



Windsor Heights Police Department

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To: Honorable Mayor & City Council Members through City Administrator

From: Dennis W. McDaniel, Chief of Police

Date: June 10, 2014

Re: Police Department Monthly Report for May '14

Monthly Summary

Patrol Summary: The month of May saw the continued upswing in calls for service from the winter months which is typical this time of year. In total, the police department answered 862 calls for service, of which 329 were traffic stops; we took 118 case reports and made 125 arrests.

Points of interest from Patrol this month:

The Patrol Division continues to interdict individuals carrying illegal drugs throughout the city. In May patrol officers seized 6.6 grams of methamphetamines, 24.6 grams of marijuana, 0.5 grams of cocaine, and several illegally possessed prescription narcotics. The average personal use amount of marijuana or meth is approximately one-half of one gram (0.5g). The total amounts listed above demonstrate that patrol officers continue to make several narcotics arrests each month. In conjunction with these narcotics arrests, many pieces of drug paraphernalia were seized (below).



Examples of drug paraphernalia seized by patrol officers



Methamphetamine recovered during a traffic stop

Canine (K-9) Unit

In May Officer Canada and K9 Argos had six deployments. All six deployments were narcotics related. The following three incidents are highlights of the canine unit's activities in May:

- On May 1, 2014 Officer Canada conducted a traffic stop on 73rd Street. During the course of the stop the occupants were acting nervous and both had prior drug related convictions. Officer Canada deployed Argos and he alerted on the car. Officer Canada seized over \$500 worth of methamphetamine that the suspects were en route to sell at our local Wal-Mart. \$721 cash was also seized during the stop that will be submitted to the asset forfeiture process.
- On May 11, 2014 Officer Canada and K-9 Argos assisted Officer Nissen on a narcotics investigation. At the conclusion, one person was charged with possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine; \$1,522 cash was seized as proceeds of drug dealing and is going through the asset forfeiture process. K-9 Argos played a vital role in this investigation.

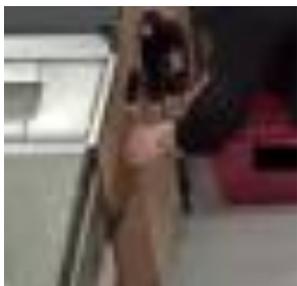
- On May 30, 2014 Officer Canada and K-9 Argos participated in a traffic safety project with the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force (CITSTF). This project was conducted in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division. Officers checked commercial vehicles at the Dallas County DOT scale on I-80. Officer Canada and K-9 Argos assisted with an inspection on a commercial motor vehicle. DOT officers had observed the driver of the vehicle to be nervous and had taken a route on his trip that was also suspicious. During the course of the investigation DOT officers requested that K9 Argos check the commercial vehicle. Argos alerted in the vehicle. Marijuana and paraphernalia were seized as a result of the investigation.

These incidents showcase how proactive enforcement and a proficient canine unit can yield great results. Not only are drugs being taken out of circulation, but also illicit monies that will be reinvested in our K-9 program, used to purchase police equipment, or to supply training after the forfeiture process is exercised. These funds would have otherwise been used to further the illegal drug trade.

Investigations Summary: In May investigators were assigned 6 new cases for investigation of which 3 cases were cleared by arrest, 2 cases became inactive, 0 cases were cleared exceptionally, and 0 were unfounded. Investigators made 5 arrests, issued 0 arrest warrants, wrote 2 search warrants, and issued 0 subpoenas. There are 13 cases that will continue into the next month for investigative follow up.

Notable cases for investigators focused on the investigation of stolen property from a local business, a liquor device theft from a local business, and some individuals cashing fake checks. Each of these cases led to arrest(s), cooperation with area law enforcement and/or the issuance of court orders.

In the first part of May, Detective Pearson was assigned a theft case where an individual was witnessed stealing merchandise from a store. Through the use of witness statements, surveillance systems and research, investigators were able to identify and arrest the suspect stealing merchandise. This investigation ultimately led to the issuance of 2 search warrants where officers recovered additional stolen merchandise valued over \$1,000 and made 2 more arrests.



A second case that Detective Pearson worked in the first part of May was an individual stealing a device to remove anti-theft devices from liquor bottles. Through the use of witness statements, surveillance systems and cooperative efforts with other area investigators, the suspect in this case was identified and charged with theft.

A third case Detective Pearson worked was a forgery case in which individuals were cashing forged checks for money. In these situations suspects will come into possession of a check through various means and recruit someone to

cash the check for them. As part of their help and criminal activity, the originating party will typically offer to provide a portion of that check's sum to the person cashing the check. This is called being a party to a crime and often times creates a criminal enterprise with many actors and participants. The saying still lives true, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." Forgery is a class 'D' felony punishable by 5 years imprisonment and a potential fine of \$750 to \$7,500.

Other cases worked by investigators in the month of May included an obscene materials case, 3 additional forgery cases, and 1 harassment case. The cases managed by the Investigations section are those that go beyond the typical resources and timeframes available for officers assigned to the Patrol Division. These cases are difficult to solve, often require coordination with outside organizations or jurisdictions, and many times involve additional subpoenas, search warrants, surveillance, or technical expertise (examples would be burglaries, identity thefts, fraud/forgery, sexual assaults, serious crimes against persons, etc.). Cases that result in a status of suspended have been reviewed and investigated where neither identifiable suspect(s) nor probable cause exists for an arrest.

Multiple times a month, investigators from the Windsor Heights Police Department collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to reduce criminal intentions through the use of technology and meetings and also share intelligence information. Additionally, the Investigations section worked 20 hours in a patrol capacity and the Support Services Commander worked 24 hours in a patrol capacity for the month of May.

Training Summary: In May WHPD had two separate in-service training sessions. The first session concentrated on less lethal tools that officers have at their disposal when dealing with dangerous, non-compliant individuals. Officers were run through training scenarios in the use of these tools that simulated a high stress call where less lethal devices were deployed. This type of realistic training builds officers' muscle memory and reaction times so they remain safer when the circumstances are really happening on the street. The tools officers worked with in this first session included new Taser electronic control devices (ECDs), less lethal shotgun projectiles, and the Pepperball system.

The Police Department replaced its Taser devices that have been in service since 2005. These devices had reached their end of service life. This replacement was originally scheduled for the FY15 budget year; however, there was a surplus in the department's current fiscal year's training line item so the allocation was made in FY14. The new devices contain upgraded features that make them more effective tools for officers. The in-service training oriented officers with the device's new features and certified officers for Taser usage for the year.



Taser X26P (New Devices)

The second training session held in May was held at the Polk County Sheriff's Department's firearms range. Officers participated in training on their duty pistols, shotguns, and patrol rifles.

Our newest WHPD officer, Natalie Gillett, completed the field training program and was released for solo patrol in May. Gillett did very well in the program and is an excellent addition to the department. Natalie has been assigned to the Patrol Division and is working the overnight shift.

Lt. Kendig and Officer Woods attended an Active Shooter seminar on May 15th. This event was instructed by the United States Department of Homeland Security and hosted by Aviva Annuities at their West Des Moines campus. The seminar focused on what police, EMS, fire, and private facilities can do to better prepare for an active violence event. The training was well presented and emphasized cooperation between the public and private sector.

Chief McDaniel attended the Iowa Police Chief's Association's (IPCA) annual law enforcement training conference in Coralville, Iowa from May 20-23rd. In addition to participating in some excellent professional development training and statewide collaborative chiefs' meetings, Chief McDaniel accepted a nomination to join the IPCA's board of directors. He has been appointed as the chair of the Membership and Nominations Committee. This roll will require his participation in quarterly board meetings throughout the state, aiding with the planning and execution of two semi-annual training conferences, and coordination of an annual membership drive.

Reserve Program: The Windsor Heights Reserve Program has one candidate that is in training. This candidate has been a certified reserve officer with another metro agency and is expected to advance through training rapidly.

Community Outreach Summary: Community awareness and services for the TCSC focused around 5 different events in the month of May. Traffic and Community Safety Coordinator Officer Amanda Woods was also involved with 6 hours of outreach programming to the public. As the Department strives to partner with the community to provide education and service, Officer Woods worked with community organizations and departments at the Iowa Crime Prevention Association Conference, Windsor Heights Annual Mini-Marathon (WHAMM), National Police Week ceremonies, Special Olympics Torch Run and the Special Olympics summer games opening ceremony. In addition to these events Officer Woods also assisted with criminal investigations and further facilitated events planning during several meetings.

The TCSC attended the Iowa Crime Prevention Association Conference learning about personality differences, social media usage in departments, and impacts of child abduction cases. As a community outreach officer, understanding personality differences and how to best relate to individuals is a pursued attribute. Officers were trained to be able to assess and recognize these differences making them more effective with the public.

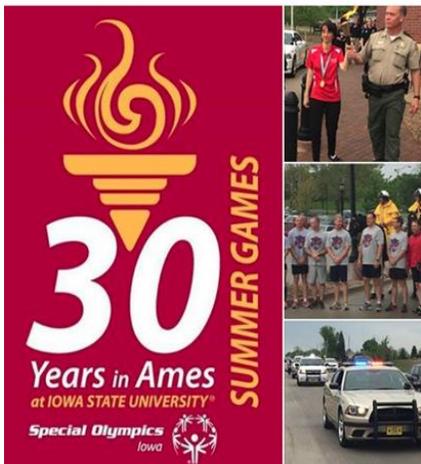
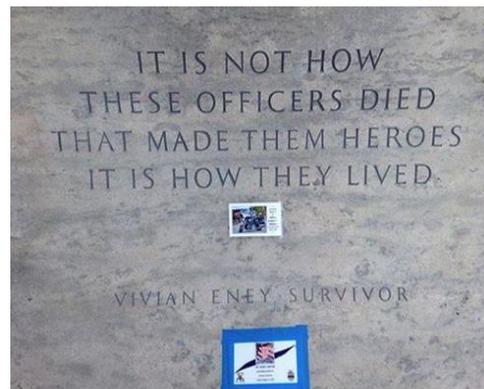
Use of social media has been on the rise with departments for several years and striving to consolidate and make information effective is on our horizon. Conference speakers referenced

existing applications such as Facebook, Twitter, and a new move to a single service ‘app’ for municipal governments. Currently Windsor Heights Police utilize Nixle, CodeRed, and social media accounts.



WHAMM was May 17 this year and officers provided traffic safety for all of the community’s 5k and 10k runners along the course. At the conclusion of the race the TCSC provided education for passenger restraint systems. Crash Test Dummies, Vince and Larry, were on site to entertain the kiddos while adults picked up some car seat safety tips and pointers.

May is National Police Week in which law enforcement all around the nation remembers those who served and fallen from our ranks. Officers wore mourning bands around their badges all week (to remember those who have been killed in the line of duty) and participated in special events to embrace those who continue to serve. The TCSC joined other local law enforcement at West Des Moines Police Department’s initiative to bring citizens together. Officer Woods participated in a static display of equipment at WDMPD during a ceremony recognizing National Police Week.



The TCSC participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run starting at the Iowa Department of Public Safety building downtown. Officer Woods also participated with other officers from the metro area for a 2 mile leg of the torch’s journey up to Ames, IA to kickoff the Special Olympics summer games.

Officer Woods then participated in the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics where she was given a distinctive honor to run with the torch in the final leg. Officer Woods ran the torch around Hilton Colliseum before passing it off to a Special Olympics Athlete for the official torch lighting that signified the start of the games.

Back in March, Officer Woods led the charge within the Department to engage officers in an extra-curricular activity for a worthy cause. Four officers from our department participated in the Fight for Air Climb and won the law enforcement challenge. In May, the Windsor Heights Police Department was awarded the traveling trophy for having the best team time (pictured at right).



The TCSC also strives to disseminate reliable and relevant information to the public; she distributed 30 social media messages in the month of May. Additionally, Officer Woods supplemented patrol for 42 hours.

Automated Traffic Enforcement: The Automatic Traffic Enforcement program continued with its mobile deployments targeting flagrant violators on our roadways (speeders >11mph over the posted speed limit). The intent of this program is to change driver behavior. The TCSC deployed automated enforcement equipment 872 hours in the month of May. There were 607 citations issued with 0 violations being rejected during final processing.

There were 4 citations contested and 2 citations brought before an administrative review hearing. The administrative review board determined 2 citations to be liable, 2 were found not liable and 0 were listed as an 'other' status. An 'other' status is a typical result of a party first contesting a citation but then choosing to pay it prior to the administrative review hearing.

As always, if you have any suggestions or questions on the programming my department offers, concerns with policing activities we engage in, or thoughts on how we may better serve you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dennis W. McDaniel
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