The INFORMANT
The Kansas City Missouri Police Department
February 2014

Crime Free officers expand their roles

Two Crime Free Multi-Housing officers are redefining their roles, conducting investigations and shutting down crime havens.

KCPD's Crime Free Multi-Housing officers operate out of each of the six patrol division stations and work to make rental properties safe for everyone who lives and stays there. They do so by educating owners and managers on everything from proper lighting to drug identification to crafting leases that ban criminal activity.

But the Crime Free Multi-Housing officers at the Shoal Creek Patrol Division, Adam Hill and Chad Safranek, have taken their duties to the next level. In addition to working with apartment complexes, they also have begun working with hotels, motels and storage units. And Shoal Creek is the only one of the patrol divisions that has its Crime Free officers assigned to the Property Crimes Section. Unlike other Crime Free Multi-Housing officers, they work the cases that occur on multi-family properties – finding suspects, conducting interrogations and submitting case files to prosecutors.

"A lot of our property crimes revolve around transients in hotels and motels," Officer Hill said.

Shoal Creek commander Major David Zimmerman said this outside-the-box approach is solving many issues within the division.

Officers Hill's and Safranek's work with local hotels and motels also is unprecedented.

"Our goal is to keep the criminal element out of these properties and to keep guests safe," Officer Hill said.

They have shut down two pay-by-the-week motels that were riddled with crime, drugs and unsanitary living conditions. They earned the City's Rich Noll Pacesetter Award for this work. They have conducted multiple warrant sweeps and inspections at these extended stay-type motels, which tend to attract criminal activity.

Crime Free Multi-Housing Officers Chad Safranek and Adam Hill of the Shoal Creek Patrol Division have expanded their role to conducting investigations and working with hotels.

Thanks to Officers Hill's and Safranek's work, three hotels are certified Crime Free properties now: the Holiday Inn Express at 8230 N. Church Rd., Comfort Suites at 8200 N. Church Rd. and Candlewood Suites at 4450 N. Randolph. They are the first in Kansas City with this certification. The officers are training their counterparts in other patrol divisions how to expand the Crime Free concept to hotels and motels.

In 2013, Officers Hill and Safranek generated 279 reports from multi-housing properties, including apartments, hotels and motels. These led to about 60 people being evicted for criminal behavior and the termination of several tenants' public housing assistance. The evictions resulted in safer housing for the thousands of law-abiding people who live in these properties.

Officers Hill and Safranek are eager to spread the good the Crime Free Multi-Housing program can do. Kansas City is playing host to the national Crime Free Multi-Housing conference this summer, and the officers will be conducting the hotel/motel portion of that training.

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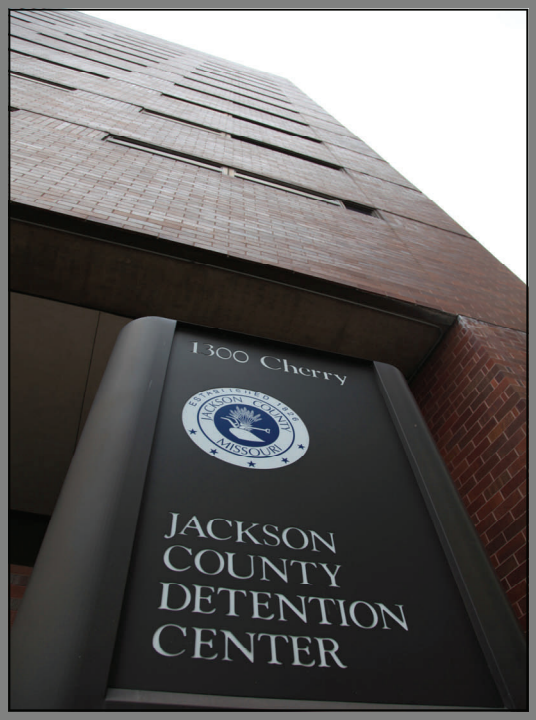
KCPD to get out of the jail business



The Kansas City Police Department is about to get out of a business it's been in since 1938: the jail business.

The proposed City budget calls for closing the Detention Unit on the eighth floor of Headquarters and consolidating operations at the Jackson County Detention Center a block away at 13th and Locust. Major Eric Winebrenner, liaison to the City Manager's Office, said the department is close to signing a memorandum of understanding with the City and Jackson County to finalize the deal.

"I'm optimistic that in the end this is going to be a great thing," Major Winebrenner said. "People don't like change, but sometimes you have to change."

KCPD's jail has been nearly the same since it was built in 1938. It has received no significant upgrades, and space has been extremely tight. Because it has not been upgraded, it never was required to be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-compliant. But that requirement was looming. The Kansas City Star reported in a Jan. 29 article that it would cost $5 million to make the current jail meet that federal standard. To move operations to the Jackson County Detention Center will cost less than $1 million.

"It's literally falling down," Major Winebrenner said of the Headquarters Detention Unit. "It's 1938 technology. … It's got leaks, plumbing issues, doors that don't function – it doesn't meet today's standards."

Of the 12 peer city police departments to which KCPD frequently compares itself, only one still operates a central jail: Milwaukee. They, too, are working to eliminate that from their operation and work toward a more regional facility.

Chief Darryl Forté said closing the jail was part of his strategic plan when he became chief.

"We now are closer than ever before to improving the environment for our detainees," Chief Forté said. "I am very appreciative of the efforts of those at the City and at the Jackson County Detention Center in helping us reach this much-needed change. We hope to soon better accommodate those who have to be detained."

> **"We now are closer than ever before to improving the environment for our detainees."**
>
> **- Darryl Forté**
> Chief of Police

Major Winebrenner said no detention facility officers will lose their jobs. They will move to staff holding areas at patrol division stations. All of those were closed during the recession because of reduced staffing. For geographic reasons, the Shoal Creek, Central and South patrol division facilities will be opened for receiving arrests. When it is constructed, the new East Patrol will take over for Center Zone. Detainees will be held for up six hours at the stations. If they have not bonded out, police wagon drivers will take them to the new regional jail.

"We're hoping to filter a lot out at the stations so transfers to the County are minimal," Major Winebrenner said.

Detention ledger officers will be assigned to the new regional facility, where Major Winebrenner said they will act as "air traffic controllers" for all detention operations in the city. Detention supervisor positions will likely be eliminated, but Major Winebrenner said he and others are working to find them other spots on the department.

"They're very important to this transition process," he said.

In addition to an improved and updated environment, Winebrenner said switching to a regional facility will eliminate redundancies in the booking process and give inmates access to services they don't have now, like social services and 24/7 nurse care. All of them will be screened by a social worker for everything from substance abuse to mental illness problems. The social worker will be able to connect them with services that can assist them and perhaps even remove them from a criminal lifestyle.

But Winebrenner recognizes there will be growing pains. An interrogation room will be at the new facility, but detectives still may need to transport arrests back to Headquarters for questioning. Many information technology issues remain to be resolved.

Because most of the Detention Unit's 41 employees will retain their positions, Major Winebrenner said the Department's budget will not change greatly, and most savings would be absorbed in the City budget. KCPD will save about $60,000 annually, which paid for food and disposable clothing for inmates.

Kansas City closed the Municipal Correctional Institution in 2009 to consolidate with county detention operations. The Star article reports the cost per inmate per day dropped from $79 to $63 upon that change. The City aims to get that cost down to $49 per day with the new regional center.

Winebrenner said he hopes the Headquarters jail will be closed and operations transferred to the division stations and regional jail by this fall.

D.A.R.E. car gets new look

D.A.R.E. Officer Salatha McKeithen's department vehicle, a Ford Mustang, now features a lightning-streaked D.A.R.E. logo, an American flag and the Kansas City skyline. Officer McKeithen and Fleet Operations Technician Mark Crawford worked with a vendor to design the look. The design is a wrap, not paint. Fleet Commander Captain Don Sight said D.A.R.E. cars are meant to be appealing to young people. At left, Officer McKeithen showed off the car outside one of the schools she serves, Hartman Elementary School.

Polar Plungers Dipping for a Decade

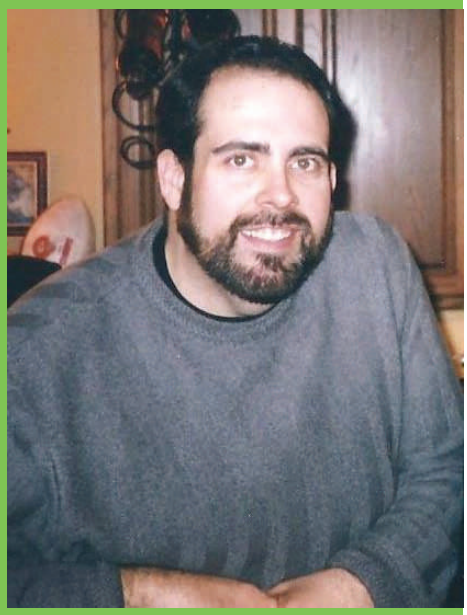
Polar Plungers have been Dipping for a Decade. This year marked the 10-year anniversary of the Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) Kansas City Polar Plunge event at Longview Lake. Sergeant Cindy Cotterman, Professional Development and Research Division, has taken the plunge every year, but she and daughter Mallory stepped it up a notch by participating as Super Plungers on January 25. They plunged 24 times in 24 hours, raising $5,000. The team of 12 Super Plungers collectively raised $111,000. The Kansas City Missouri Police Department was named as the top law enforcement agency, bringing in $26,687. More than 1,100 participants raised nearly $294,000, which will be used to support local Special Olympics athletes.

Several KCPD members braved the chilly waters for Special Olympics on Jan. 25.

Sergeant Cindy Cotterman, center, dipped 24 times in 24 hours as a Super Plunger.

The mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department is to protect and serve with honor and integrity.

KCPD loses dispatcher



Robert (Rob) Matthew Dominick, a nine-year dispatcher, unexpectedly passed away Jan. 2, 2014. He was 41 years old.

"I knew Rob was a wonderful person, but sometimes not realizing how much, until he was gone," said his long-time friend, Administrative Assistant Michelle Stirnaman, who worked with him as a dispatcher for many years.

Just before his death, what Rob thought was a cold turned into the flu. That led to pneumonia, which caused respiratory distress and stopped Rob's heart the day after the New Year's holiday.

Rob came to the Police Department after working for 10 years at Zeke's Paint and Design. He was a manager and had little other opportunity for promotion, so he wanted to do something else.

"Rob loved to help people," said Martha Dominick, Rob's mother. "So he applied to work for the Police Department's Communications Unit."

Stirnaman said Rob was a great dispatcher.

"You could never tell if Rob was mad or frustrated on air," she said. "He was good at what he did."

Rob served in the Communications Unit, Watch III, for his entire career until transferring to Watch II in April 2013. Martha Dominick said her son was excited to get on the day shift so he could lead a "normal life" and be social.

"He was such a big part of our lives," Martha said. "He would come by and check on us almost every day before he went to work."

Rob loved spending time with family and planning game nights playing his favorites, Trivial Pursuit and Scene It. His eight nieces and nephews loved coming to Rob while playing because they knew he had all the answers, Martha said.

Rob had three older siblings: Michelle Heller, Charlie Dominick and Brian Dominick. Rob was the baby, with nine years between him and Brian.

Rob was described as witty, smart, funny, a music lover, a drummer, and someone who could tell you anything and everything about any movie. He also was a huge fan of the Royals and Chiefs.

If not with family, Rob was spending his time doing what he loved second, going to the Lake of the Ozarks to fish.

"Family was number one to Rob," Martha said. "But he dreamed of having a house on the lake someday."

Martha said he had a lot of good friends on the department and couldn't have asked for better.

"They have all been so supportive through all of this," she added.

"Everyone who knew Rob had a different memory of him," Stirnaman said. "He left his thumb print on each and every one of us."

Upcoming Events

March 11
Board of Police Commissioners Meeting (Academy)

April 22
Board of Police Commissioners Meeting (South Patrol Division)

The Informant is a publication of
KCPD's Media Unit
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www.kcpd.org

Officially Speaking

Awards

Meritorious Service Award

Detective David Albers
Detective Kevin Boehm
Officer Jason Rains

Life-Saving Award

Officer Charles Chambers

Obituaries

Retired Officer Harold Blaine
Communications Specialist Robert Dominick
Retired Detective Bruce Solomon

25-Year Rings

Detective Stuart Carpenter
Officer Mark Carrel
Master Detective Terence Carter
Captain Jeffrey Emery
Detective Paula Emery
Administrative Assistant Y. Frances Florez
Administrative Assistant Tasha Gonzalez
Officer Lynda Hacker-Bristow
Detective Ray Lenoir
Detective William Martin
Major Diane Mozzicato
Officer Curtis Penyweit
Sergeant Richard Sticken
Detective Lexie Wallace

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