



Prince George's County, Maryland Office of the Sheriff

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1696 **News**

A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

The Power of Partnerships

I take a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that our people are well prepared to serve citizens and to fulfill our commitment to them and to the larger community. Our success is fueled by forging great partnerships with law enforcement agencies, and with municipal, county, and state organizations. Working with others on important community initiatives and where our interests align is a great way for us and our partners to be more productive and to increase our odds for success.



We work with many of our partners daily like the Family Justice Center and other partners in the criminal justice system. Some of the work we do with partners may impact our work later such as with the Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO), which is explained in this issue. Our agency and others worked with the General Assembly to support legislation that created the ERPO, which we believe is an important new safety protection against gun violence.

...cont..p.4



Melvin C. High
Sheriff



Colonel Darrin C. Palmer
Chief Assistant Sheriff

What is the Role of the Sheriff in the Expungement Process ?

County residents may not know much about the expungement process and even fewer know that the Office of the Sheriff has a role in that process. It is a process that results in removal of an individual's criminal and/or civil records from public view and inspection. In the State of Maryland, expungement removes those records from Sheriff, Police, Motor Vehicle, and court records.

Because expungement facilitates the removal of an individual's criminal or civil records, it can be a critical next step to also removing barriers to that person getting their life back on track or to opportunities from which they may be excluded because of their record. Friends

and family recognize that being 'stuck with a record' can have a long-term impact on the life of a young person, friend, or family member who gets into legal trouble.

The expungement process literally represents a second chance for a person with a record. *cont...p.2*



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“The Expungement Process and the Office of the Sheriff “ cont. from Page 1



The Maryland Courts website at www.courts.state.md.us is a good source. Search ‘expungement’ to access an expungement video and an information packet about removing criminal records from public access. To begin the expungement process, an individual is required to file a ‘Petition for Expungement’ form. There are two versions of the form – one for cases that ended in a not guilty verdict and another for cases that ended with a guilty verdict.

The forms - available on the website require information that includes a case number, the date the individual was arrested, summoned, or received a citation. Also required is the law enforcement agency – sheriff, county police, municipal police - that made the arrest or served the documents, the offense the individual was charged with and the date the case was closed. Information such as the case number, date of arrest and other information can be obtained from the local court within the jurisdiction where the arrest was made.

Once the expungement petition is complete, it must be filed with the clerk of the court where the case was closed. To avoid delay in processing, it is important to submit expungement documents to the proper agency and for each individual arrest with proper documentation and case information as required. Once a petition has been filed, the process takes approximately 90 days as required by law.

Maryland law sets specific time requirements for the various phases of the expungement process, so that, for instance, if the State’s Attorney or the law enforcement agency mentioned in the petition objects to the petition, a court hearing is held and the petitioner will be notified of the date and time. Should there be no objections to the expungement petition, the court issues an order to the appropriate agencies and the petitioner shall be notified by the court within 30 days. If the expungement is denied, the petitioner can appeal within 30 days of notification of denial.

Within 60 days of receiving the court-order granting expungement to an individual who was arrested by sheriff’s deputies, the Office of the Sheriff will remove the records from our files and from public view. Each entity (Courts, PGSO, PGPD, etc.) is responsible for removing the information from their databases. Finally, the Office of the Sheriff mails a Certificate of Compliance to the petitioner and the court notifying them that the expungement has been completed and removed from all Sheriff’s Office databases and office files. Although the Process for expungement cannot be expedited, without exception, all cases are handled uniformly.

Retirements/ Separations: Eric Douglas #422~ Nancy Ridgely #138~ Ariel T. Turner #C318~ Albert Bell #C402~ Miya Jones #581~ Emmanuel Bawuah #560~ Maranda Coles #C408~ Stephon Holyfield #583~ Lamar Blake #507~ Christian Suite #523~ D’Jonn Drake #520 ~ S. Familia #586

Academy Graduates: E. Brunson Jr.#574~ M. Bevard #577~ C.Barnes #580~ N. Dorsett #582

In the Academy: Sebastian Abirikaih #587~ Tarazzia Maith #588~ Janay Smith #589~ Robert Harris, III #590~ Andrew McLean #591~ Khary Johnson #592

New Hires Sworn/Civilians:C. Manning #C412 ~M. Stringfellow #C413~ Q. Stokes Armstrong # C414~ R. Anderson # C415 ~T. Ransome # C416 ~M. Johnson II ~ # C410~ L. Duncan # C417~ K. Dodson # C418~ #T061~ A. Thomas # T062

Promotions:

Deputy First Class K. Ashkar #541, E. Brady #547 K. Curmon #532, K. Graham #522, L. Hall #505, A. Hernandez #545, B. Huffman #548, M. Kay #529, T. Leeper #543, F. Mehdi #503, D. Minchella #527, E. Perdoma #524, D. Simpson, #546, M. Sims #528, J. Stevenson #531, K. Stevenson #535 P. Washington #538, D. Winder #533.

Corporal L. Brooks #471, C. Cormier #499, P. Froutz #502, A. Grinage #506, E. Howell-Rose #451, D. Humphries, #466, T. Jackson #469, A. Jones #473, T. Macklin II #489, T. Moredcai #481, J. Proctor #475, M. Sarita #437, S. Smith #490, K. Yearwood #333.

Awards/Recognition: D/S M. Berry,~D/S A. Bynum~DFC K.Wooten~Cpl. D. Hardester ~DFC D. Humphries ~Cpl. Brown ~ Cpl. Mayberry ~ A/Sgt. Hall,~ Cpl. Mayberry,~ Cpl.Wingate ,~DFC. Patrick

Melvin C. High Scholarship Award Winners

The four winners of the Melvin C. High Scholarship were awarded on June 7th.

They are: Zane Curtis-Thomas, from Parkdale High School, Christiana Pablo, from Bowie High School, Zipporah Sewell and Farhana Uddin, from Charles Herbert Flowers High School. Sheriff High told the graduates, “ Good grades are the key to open the door and scholarships...*cont.p.3*



“Melvin C. High Scholarship Award” cont. from P.2

...are important because they help you get into the room. Once you're in the room, our society has expectations for its brightest and that is service, leadership, character and citizenship. Not just one, but all these traits are important and when you find them all in one person, you've found someone who will accomplish great things for his or her community.”

Special guest speaker Dr. Kia Myrick McDaniel, ED.D., coordinating supervisor, Specialty Programs with the Prince George's County Public Schools shared insights about life and urged them to remember the three C's: Community, Compassion, and Creativity.

The Melvin C. High Scholarship was begun by Sheriff High in 2011, his first year in office.

Police Chiefs' Association Awards!



Sergeant Richard Johnson and Personnel Administrative Aide Stacy Brendlinger of the Sheriff's Office awarded Officer and Civilian Employee of the year.



Celebrating Our 323rd Birthday

The history of the Office of the Sheriff predates the country's independence because the Governor of Maryland, Sir Francis Nicholson appointed Thomas Hillary as the first Sheriff back on April 22, 1696.



Part of a fascinating history, it was the Sheriff and his posse who arrested British soldiers returning from the Battle of Bladensburg during the War of 1812 for looting local farms. In retaliation, a British Commander ordered the Sheriff and his men arrested and held for ransom on a British warship. One of those men was Dr. William Beam, the brother-in-law of Francis Scott Key who had been searching for Beam in Baltimore when he witnessed the British attack on Fort McHenry – the event that inspired Key to write a song that became the Star-Spangled Banner.

According to Maryland Common Law, the Sheriff is the Chief Law Enforcement Official of Prince George's County, with Deputies who are sworn state law enforcement officers with authority throughout the state. The role of 'law enforcement arm of the courts' became the Sheriff's priority in 1931 when the county's population had grown sufficiently to create a separate police department to focus on crime and disorder.

Today, the agency has staked out a leadership position in the fight against Domestic Violence under its authority under the Maryland Family Law Statute with establishment of the Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID) and its Purple Light Nights lighting ceremony event. Committed to 21st Century Policing Standards, the agency was unanimously awarded the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) designation in 2018.

At the mature age of 323, the Office of the Sheriff is staying true to its Vision:

“The Prince George's County and Sheriff's Office is committed to providing services that are fair, impartial, and effective while incorporating the highest standards of personal conduct and performance. The Sheriff's Office employs skilled dedicated professionals, committed to public service. We will serve the public responsibly while being held accountable to the highest moral, ethical, and legal standards. We believe in continuous improvement in all our endeavors, always striving to achieve excellence.”

Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO)

The Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1302 in 2018 to create the Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO), a court-issued civil order requiring a person to temporarily: (1) surrender any firearms or ammunition to law enforcement; and (2) not purchase or possess firearms or ammunition.



Extreme Risk Protection Order

The law became effective on October 1, 2018 and prohibits possession of firearms by a respondent named in an ERPO while the ERPO is open. Sheriff High and the Office of the Sheriff supported the legislation because it strengthened protections against gun violence.

The ERPO is an important new tool for law enforcement that may be issued against an individual who presents an “immediate and present” danger to himself or others. It is not a personal protective order or what is sometimes called a stay-away order.

However, if a petitioner indicates that a person has guns when they are filing for a regular protective order, the hearing authority can bestow on law enforcement the same authority provided by an ERPO to confiscate all weapons from the person being filed against. The same rule applies for petitioners for an EPS.

In the Sheriff’s Office, where deputies serve protective orders and court-ordered Emergency Petition Services (EPS) for mentally ill or distressed persons, the ERPO enables deputies to also confiscate weapons and ammunition.

The ERPO is also a valuable new protection against gun violence because it can be obtained by a family member or another individual concerned about a person’s safety. In a case of domestic violence, the person requesting the ERPO (petitioner) is concerned for their own safety from a person with the guns.

Since the law took effect, the Office of the Sheriff has served over 60 domestic violence related ERPOs, collected 132 firearms and over 35,000 rounds of ammunition. “Taken together, we believe citizens’ access to an ERPO and our ability to confiscate firearms temporarily has an enormous potential to reduce deaths and injury from gun violence, both in a domestic violence situation and where a person in distress may have access to firearms,” said Captain Brian Endlich, Commander of Bureau of Field Operations and Domestic Violence Intervention Unit.

“Sheriff’s Message” cont. from Page 1

Every opportunity we get to attend community events is essential to our partnership with communities and our goal of keeping citizens informed about progress and change at the agency. Our partnership with the county executive and the county council has been essential to clarifying the critical role we play in public safety, while our work with other government partners – Municipal and County Police, the Departments of Family and Social Services, the State’s Attorney’s Office, and County Schools - embodies the idea that we can achieve anything by working together.

We also appreciate the partnerships we’ve built with corporate, civic, social, and sorority and fraternal organizations that have supported our program investments in young people and our commitment to strengthening our community’s resources against domestic and family violence.

They include Pepco, Kaiser Permanente, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women of Prince George’s County, Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Kappa Alpha Psi., and many others.

The work we do is difficult and challenging and worthwhile. It is made all the more fulfilling with good partners by our side. Thank you for your support. We’ll see you around the county. Remember, #PGSO is Everywhere.

Sheriff Melvin C. High



Sheriff High talks with Positive D.A.Y Summer Camp Youth

The Office of the Sheriff Positive D.A.Y. (Deputies Assisting Youth) Summer Camp is a project of the Positive D.A.Y. Middle School Mentoring Program