

The Heartbeat of the City



Transit and Downtown Operations Bureau

Commander

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Commander Corner



Commander Jeff Alexander

Welcome to the first installment of the Phoenix Police Department Transit and Downtown Operations Bureau's "The Heartbeat of the City" newsletter. I look forward to the opportunity to showcase the outstanding work and unique services the men and women who

work in this Bureau provide every day. As a way of introduction I thought I would share a little information about what Units make up the Transit and Downtown Operations Bureau.

The **Transit Enforcement Unit (TEU)** is 85 members strong and is made up of sworn Police Officers and civilian Municipal Security Guards, Police Assistants and support staff. Working hand in hand with the Public Transportation Department and METRO Light Rail we provide law enforcement response, security and crime suppression to the Bus and Lightrail system city wide, as well as security

at the City's three Transit Facilities and Central Station.

The **Downtown Operation Unit (DOU)** is comprised of 96 members made up of sworn Police Officers, civilian Municipal Security Guards, Police Assistants and support staff. The Unit has 24/7 patrol and response for the entire Downtown District and in addition provides a dedicated officer presence at the Central Arizona Shelter. The Units Special Event Squads manages over 500 events each year to include all major sporting events and entertainment venues downtown. The Units officers and supervisors lead and make up the major component of the Police Departments Tactical Response Unit and regularly manage large and small protests and marches throughout the City. The Infrastructure Protection Unit provides police response and security to all of the City's downtown buildings and infrastructure, this includes security at all major meetings and at the City's Central Monitor Station.

As you can see there is a lot going on and I look forward to sharing with you throughout the year more information and highlight the good work that is taking place in "The Heartbeat of the City"

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Infrastructure Protection Unit - Sgt. Pete Ramos

The Infrastructure Protection Unit is comprised of both sworn police officers and non-sworn police civilian security officers who are supervised by two sworn police sergeants. Both work units work in tandem to provide a law enforcement response and physical security protection at the following Downtown City facilities: City Hall, Calvin Goode Building, Orphenum -

Historic Theater, Historic City Hall, Historic Walker Business Building (Sticklers Café), Human Resource building, City Council Chambers, Municipal City Court Building, Information and Technology Operation Center (ITOC), Child Care Facility, Phoenix Channel 11, Developmental Services Building, Barrister Building, Public Pay Station for City Services, Public and Em-

ployee parking garages. In addition, the civilian work unit is responsible for performing 24/7 alarm monitoring services for over 500 City-wide accounts; including critical infrastructures, i.e. water treatment facilities, South Mountain Communications Towers and the Information Technology Operations Center.

Illegal Dispensary - Lt. Charles Consolian

On July 13, 2013, at approximately 11:00am, Downtown Operation Officers from the X71 squad responded to the Phoenix Natural Medicine business, located at 301 W. Roosevelt reference a civil matter stand by. The business manager of the building called while the suspect collected her belongings after being evicted from the business. When officers made contact inside the building, the suspect saw them from the back parking lot, opened a safe

that was being moved, collected some unknown property from it and fled in a vehicle. The business manager stated that the suspect had been trying to obtain a medical marijuana dispensary license but had been unable to do so. The business manager believed the suspect had been prescribing marijuana from the office.

The following items were seized from the safe: 474 grams (1 + lbs) of marijuana individually packaged for sale, 18.5 oz THC laced lip

balm containers, 73 HTC gel packets, 15 fresh baked marijuana cookies, 49 THC fruit drinks (50mg of THC in each), 13 THC energy drinks, (8) 2FL oz Hemp oil supplement bottles, scales, ledgers, packaging materials and pipes. THC is known as Tetrahydrocannabinol which is the main psychoactive substance found in the marijuana plant.

This case has been forwarded to the Phoenix Police Department's Drug Enforcement Bureau for prosecution.



"Increased criminal activity has been noted along light rail and bus stops"

Transit Tracker Hot Spots - Lt. Adrian Ruiz

The Transit Enforcement Unit has been working the last few months to identify several subjects in the area of 7th Avenue to 19th Avenue on Camelback. Increased criminal activity has been noted along the light rail and bus stops consistent with vagrant, nuisance type behavior up to

possible drug sales, thefts, and trespassing. Officer Andy Hill has been critical in the identification of numerous subjects and has worked to collaborate with Mountain View Precinct, Gangs, and Drug Enforcement Bureau. In addition several of these subjects have been placed in

Operation S.T.O.P and are in the process of receiving travel restrictions for bus and rail.

Great Work!

Prostitution Interdiction Program - Lt. Rob Howe

The Transit Enforcement Unit has implemented targeted enforcement along Valley Metro bus routes and light rail property throughout the city in response to drug and prostitution complaints from citizens, bus operators and Metro security officers. The prostitution Interdiction Program was created. The project goal was the overall reduction of the number of prostitution and other related complaints primarily along bus routes and light rail platforms.

Since the project was implemented, Transit Enforcement officers have made over 40 prostitution arrests in the last six months alone. Approximately 25% of the individuals arrested were also in possession of illicit drugs for personal use and sale. In an attempt to better serve the community, arrested individuals who qualified and were seeking help were offered rehabilitation services. This project, as well as several others, is part of an ongoing effort within the bureau to create solutions to Transit related needs.

Downtown District Squads - Lt. Charles Consolian



X71 Squad



X72 Squad

The Downtown Operations Unit has two squads that are responsible for providing patrol based coverage from 6 a.m. until 4.p.m. each day.

The X71 squad commanded by Sergeant Seth Jahnke works Saturday through Tuesday, while the X72 squad commanded by Sergeant Bob Seils works Tuesday through Friday.

Both squads are responsible for answering radio calls, conducting proactive enforcement, and working on crime suppression programs in the Downtown District. In addition, both squads assist with providing coverage as necessary to special events including parades, marches, and various sporting events that occur in the Downtown District.

The sergeants and officers have developed close working relationships with the Downtown Phoenix Partnership, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, area businesses/employees, and residents to foster a team environment to problem solving in the Downtown District. Both squads are committed to providing a high level of customer service and strive to provide a safe and secure downtown area.

If you have questions regarding downtown patrols, feel free to contact either Sergeant Jahnke or Sergeant Seils at (602)534-6432.

Homeless in your Neighborhood - Officer Jeff Howell

Recently there has been an increase of homeless that have been seen in and around the neighborhoods within the Downtown District. The homeless are sometimes viewed in a negative light due to the problems they bring to the area that include, trespassing, public urination/defecation, alcohol/drug use, urban camping, irrational behavior due to mental illness, thefts, shopping cart issues, blight and public anxiety due to the homeless appearance. The Downtown Operations Unit is committed to addressing these issues that affect your neighborhoods.

On January 21, 2013, as part of our boundary expansion, The Downtown Operations Unit acquired the area which consists of Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) commonly known as the "Shelter". It made sense that the Downtown Operations Unit take over this area due to the high volume of calls for service within the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods that are homeless related. The Downtown Operations Unit works closely with CASS staff members to collaborate and resolve homeless issues that arise at CASS and in the surrounding neighborhoods as their goal is to end homelessness. CASS also provides services for temporary shelter while assisting people on getting permanent housing, treatment of substance, mental health issues and health care.

The Downtown Operations Unit has the same philosophy as CASS. We believe that if we can end homelessness, then the above mentioned urban/crime issues that affect your neighborhood will be eliminated. An 'arrest' is only a temporary fix. If we can get the homeless out of your neighborhood and into homes of their own, we will see an improvement to the quality of life within your neighborhood.

If you run across any homeless or any of the above mentioned urban issues in your neighborhoods, please call the police at 262-6151 and we will try to connect these people to care/services first. CASS has afforded our patrol officers with the use of an "outreach" team. These teams consist of counselors/engagement specialists whom are well equipped to engage and set up the homeless with services. If we can't make a connection with these individuals and these crimes still occur, we will be forced to take law enforcement action to rectify the issues.

The Downtown Operations Unit's goal is to improve the quality of life within the Downtown District Neighborhoods.

August 2013 Events

- Fri 08/02** 6pm 1st Fridays
830pm USAC
- Sat 08/03** 7pm Mercury game
- Sun 08/04** 6pm Rattler game
- Tues 08/06** 640pm Dbacks game
7pm Mercury game
- Wed 08/07** 640pm Dbacks game
- Fri 08/09** 640pm Dbacks game
7pm Comerica
7pm Mercury
- Sat 08/10** 610pm Dbacks game
- Sun 08/11** 110pm Dbacks game
3pm Mercury game
- Mon 08/12** 640pm Dbacks game
- Tues 08/13** 640pm Dbacks game
- Wed 08/14** 1240pm Dbacks game
7pm Mercury game
- Fri 08/16** 7pm Comerica
- Fri 08/23** 7pm Mercury game
- Mon 08/26** 430pm USAC
640pm Dbacks game
- Tues 08/27** 640pm Dbacks game
- Wed 08/28** 640pm Dbacks game
- Fri 08/30** 640pm Dbacks game
730pm USAC
- Sat 08/31** 510pm Dbacks game
7pm Mercury game

Downtown Special Events - Lt. Jeff Lazell

For the month of July, the Downtown Operations Unit Special Events squads provided traffic control and security for a total of 32 scheduled events which attracted over half a million people to downtown Phoenix. These events consisted of 17 Arizona Diamondbacks games, 4 Phoenix Mercury games, and 2 Arizona Rattlers games. The others consisted of concerts at Comerica and the US Airways Center, a Mennonite Prayer Walk and First Fridays. In addition to scheduled events at the various downtown venues, the Downtown Operation Unit Special Events Squads assisted in developing a traffic plan for the escort of the 19 fallen fire fighters from downtown Phoenix to Prescott Valley.

SUSPICIOUS MAIL OR PACKAGES

Protect yourself, your business, and your mailroom.

If you receive a suspicious letter or package:

- Stop. Don't handle.
- Isolate it immediately.
- Don't open, smell, or taste.
- Activate your emergency plan. Notify a supervisor.

The illustration shows a letter and a cardboard package with various red flags highlighted by callouts:

- Restrictive markings:** "PERSONAL!" written in large, bold letters.
- No return address:** The letter has no return address.
- Mispeled words, badly typed or written:** The address "CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE" is misspelled as "CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE".
- Sealed with tape:** The package is sealed with tape.
- Unknown powder or suspicious substance:** A small amount of powder is visible on the letter.
- Possibly mailed from a foreign country:** The letter has a postmark from Philadelphia, PA.
- Excursive tape:** The package has excessive tape.
- Oil stains, discolorations, crystallization on wrapper:** There are stains on the package.
- Strange odor:** A callout indicates a strange odor.
- Incorrect title or address to title only:** The address "222 N HARVE ST." is incorrect.
- Flimsy or bulky:** The package is bulky.
- Liquid or uneven:** The package appears uneven.
- Protruding wires:** Wires are protruding from the package.

If you suspect the mail or package contains a bomb (explosive), or radiological, biological, or chemical threat:

- Isolate area immediately
- **Call 911**
- Wash your hands with soap and water

Logos for the United States Postal Service, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Homeland Security.

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