



Prince George's County, Maryland Office of the Sheriff News

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1696

A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

Realizing our Goals...Achieving Results

Last year was an outstanding year of achievement and productivity for our agency. In every Bureau, units and sections performed at new levels of proficiency to move us closer to every goal we've set to meet our obligations to the citizens and residents of Prince George's County.

I hope that each of you have taken the time to read our Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report. The first annual report produced under my administration, it lays out clearly the vision and plan that we established to fulfill our responsibilities. It is a benchmark by which we measure our productivity against our vision. I see it

also as a tribute to every members' commitment to this agency and a celebration of our team's success.



During the year, we continued to build on partnerships with fellow law enforcement agencies and other partners with whom we work. In particular, there are three partnership related activities that I want to recall.

Last year, after enormous review, analysis and testing, Technology Services launched our new warrant database. This was a high priority because our old system was built on old technology. The new system

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Melvin C. High
Sheriff



Colonel Darrin C. Palmer
Chief Assistant Sheriff

VOWS RESULTS BRING TOP BRASS TO PGSO

Sheriff High and the Office of the Sheriff hosted Governor Martin O'Malley and County Executive Rushern Baker to



report the results of the Warrant/Fugitive Division's Violent Offender Warrant Suppression (VOWS) operation. The three-month effort was funded by a \$125,660 grant from the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP).

Governor O'Malley praised the results and on public safety he said, "There is no more important work that we do. If we can't do this, none of the other stuff matters much."

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significantly enhances our capacity to integrate more easily with newer systems, performs many more tasks, and has greater flexibility and a more robust search capability. Also, providing access to our County and Municipal partners enhances their ability to search and initiate warrant operations in their jurisdictions.

We realized a Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID) goal with the inaugural luncheon to recognize our partners in domestic violence. The luncheon theme “Celebrating Partners – Hope and Help for Victims of Domestic Violence” and our Mistress of Ceremonies, well-known radio host Justine Love, set a mood of celebration around the important work of the over 15 County and State partners in attendance, with whom we work every day to protect and assist victims of domestic violence.



The year ended with a hugely productive partnership with the Governor’s Office on Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). With a \$125,000 grant, we initiated a violent offender warrant operation called Violent Offender Warrant Suppression (VOWS). It incorporated all the elements for success – a solid operational plan that included reinvestigation of specific open violent offender warrants, law enforcement teams that included partner law enforcement agencies from other jurisdictions, and a measurement component. We closed over 1,200 warrants and made over 600 arrests – a result so outstanding, Governor O’Malley joined us at a press conference to share the results with the public.

On other fronts, our Court Services Bureau continues to effectively manage a very busy court complex with thousands of daily visitors; safety and order are the outcome.

Thanks to each of you who have helped in the current budget season process that is underway and thanks to all our members for helping to make the Sheriff’s Office one of the best.

Sheriff High

EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC ORDERS;
what are they?

An Emergency Psychiatric Service (EPS) order instructs Sheriff’s Deputies to immediately detain an individual who is believed to have a mental disorder and may present a danger to themselves or others. Sheriff’s Deputies carried out 615 EPS orders from Oct. 2012 – Oct. 2013. They take time and manpower, and require, on average, three deputies 2 ½ hours from receiving the order to turning the patient over safely to hospital staff. That’s 4,612 man hours or the equivalent of more than 2 deputies spending a full year executing only EPS orders.



A person detained for EPS is transported, for psychiatric evaluation, to an appropriate medical facility that takes patients under an “emergency” status and has an on-site psychiatric ward that is capable of caring for psychiatric patients on an “in-patient” basis.

An EPS order can be obtained through a hearing in the courts, at the request of a family member or concerned person. An EPS order may also be obtained by a Law

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Sheriff High said, “The funding gave the warrant squad a boost and the grant’s focus on violent crime offenders was consistent with the first priority in our warrant strategy - to get the most dangerous offenders off the streets.”

The final results included 665 arrests to dispose of 1,221 total warrants, including murder, rape, robbery, burglary and drug offenses. One hundred twenty-eight arrests were for domestic violence related crimes and 160 detainees were filed.

Thanking the Warrant Division and partner law enforcement agencies who participated, Sheriff High said, “The public safety collaborative effort has been the County Executive’s vision and I’ve been heartened to see it realized over the last three years. This work is dangerous. It requires knocking on a lot of doors and you simply don’t always know what’s behind each door.”

EPS

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Enforcement Officer, who may take a person into custody at their discretion based on the officer's observation of a person's actions, statements and overall demeanor. Finally, an EPS order may be initiated by a Physician, Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker or Health Officer and is acted upon immediately and with authority similar to the courts.

An EPS order is a civil matter and is not considered a criminal arrest or a search warrant. Although some force may be necessary at times, deputies

bear in mind that the individual being taken into custody is considered unwell and in need of treatment. EPSs



carry the same risks associated with all other calls for service or service of warrants and documents, and require that deputies remain vigilant about their safety and the safety of others.

Not surprisingly, although a family member may have requested the EPS, once deputies are on the scene, they may react unexpectedly when the "patient" is placed in handcuffs, or otherwise restrained. The patient may exhibit extremely paranoid behavior toward deputies, unaware of who they are or where they are being taken. Such behavior is not unusual since today, the most common and serious mental illnesses deputies encounter are Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), psychotic disorders, including schizophrenia and mood disorders, such as bipolar disorder, and major depression.

**MEMBER SCOOP:
NIKE CAMPBELL-FATOKI - BUDGET MANAGEMENT ANALYST...and AUTHOR?**

Nike Campbell-Fatoki is the Budget Management Analyst and Supervisor in Budget and Finance for the Office of the Sheriff. She's also a published author, but more about that later.

Of her role in the Sheriff's Office, Campbell-Fatoki says, "It's a dynamic job and there's never a dull moment." The Division provides management and oversight in the procurement of goods and services, revenue/fees collection, extradition travel, payroll and, budget and grants management. They are a team of three that also includes Ms. Beverly Allen and Ms. Amanda Gullickson, whom Campbell-Fatoki credits with providing outstanding customer and member service.

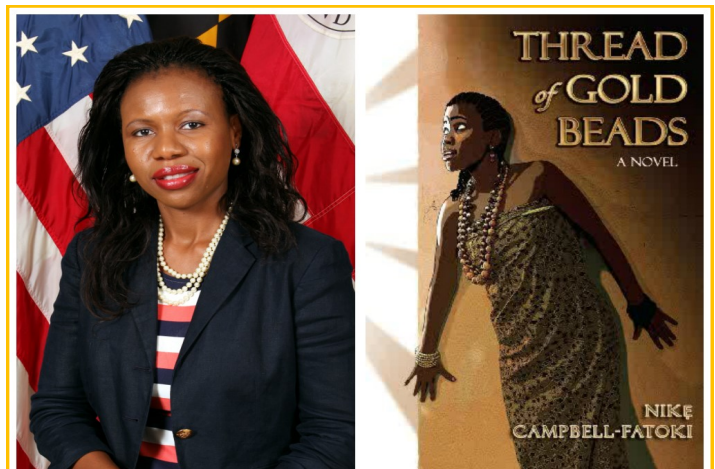
Campbell-Fatoki's priority is ensuring that every Bureau has the resources to meet its operational needs and that funds are used as judiciously as possible. "It helps us meet manpower needs and keep overtime hours down when Divisions support each other during operations and by managing shifts creatively," she says. "We monitor activities and spending to stay within budget."

And the author Campbell-Fatoki? Yes, she published her first novel – *Thread of Gold Beads* in 2012, a work of historical fiction set in the Republic of Benin and Nigeria in the late 1890s to early 1900s. The idea for the story came from stories her grandmother told her about her own grandmother's flight from the war-torn kingdom of

Dahomey, in the present day Republic of Benin into South Africa. "It took me six years and there were times I almost gave up," she says. "The history required a lot of research, but I felt it was a book that had to be written."

The story chronicles the tumultuous life of Amelia, young daughter of the last independent king of Dahomey, King Gbehanzin, as she fled the kingdom during the war and colonization by the French. Amelia risks her life and loses family but realizes through her challenges that her everlasting Faith, a new family and the will to live surpass all. The role of women, slavery, colonization, war and displacement, faith and religion, and, love and betrayal are major themes.

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**MEMBER SCOOP:
LT. SHAWN DAVENPORT— “GO TO GUY” FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Lt. Shawn Davenport is quick to acknowledge the support of other members when community and charitable organizations have events, but there's no question that he's the “go

to” guy in the Sheriff's Office for these important activities. program that caught the attention of then Sheriff Michael Jackson. He asked them to join the Sheriff's Office; Davenport was hired as a Deputy Sheriff Private in 2003.



Davenport says he knows it may sound like a cliché, but when asked about his involvement in community and charitable events, he says, “I've been blessed with great opportunities and I believe we have a responsibility to help those less fortunate. It's a principle I believe in and live by.”

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Now a Lieutenant in the Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID), Lt. Davenport's career began 35 years ago as a volunteer firefighter and police cadet before serving in the Army as a military policeman. He entered the County Police Academy as a member of the Landover Hills PD, and was later hired as a patrol supervisor by the City of Seat Pleasant PD. That's where he met Norma Harley and together they developed a comprehensive domestic violence response and advocacy pro-

gram that caught the attention of then Sheriff Michael Jackson. He asked them to join the Sheriff's Office; Davenport was hired as a Deputy Sheriff Private in 2003. While “Santa with a Badge”, better known as “Shop with a Cop”, is among his favorites, over the years Lt. Davenport says he has organized, helped organize, participated in or donated to many events like Christmas in April, Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS), Wounded Warrior projects and the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics.

Davenport says his military and law enforcement experience have shaped him. “Many situations and the very nature of the work place you in contact with people during difficult and negative times in their lives;

you sometimes see the worst of the worst.” Helping others and doing positive things to help others is his way of counterbalancing the negative. “Doing it through the agency gives the community a better picture and a positive perspective of the Sheriff's Office and law enforcement,” he says.

When it comes to getting others involved, “I learned long ago that if you are sincere in your convictions and passionate about what you're trying to accomplish, others will follow you.” Davenport says he's seen others become as passionate as he is which helps get the word out and gets others involved, “Just do it,” he says. “Many good causes just need someone to step up and help.”

Lt. Davenport ends like he began, talking about his teammates in every event and activity who give of their time and money, and who, like he, care deeply about helping others. “I couldn't do this if it were not for the efforts of others doing what they do so well.” He mentions Lt. Colonel Mark Roccapiore, Captain Nancy Ridgely, Lt. Alex Maldonado, Sgt. Lisa Smith, Corporals Wiedrich, McGriff and Dixon, and several retirees. “Many individuals have profoundly influenced me, one of those being the late Sgt. Billy Falby.”

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Nike wanted to preserve some of the history that she worried would be lost if the story wasn't told. “The world is losing history because we look only toward the future – the last gadget, the latest news - wanting everything instantly,” she says. “Certainly, we must look to the future, but we must also preserve history or we lose its lessons.”

Nike says the book is not autobiographical but does call on the experiences of some family members. She

hopes Amelia's journey reminds readers that everyone faces challenges and that what matters is how you react to them. “I hope readers will be inspired and close the book knowing a bit more about the little known Kingdom of Dahomey and the impact of colonization in Western Africa.”

Campbell-Fatoki is currently working on a collection of contemporary short stories. Learn more about Nike's writing at www.nikecfatoki.com or at Amazon.com.