Patrol Reorganization

In response to well over 500 vacancies held in patrol across the Phoenix Police Department, a committee was assembled to address the growing need to improve our officers’ safety and enhance delivery of police services to the public.

To that end, this committee has worked feverishly to create a new set of boundaries for precincts, squad areas, and beats while taking into consideration natural boundaries such as freeways and mountains, as well as seeking input from personnel regarding known existing neighborhood organizations, business alliances, and Block Watch groups. This has been no easy task, but a model has been drafted that seems to address the concerns.

The recommendation by the committee is to reduce the number of police precincts from eight to seven, and combining the Downtown Operations Unit with the Central City Precinct. This consolidation will bring a new name to the area we serve, “The Downtown Precinct”. Reducing the number of precincts will in effect increase the number of officers in a given squad area from six to seven, upwards to nine or better.

Although there will be significant changes in personnel as they are reallocated to new assignments across the city; which will be determined by seniority during a bid process scheduled to begin in July, rest assured this process will occur seamlessly, with all calls for service answered as normal.

I invite you to join us for an informational presentation on this matter, to see first hand where the proposed boundaries lie, and to provide input as they pertain to you and your neighborhoods.

We hope to see you there.

Patrol Reorganization Presentation
by Commander Mike Kurtenbach
Thursday, June 26, 2014
6:00p.m.
Phoenix Airport Marriott, 1101 N. 44th Street

Mary Roberts, Commander
Central City Precinct

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March 2014 Employees of the Month

Officers Reuben Villa-Rodriguez #8668, Phillip Goit #8715, Dustin Watts #8734 and Bryan Tamayo #8728

On February 11, 2014 at 1639 hours, 51G Officers Reuben Villa-Rodriguez and Phil Goit responded to a robbery of a person at 1600 East Washington Street. Officers learned the victim was a 16 year old white male who was on the southbound bus on 16th Street. He got off the bus at 16th Street and Washington Street. He noticed a group of black males got off and followed him. One of the male suspects tapped him on the shoulder. When the victim turned around, the suspect pulled the victim’s headphones off of his head. The male subjects ran away. The victim chased them and eventually caught up to them. He told them that he wanted his headphones back. One of the suspects told him to get back and punched him in the face several times. The suspects ran off and were last seen westbound on Jefferson Street from 14th Street. Officers Villa-Rodriguez and Goit obtained a description of the suspects, broadcast it and helped circulate for the suspects, with negative results. Officer Villa-Rodriguez gave the victim a ride home.

At 1745 hours, Officers Dustin Watts and Bryan Tamayo were on their way to an unrelated hot call. As they passed the intersection of 16th Street and Washington Street, they saw a male subject standing at the bus stop for northbound 16th Street. He matched the description of one of the earlier robbery suspects. They broadcast this information on the radio, and continued to the hot call. Upon completing the call, they returned to the area to look for the suspects.

Officers Watts and Tamayo spotted a group of male subjects sitting on a bench in the middle of Eastlake Park. They directed officers to take positions around the park, in case the males ran from them. They contacted them and detained them, as they matched the descriptions of the robbery suspects. Officer Villa-Rodriguez was still with the victim and drove to the location for a one-on-one identification.

The victim identified both male subjects as the suspects who robbed him. The headphones were not found. Both subjects were interviewed. Neither made admissions. Both subjects were detained at the Juvenile Court Center on robbery charges.

I would like to commend these officers for their dedication to duty and the thoroughness of the investigation. Without their thorough investigation, these crimes would not have been solved and these violent felons would not have been arrested. Their actions are worthy of being named Central City Precinct’s Officers of the Month, March 2014.

Mary Roberts, Commander
Central City Precinct
April 2014 Employees of the Month

Lieutenant Steven Roser #5331, Sergeants Kenneth Webber #7572, Scott McCauley #6266, Officers Jennifer Shakal #8306, Brent Freyberger #8674, James Blanco #8710, Nick Miller #8865, Ryan Ghan #9499, Anthony Infanger #8373, Max Decker #8874 and Valerie Whitchurch #9455

On March 31, 2014, at approximately 0250 hours, an anonymous caller telephoned 911 to report that four to five male subjects were engaged in a fight outside an apartment just south of his location, in the area of 4800 East Cambridge Street.

Officers responded to the area and began to look for the apartments and the subjects involved, but could not locate either. At the same time, the Air Unit arrived and observed two trucks leaving the driveway of the house in question. Officers attempted to make contact with the driver of one of the trucks; however, the vehicle drove away ignoring the officers. The truck was now at a high rate of speed and failing to stop for traffic control devices. The Air Unit continued to keep an eye on the truck, but lost view of the second truck, which fled the area.

The first truck drove to an apartment complex where the Air Unit observed the driver get out of the vehicle and go under a carport. The driver reappeared and quickly got back into his truck and left the area. By this time, officers were responding to the general area of 44th Street and McDowell Road in hopes of finding the second truck. The Air Unit indicated that the truck pulled over in the area of 3700 East Sheridan Street and the driver got out of his truck and hid in a driveway close by. The responding officers located the suspect and he was taken into custody. Officers secured the truck and could see a large amount of drugs and cash inside the open bed. Officers then responded to the carport where the driver had originally stopped. They located a couple of backpacks stuffed underneath a parked vehicle, which contained a large amount of drugs, cash and a handgun.

Lieutenant Roser, Sergeants McCauley and Webber responded to assist officers in hopes of finding the crime scene, but found no indications of a crime. Lieutenant Roser telephoned the complainant and was able to narrow the location by having the complainant direct them to a location he believed the incident occurred on East Cambridge Street. It was later found that the driver of the fleeing truck was the victim of the home invasion, but it was also found that the driver was a known drug dealer who happened to live on East Cambridge Street and was in possession of a large amount of drugs and money. He was booked on multiple charges. The second truck was not located, but the driver was identified as being a roommate and uncle of the arrested subject. He too is a known drug dealer with an extensive criminal history.

In all, officers seized $394,170.00 in cash, 5 handguns and 2 rifles, seized over 200 pounds of marijuana, 5 kilos of cocaine, an unknown amount of methamphetamine and oxycodone pills, effectively preventing them from reaching the streets of Phoenix.

I want to commend the above officers for the outstanding performance displayed, dedication, and perseverance to duty was evident by the exemplary performance of all officers involved and the outstanding results of their hard work. Their actions are worthy of being named Central City Precinct’s Officers of the Month, April 2014.

Mary Roberts, Commander
Central City Precinct
Conquer Your Fear of Flying at Phoenix Sky Harbor
Special to The Pipeline
Contributed by
David Ramirez, Public Information Officer
Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport

Are you afraid to step into a plane and fly?
Do you know someone who’s afraid to fly?

Fear no more. Phoenix Sky Harbor has teamed up with Captain Ron Nielson to offer free classes aimed at conquering the fear of flying. The classes are held almost every month at America’s Friendliest Airport®, and we’ll begin citing the times and dates of the classes in The Pipeline beginning with this issue.

Registration for the two-and-a-half hour classes is easy. Simply go to www.fearlessflight.com and sign up for the class that is most convenient for you.

Captain Ron has been teaching the class for 26 years; he knows a thing or two about flying, having been a commercial airline pilot for more than 40 years.

He says there are two principal reasons why people have a fear of flying: a) they hate the feeling of being “trapped,” and b) they can’t shake their catastrophic thought of believing that something “bad” is going to happen with their plane.

“My odds of dying in a plane crash are 1 in 23 million,” says Captain Ron. “Today, your odds of becoming president are 1 in 22 million, so you actually have a better chance of being elected president than experiencing something bad in a plane.”

The retired pilot says he encourages his students to bring their spouse or friend to the class, if that makes them more comfortable about attending his classes.

The next classes are listed below.

Cleared for Takeoff 101 Class
1 p.m. on July 19, 2014 at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport - Terminal 3
Register for free class at www.fearlessflight.com/classes/

Cleared for Takeoff 102 Class
6 p.m. on Aug. 16, 2014 at Sky Harbor International Airport - Terminal 4
Register for free class at www.fearlessflight.com/classes/
Central City Precinct Hosts International Guests

On Thursday May 15th, 2014, nine members of the Indonesian Police Committee; women Indonesian police employees, joined our officers for a briefing to learn how the Phoenix Police Department functions and how we are staffed throughout the city. Our guests were lead by none other than retired Phoenix Police Sergeant, Jerry Hewett, who has gone on to become an international advisor to police departments in Asia and the Near East.

During the briefing, the group was addressed by Commander Mary Roberts, who responded to many questions regarding gender equality on the department and general perceptions. Sgt. Jeremy Mcclimans followed by providing a staffing model overview of our department and lead a tour of the station. Immediately following this, each committee member was paired with an officer for a brief ride-along for a hands-on experience of our part of the city.

We are honored that the Indonesian Women Police employees chose our precinct to visit, it was definitely a mutual learning experience.
Upcoming 2014 Meetings
Wednesday, August 6, at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 1st, at 5:30 p.m.
Phoenix Airport Marriott
1101 N. 44th Street

Come on out to meet with your Central City Precinct Community Action Officers and other precinct staff.

Citywide Block Watch Basics & Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol

2014 Class Calendar Remaining Classes
* Saturday, July 12, 2014
* Saturday, September 20, 2014
* Saturday, November 8, 2014

**PNP Class size is limited to the first 45 registrants. To pre-register for a class, please email: brian.kornegay@phoenix.gov with your name and phone number, and which class you plan to attend**

Registration begins at 7:30a.m.
Location: Mountain View Precinct Community Room
2075 E. Maryland Ave.
Phoenix AZ 85016