

# Retirees can now qualify at KCPD range

KCPD law enforcement retirees have a new reason to come back to visit every year.

The Department recently began a program for KCPD retirees in conjunction with the Federal Law Enforcement Safety Act (LEOSA). The law, enacted in 2004, allows for a qualified retired officer to carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of state or local laws, with certain exceptions.

Until this month, retirees who carry a concealed firearm were forced to qualify at outside ranges, paying a fee to do so.

“We work really hard to train our people while they are here, and we feel they are well trained, so we wanted to extend ourselves and allow them the opportunity to come here to qualify,” said Sergeant Ward Smith, Firearms Training Section.

The idea of retirees coming back to KCPD to qualify has been in the works for many years. It is quite a process to make sure everything is in order according to the law.

The last piece to get the program rolled out fell to Captain Greg Williams, Human Resources.

“We had to see what to do about an ID card for those who qualified through KCPD, but looking through the requirements, we realized a special ID card was not needed, only the qualification certificate from the Firearms Training staff stating the date of qualification,” Captain Wil-

liams discovered.

All retirees received an official ID card upon retirement from the department. As soon as retirees qualify at the range, the staff gives them a slip of paper, just like they received when they were on the department, with the date of qualification,

targets are provided, and eye and ear protection are available if needed.

“If somebody works here for as long as our retirees do, there should be a little giveback to let them know they are still a part of the KCPD family,” Sgt. Smith said.

The first session of retirees paved the way for the new program on January 31, and everyone breezed right through the course.

“It’s just like riding a bike,” Sergeant Smith said. “It’s the same qualification course officers fired their entire career.”

Retired Sergeant Larry White, who retired after 27 years of service in July 2015, came back to qualify in the first session.

“My wife and I plan on doing a lot of traveling throughout the U.S. in the next year and want to be able to carry a firearm in every state we go,” he said of the importance of qualifying.

Not only does the program offer an opportunity to avoid a fee for qualifying, it is a chance to meet up with retirees and friends in a familiar environment.

Retirees interested in qualifying at KCPD should contact Mindy Davis, Human Resources, at [mindy.davis@kcpd.org](mailto:mindy.davis@kcpd.org) or 816-234-5400.



After years of work, KCPD recently welcomed its first group of Department retirees to qualify at the indoor range.

good for one year. As soon as they qualify and are given their slip of paper saying they qualified, they are able to carry beginning that moment, for an entire year. To carry a concealed firearm, retirees need to have their retired ID card, as well as their qualification certification paperwork with them.

Department staff thought it was very important the program did not include fees to qualify. The retirees are required to bring their own firearm and holster, along with 50 rounds of ammunition. They will also need to bring a background check, which can be purchased through the Missouri State Highway Patrol website. The

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# New commissioner has old KCPD ties

The newest member of the Board of Police Commissioners is no stranger to the Department or the Board.

Cathy Dean was sworn into the Board on Dec. 3, 2019, and now serves as its vice president. She replaced Leland Shurin, whose four-year term had expired. It may be her first time as a police commissioner, but it's not her first time on the Board. She served as the Board's Secretary/Attorney in the late 1980s into the early 1990s.

"I have great respect for the department, for its philosophy and its professionalism," Commissioner Dean said. "It works very hard to train its officers, to give them opportunities for advancement and to try and do what's best for the city of Kansas City. Being a police officer is a very difficult job, and I will do anything I can to make that better."

Commissioner Dean wasn't always a lawyer. She grew up in Fulton, Mo., and went to the University of Missouri-Columbia after high school to major in English and public speaking. She'd planned to go to law school after graduating from college but said that as she approached her senior year, she couldn't face the idea of three more years of school. She got an emergency teaching certificate instead. It was intended to help with a teacher shortage in the state.

She took a job teaching junior high English, public speaking and drama in her hometown of Fulton. She married Preston Dean right after she graduated from college. The couple remained in Columbia so Preston could finish law school, while Cathy taught in Fulton public schools. When her husband graduated from law school and took a job in the Mis-



BOPC Vice President Cathy Dean

souri Attorney General's Office, they moved to Jefferson City, where she continued to teach in the public school system. After nine years of teaching, she finally decided the time was right for law school. She received her law degree from MU, and then the couple moved to Kansas City.

Commissioner Dean served as a clerk for federal judge Brook Bartlett for two years before joining the law firm of Horowitz and

Shurin. (Yes, that's the same Shurin whom she would later replace on the Board of Police Commissioners.) She was then recruited to work at the Polsinelli Law Firm just one year later, and that's where she spent the rest of her career until her retirement in 2013. Commissioner Dean was a trial lawyer who specialized in civil litigation, such as anti-trust cases and contract disputes. Eventually, she headed the entire litigation department at Polsinelli.

She also lent her litigating talents to the KCPD in her service as the Board's Secretary/Attorney. She worked with former General Counsel Dale Close to defend KCPD officers in lawsuits.

KCPD members and retirees also may be familiar with Commissioner Dean's late husband, who passed away in 2011. Preston Dean, better known to many as "Judge Dean," served as a Jackson County Circuit Court judge from 1989 until his retirement in 2006.

Commissioner Dean said Governor Mike Parson asked her to serve on the Board of Police Commissioners, and she was happy to do so. One of things that's impressed her most so far has been the Kansas City Crime Laborato-

ry.

"I had no idea the extent of the new lab, which is just fabulous," she said. "I learned a lot about that, and all the new techniques they use to process evidence."

She thinks the biggest challenge the Board faces going forward is having the money to have enough officers on the Department to serve the City well.

"It's a very serious concern," she said.

## Donations sought to refurbish Trail of Heroes plaques

The Trail of Heroes, located on the campus of the Police Academy and the Shoal Creek Patrol Division, opened in 2008 to honor fallen members of the Department. The memorial name plates and plaques are found on benches and posts along the trail to commemorate officers killed in the line of duty, retirees and former members. The name plates and plaques have aged over the years and are in need of replacement. Officer Nick Simons, who works in East Patrol, has designed and created replacement name plates and plaques made from stainless steel for longevity. Officer Simons is donating his labor to make the plaques at his off-duty job at CM Fabri-

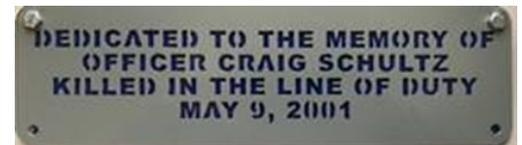
cating, located at 501 Sante Fe in Kansas City.

A total of \$6,000 will be needed to fund the replacement costs of all existing name plates and plaques on the Trail of Heroes. A Trail of Heroes fund exists in the Fiscal Division and is coordinated by Melissa McLaughlin.

Anyone who wishes to contribute, please make checks payable to Board of Police Commissioners and mail to:

KCPD  
Attn. Melissa McLaughlin, Accounting,  
1125 Locust St., Kansas City, MO 64106

All contributions are welcome. Thank you!



The new plaques designed by Officer Nick Simons for Trail of Heroes benches (above) and posts (below).



# New dog brings “girl power” to Canine

One new female officer on the department has pushed through the clichéd glass ceiling, paws first.

Pepper, a 1-and-a-half-year-old Dutch Shepherd, is one of the first female canine officers ever at the KCPD. She is assigned to Officer Tanner Moats, who transferred to the Canine Section in November.

Canine Sergeant Bill Brown selected Pepper from the Department’s Canine supplier, Vohne Liche Kennels in Indiana. He said the selection of dogs was slim when they visited in November.

“Then they said, ‘Well we’ve got a little female, but you guys don’t take females,’” Sergeant Brown recalled. “And I said, ‘I never said we don’t take females.’”

Pepper went on to perform exceptionally in all the tests officers put her through. She is a dual-purpose dog trained in bomb detection and patrol work. Officers tested not only her tracking and bomb detection ability, but also her courage, her footing on uneven surfaces and her focus.

“We tested her, and I wanted her,” Sergeant Brown said. “She’s got just as much drive as (the male dogs) do.”

At 60 pounds, she’s a little smaller than the male canine officers, but Sergeant Brown said, “She thinks she’s 1,000 pounds.”

Sergeant Brown said there are a couple of reasons the Department has always taken male dogs. The first is that male dogs typically tend to have a higher drive than females. To keep that drive high, the dogs are not neutered, which begets the second problem with having a female dog around.

“They want to pay more attention to her than work,” Sergeant Brown said.



Pepper is one of KCPD’s first female canines.



Because they are all alpha dogs, KCPD’s canines don’t usually interact with each other because they wouldn’t fight. Sergeant Brown suspects the boys wouldn’t fight Pepper – who is “definitely a little alpha, herself” – but they may be interested in her for other, more romantic reasons. At this point, Sergeant Brown said he has no intention of getting Pepper spayed.

Officer Moats said Pepper has fit in well at his home, where he has three large dogs of his own. He’s introducing them to each other slowly. He said she definitely has an on-off switch.

“At home, she’s a ham,” he said. “She’s chill and you could pet her all over. But when it’s time to work, she knows it’s time to work.”

The duo recently had their first successful track. Pepper and Officer Moats found a carjacking suspect who’d ran through several backyards hiding in brush. Pepper also sniffed out the credit cards and other property stolen from the victim after the suspect fled on foot through multiple backyards.

“She’s amazing at tracking,” Officer Moats said.

He said he can’t wait to get her more real-world experience so she can be the best possible dog for the Police Department.

KCPD has had one other female dog in the past, but she didn’t work out. She was too possessive, not letting her human partner get near a suspect decoy, even after she released her bite. She returned to Vohne Liche.

Sergeant Brown said he has no such concerns with Pepper.

“Pepper is doing awesome,” Sergeant Brown said. “I picked her for Tanner Moats. I wish I could have dogs like her for every new handler we get. She’s really easy-going, and she taught him pretty quickly. It really sped up our training time.”

## Entrant Officer Class 167 graduates

Entrant Officer Class 167 graduated January 9, 2020, with 29 officers being sworn into the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, and four sworn into outside agencies. The valedictorian of the class was KCPD Officer Alvaro Pino Quintana. The Richard Fletcher Director’s Award went to Officer Justin Selig of the KCPD.



# Upcoming Events

March 2-27  
Free Tax Preparation,  
Multiple Sites

March 10  
Board of Police  
Commissioners  
Meeting

The Informant is a  
publication of  
KCPD's  
Media Unit  
(816) 234-5170  
kcpd.org

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

# Officially Speaking

## Award

Meritorious Service Award  
Manager Ed Brundage

## Promotions

### To Assistant Supervisor

Lori Nelson  
Ashanti Roper  
George Santoro

### To Supervisor

Jackie Donovan  
Robert Fields  
Detrick Hilliard  
Anthony Rizzo

### To Manager

Jeff Brame

### To Director

Kevin Winer

### To Sergeant

Selvir Abidovic  
William Campbell  
Nicole Christmann  
Lawrence Cory  
Luke Ewert  
Eurik Hunt

Jennifer Jacobs-Weyrauch

Thomas Komoroski  
Benjamin Lindsay  
Jeremy Meythaler  
John Pickens  
Troy Schwalm  
Alexander Skinner  
Michael True  
Alan Whaley

### To Captain

James Buck  
Martin Cobbinah  
Michael Glass  
William Hewitt  
Joey Roberts

### To Major

Paul Luster  
Joseph Mabin  
Ryan Mills

### To Deputy Chief

Karen True  
Shawn Wadle

## 25-Year Rings

Captain Everett Babcock  
Officer Jason Brungardt

Reserve Officer Kristun  
Crawford  
Detective Todd Dolato  
Detective Scott Emery  
Officer Timothy Fillpot  
Detective Robert Murphy  
Captain Lonnie Price III  
Detective Errol Riggins II  
Sergeant Derek Rothert  
Sergeant Steven Schramm  
Detective Timothy Sims  
Sergeant Matthew Taylor  
Detective Brian Williams

## Retirements

Sergeant Kevin Kilkenny  
Civilian Leona Miller

## Obituaries

Retired Sergeant Richard  
Mason  
Retired Civilian Charlene  
McCorkle  
Retired Sergeant Kent Moore  
Officer Alan Roth  
Retired Investigator Maurice  
Watson