures that facilitate excellence in safe, best practice implementation.

Every leader of a good organization like ours wants the organization to be recog-



nized for delivering good results. We want that too, but the nature of our law enforcement relationship with the community doesn't make that so easy because many citizens don't interact with Sheriff's Deputies unless they have business with the court or the court has business with them. Our role in public safety, therefore, may not be well-defined in citizens' consciousness and may even go unrecognized by the public. Our being awarded CALEA Accreditation in 2018, for instance, ...*cont..p.4*

5th Anniversary of Purple Light Nights®

Purple Light Nights® has become synonymous with the Office of the Sheriff. The annual PLN Lighting Ceremony that begins Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October is an event that has grown each year and is part of a global campaign in 32 states, Canada and Guam. We're proud to have launched this important domestic violence awareness campaign in the State of Maryland.

Last October, we celebrated the Purple Light Nights® Lighting Ceremony's 5th Anniversary of helping to raise awareness about domestic violence and highlighting the range of county resources available to victims. The event brings multiple agencies with a role in domestic violence to-

gether for an opportunity to share, network with one another, and develop ways to improve outcomes.

In turn, citizens who attend learn about resources and programs *cont. p.2*



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Sheriff



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that can be used to recognize signs of abuse, and other information that arms them to be a resource rather than a bystander for friends and family who may be affected by domestic violence.

Purple Light Nights® 5th Anniversary celebrated the program's outstanding partners in government, business, and in the community who joined us in our quest to raise awareness. Partners received the inaugural Purple Light Bulb Award, with our Presenting Sponsor PEPCO receiving first of the awards. Thanks to Pepco's generosity, the Office of the Sheriff has given away thousands of purple bulbs for residents to shine on their porch or in a window during the month of October to signify our community's unity in the fight against domestic violence.

We believe that we are propelled forward by strong partnerships. That will only strengthen Purple Light Nights® in its 6th year. "Making an even bigger impact means we and our partners have to continue to grow our campaign to raise awareness." said Col. Mark Roccapiore. "We know we can end Domestic Violence and shining a light on its darkness pushes it into the light of day where we can fight it."



Retirements/ Separations: Todd Powers #218~ Herbert Mitchell # 435~ Leonard Damron #221~ Malik Cochran #C379~ Neshia Cabrera-Pearson #C400~ Ericka C. Pastor #C296~ Michelle Jackson #C380~ LaShawn Deal #T059~ Antonio Walker #575~ Alyssa Hoffmann #C383~ Bernice Fowler #C287~Megan Pickeral #C334~ Ike Crudup #439

Academy Graduates: Charles Hyatt #571~ Toe Hyatt #572

In the Academy: Cekeithia Barnes #580~ Miya Jones #581~ Nicholas Dorsett #582~ Stephon Holyfield #583

New Hires Sworn/Civilians: Jeffrey Dewberry #578~ Saquan Wells #584~ Thomas Hargrove III #579~ Juel Rembert #C406~ Lawrence Mathis #C403~ Deneen Hensley #C404~ Regina Taylor #C405 Albert Bell, Jr. #C402~ Jason McCray #C401~ Josslynn Budd #C398~ Dwane Warren #C399~ Andrew Baines #C396 Tarazzia Maith #C397

Promotions: Major: John Carr #189

Lieutenant: Keenan Connley #161~ Andrew Whyte #284

Sergeant: John Brown #395~ Eric Douglas #422

Awards/Recognition: Cpl. Jeffery Mayberry~ Dfc. Sterling Smith~ Dfc.Schuyler Green (*Commander's Commendation Award*)

Cpl.Ricardo Dennis~ Sgt. Christine Wiseman (*Meritorious Service Award*)

Young People in Positive D.A.Y. Soar!

The Office of the Sheriff's Positive D.A.Y. (Deputies Assisting Youth) Program began in 2011 in six middle schools struggling to meet their Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals. Meant to be a mentoring program rather than a school resource officers, the curriculum was designed to help students grow into positive, productive, confident young people with certain of their capacity – with the right life skills - to be successful. Now, having grown, from six to sixteen schools, and with an outstanding partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools, Sheriff High's goal is to implement Positive D.A.Y. in all thirty-six (36) county middle schools...*cont. p.3*



“Positive D.A.Y.” cont. from Page 2

“Positive D.A.Y. is an investment in our young people.” said Sheriff High. “There’s nothing more conducive to learning and creativity in young people than when we encourage them to do and be their best.” As a former biology teacher, Sheriff High thought middle schools were the right choice for the program because students are at the most vulnerable age in their development - questioning who they are, vulnerable to peer influence, and wondering how they fit into the world.

Program topics in Positive D.A.Y include self-esteem, problem-solving, bullying, confidence building, and decision making, but the program stays relevant with fresh topics such as “branding” in which cadets discuss what their personal brand will be.

A measure of Positive D.A.Y.’s success is that some area offices of PGCPS have requested that it be made an official option for all middle school schedules because the program has excelled against all measurable outcomes with students showing better grades, declining absences, suspensions, and expulsions. In addition, deputies see students become more confident about expressing themselves.

One student at Walker Mill said of the program, “It helped me grow, and feel more comfortable with the people around me.” Another said, “Before I started this program, I was irresponsible and didn’t care about stuff, but now I’m more responsible, more confident.”

Sgt. Rick Johnson has managed the program and its growth since its inception. “We’re proud of the curriculum we’ve developed and of the resulting growth and progress we see in cadets and which they see in themselves.”



Deputies Save a Life in the Line of Duty

There’s no better example of why it’s important for Sheriff’s Deputies to be on site of evictions or of the connection between good training and successful outcomes than the situation that occurred last September at just such a scene.

At the residence, Deputies First Class S. Green and S. Smith asked the male tenant to gather his essential items before leaving the apartment, but the tenant walked back to his bedroom and laid down on his bed. DFC Smith asked him to get off the bed and instructed him again to gather his personal items. Instead, the tenant started to open the drawer of his nightstand.



Alert to the potential for danger, Deputies positioned themselves tactically and saw that the tenant had a knife. Deputies attempted to subdue the man with OC spray in the face but he continued to ignore verbal commands.

At one point he held the knife to his neck and told deputies the only way he was leaving was “in a body bag.” After threatening deputies with suicide, he attempted to cut his wrist and neck. Still giving him verbal commands, deputies called for extra units with a Taser.

Deputies continued to try to reason with the tenant to get him to drop the knife and were assisted by off-duty Cpl. Mayberry who arrived on scene with a Taser and could see that the man’s arm was tiring. Mayberry talked with the man and a strike with a Taser subdued the tenant enough for DFC Green to take the knife. The tenant was taken into custody and transported to a hospital for emergency psychiatric evaluation.

“Deputies First Class Green and Smith, and Cpl. Mayberry saved this tenants life,” said Sheriff High. “Their tools were professional demeanor, use of the less lethal Taser, and de-escalation skills.”

“Sheriff’s Message” cont. from Page 1

is the Gold Standard of Accreditation for law enforcement agencies. It validates – under rigorous scrutiny - that at the Sheriff’s Office, we do what we say we do. We maintain this certification by continuing to do good work based on best practice policing policies, which we are committed to doing.

Approximately 1/3 of Sheriff’s personnel are responsible for safety and security of the courts and courtrooms, including safety of judges, all persons working in the courthouse, and all persons who enter the courthouse – every day throughout the year. The other 2/3 of our personnel are responsible for service of all court-ordered documents - warrants, notices of eviction and writs related to foreclosure, child support-related documents, peace and protective orders, including the new Extreme Risk Protective Orders and court-ordered emergency petition orders for persons struggling with mental illness or distress, and responding to 9-1-1 calls for domestic violence. These are our missions.

The importance of deputy proficiency in serving a wide range of court documents is that it prevents delays in the courts’ functions. Effective warrant service occurs because we prioritize violent offender and domestic violence warrants as our highest priority to minimize harm to the community, and squads incorporate effective investigative tools to locate and safely apprehend wanted persons.

Plans for effective service of two other types of warrants were a priority over the last year because of potential danger and the volatility of the situations in which service occurs. The first is service of court-issued Emergency Petitions for Emergency Evaluation (EPS) related to the mentally ill or distressed individuals. The other is service of Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO). The volume and volatility inherent in EPS service resulted in the creation of a specialized team for EPS service. The ERPO – created by a new law - required us to develop a service protocol by the law’s effective date of October 1, 2018. ERPOs enable parties to ask the courts to temporarily remove guns from a person showing signs of violence toward themselves or others.

The three-pronged approach of our Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID) is critical to victim safety and the resolution of domestic disputes. Deputies serve peace and protective orders countywide, respond to emer-

gency calls for service in police District III, during which they conduct on-site investigations to assess the risk to a victim, and our Special Victim Assistants provide direct outreach and follow-up to victims.

Some of the work we do is specialized, high risk work that requires continuous training and sometimes the skills of the Specialized Services Teams (SST) to evaluate the situational threat and to determine the appropriate response.

Our Community Partnership Section personnel assist seniors on issues related to personal safety, tips for avoiding scams, a medication notification protocol for public safety personnel, and the cell phone recycling program that provides 9-1-1 capable cell phones to seniors and victims of domestic violence.



With an eye to crime prevention, our Positive D.A.Y. (Deputies Assisting Youth) middle school mentoring program and summer camp are clear winners. Having grown from six middle schools that were falling short of adequate yearly progress (AYP) standards to sixteen schools around the county, the program places a law enforcement mentor in middle schools to support young people during very high transitional years in their lives. With results that show fewer absences and suspensions, less tardiness, improved GPAs, and obvious and new-found self-confidence, our goal is to have the program in all middle schools.

This is the solid foundation from which we will launch the new year. On behalf of the men and women of the Sheriff’s Office, we appreciate your confidence and support, and pledge that we will continue to serve you to the very best of our ability.

Sheriff Melvin C. High

