



Prince George's County, Maryland Office of the Sheriff

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1696 **News**

A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

Using Our Resources To Do What We Say We Will Do.

Advocating for resources for my agency during the budget process is a critical function for me as the leader of the Office of the Sheriff. While requesting the resources necessary to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the agency, I am also mindful of citizens' expectation that we use their tax dollars wisely. We achieved that with our Fiscal Year 2017 budget of 43,795,800 - a 3.9% increase over Fiscal Year 2016.



We recruited a class of 17 recruits to improve needed staffing in the Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID), in the Warrant/Fugitive Division, in the Civil/Landlord and Tenant Division, and in the Courts. Our Court Security Unit also received additional deputies and two canine dogs to better protect the safety of visitors, employees, and*cont. p. 2*

Sheriff High/CEO Maxwell Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Prince George's County Sheriff Melvin C. High and Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) CEO Dr. Kevin Maxwell held a press conference on November 3rd. At the conference they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that officially kicked off a partnership between PGCPS and the Sheriff's Office "Positive D.A.Y." (Deputies Assisting Youth) Mentoring Program in county middle schools.

The Positive D.A.Y. Mentoring Program is currently in 11 county middle schools and is an investment in young people. Sheriff's Deputies serve as mentors to "cadets" to encourage and enrich students' learning experience, while also teaching them about personal safety. "We

want to support students at this exciting and transitional time in their lives," said Sheriff High. "And, we want to add to the results we've seen that include improved GPAs, fewer absences, suspensions, and expulsions."



Melvin C. High
Sheriff



Colonel Darrin C. Palmer
Chief Assistant Sheriff

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SHERIFF,

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detainees, and continues our commitment to make security at the Upper Marlboro and Hyattsville Courts a top priority.

With the important addition of the new Family Justice Center, a one-stop location of services for victims of domestic violence, the Office of the Sheriff hired three new security officers for the facility.

Grant funding and good partnerships were used to support the increased number of deputies serving warrants. These additional deputies allowed us to focus on violent offenders, including the extradition of fugitives from other jurisdictions which are mandated by the courts. Additional overtime funding helped us maintain acceptable performance levels in Civil/Landlord and Tenant and fulfill staffing needs in the courts.

We continue to move forward with a training philosophy geared toward "best practices" in law enforcement. Our progress toward accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), has been outstanding. Accreditation provides international recognition that an agency follows an established body of standards designed to increase our effectiveness and efficiency; and, it demonstrates that we meet professionally recognized "best practices" standards in management and service delivery.

Finally, our budget enabled us to purchase judgmental shooting equipment for the Training Division – a state-of-the-art training simulator system that will keep our deputies updated on training that can save lives.

The best use of our financial and personnel resources is to fulfill our responsibilities well, professionally and with integrity to serve the citizens of our great county. To the men and women with whom I serve each day, thank you for your continued hard work and dedication.

Sheriff Melvin C. High

Sheriff Not the Only One Foiling Scam Callers

The Sheriff's Office Communications Division has been warning citizens for years about scam callers who preyed on citizens for money. The callers victimized citizens by pretending they could make a legal action or fine go away if the citizen paid them. It turns out the Office of the Sheriff wasn't the only agency working against these predators: so was the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Recent news reports revealed a three-year investiga-

Retirements/ Separations

Joseph Williams ~Maurice Blyther~ Sheila Moses ~ Karen Paquette

New Hires

Academy Graduates: Fozia Mehdi ~ Kevin Stevenson

In the Academy: ~ Kamal Ashkar~Matthew Berry~ Ebony Brady~ Diana Chavez Dela Cruz ~ Kyree Curmon ~ Adam Dymond~ Andres Hernandez ~Brent Huffman, Michael Kay~ Tristan Leeper~ Devon Simpson ~ Marcus Sims ~ Brandon Turner ~ Paul Washington III~ Jose Zapata Jr.

EPOs: Jeffrey Stevenson ~ Dante Winder

Civilian: Emmanuel Bawuah~ Kenneth Black~ Erica BoBo ~ Marc Giles~ Dana Hamm ~ Johnathan Marks~ Tasha Thomas

Promotions

Major ~ Sharon Saunders

Captain ~ Monica Jackson

Lieutenant ~ Lisa Smith ~Steven

Upathambhakul~ Shawn Richards~ Kevin Deck

Sergeant~ Teisha Ford~ Michael Flick~ Richard Johnson~ Daniel Mayer~ Edward Sagin Jr.

Corporal~ Earl Allen III~ James Carter~ Adrian Curtis~ Ricardo Dennis~ Demetrious Harris~ Jeffrey Mayberry~ Paul Perriello~ Lonnell Perry~ Gary Proctor~ Derrick Robinson~ Dwayne Stevenson~ Kendal Wade~ Anthony Bynum~ Maya Clay

Deputy First Class ~Leroy Britt~ Lakisha Brooks~ Karl Burnett~ Dominick Chambers~ Kenneth Huff~ Melvyn Ivy ~ Talmadge Jackson III~ Anthony Jones~ Tyrone Macklin II ~Kirk Mullings~ Armaan Patrick~ Melanie Sarita~ Sterling Smith~ Daniel Vivas-Acosta~ Mary Windsor

tion by the DOJ that led to indictments of 56 alleged fraudsters in the U.S. and 5 call centers in India. During the period of the investigation, more than 15,000 victims, many of whom were older adults, were scammed out of over \$300 million.



We urge citizens to stay alert to these calls and remember there are absolutely no circumstances under which the Sheriff or any other law enforcement agency would ask citizens to wire or send money on a prepaid card. If you get a call, hang up and contact the Prince Georges County Police at 301-772-4420. And, never give out any personal information!

**All-Sheriff Deputy Training Class at Prince George's Community College
Sheriff's Office Continues to Hire**

The Office of Sheriff assigned recruits to the first all-Sheriff Deputy training class in many years at the Prince George's County Community College Police Training Academy in Largo, MD. The academy class enlisted 17 recruits. The last such class, Session 108, graduated in 2007. "We are grateful for the opportunity to strengthen and enhance the agency with new deputies eager to serve the citizens of the county and pleased by our working partnership with the PGCCC Police Training Academy where the recruits will be well-trained and prepared for their roles in the Sheriff's Office," said Training & Personnel Services Coordinator, Lt. Brian Endlich.



The recruits are scheduled to graduate in May to join seven new deputies who graduated from the County Police Training Academy on January 5th, with more hires expected in 2017. Of law enforcement hiring, Sheriff High said "Today, we require our law enforcement officers have great knowledge to meet the complexities that we encounter in our work. Our relationship with the Prince George's County Community College and the Police Training Academy deliver the foundation of knowledge our members need to provide the highest professional service".



Funding the new class will increase staffing and enable the Sheriff's Office to keep up with the demands of the agency and maintain effective service levels. Another class is planned in the spring. "In our hiring, we're looking for candidates who have a desire to serve the public and who recognize that service in law enforcement means accountability to the highest moral, ethical, and legal standards," said Endlich.

What goes on in a police academy? During the 22-27-week training period, recruits receive classroom, and hands-on, physical instruction, which include a focus on state laws, criminal investigations, patrol procedures, firearms training, traffic control, defensive driving, self-defense, crisis management, de-escalation techniques, first aid and computer skills. Academy training also earns recruits 18 college credits.

Office of the Sheriff Launches Body-Worn Camera Pilot Project

The Office of the Sheriff kicked off a body-worn camera pilot project last November during which it will test pilot as many as six camera models. Each of the models will be tested for at least two weeks by four deputies - one in the Landlord & Tenant Division, one in the Warrant/Fugitive Division, and two in Domestic Violence Intervention. The pilot will run for approximately four to six months to effectively test each of the models.



Studies have shown that body cameras can be a game changer for law enforcement and the community because they positively influence the behavior of citizens and officers when each is aware that their behavior is being recorded. In most agencies that have implemented body cameras, use of force and citizen complaints have dropped dramatically. Body worn cameras also assist in the prosecution of arrestees that can be very important in cases of domestic violence. In these types of cases the relationship between the defendant and the victim are unique, and victims sometimes recant their stories. Footage from body worn cameras enable both the prosecutor and defense attorney an opportunity to review evidence that may be relevant in the case.

According to Lt. Endlich, who is overseeing the project, the pilot will enable the Training Division to review and evaluate every aspect of body-worn camera usage, including user friendliness, capacity and durability of the equipment in order to select the best camera should the agency decide to implement a body-worn camera program.

Sheriff High said he's pleased to have gotten the pilot underway. "I believe this technology can be an effective tool for use in public safety," said Sheriff High. "Our goal with this pilot is to understand the technology better and to determine whether body-worn cameras can help us do our work more effectively, including delivering greater transparency and accountability to citizens in the performance of our duties."

The Snowball Effect of a Random Act of Kindness

On duty in early December, Sgt. Mewshaw and Cpl. Materka stopped at a 7-11 in Suitland, MD where they met a man we'll call "Tim". Tim told them that he liked most of the deputies he'd met. After talking with Tim a while, they learned that he was homeless; he said it had been harder to sleep the night before because the weather was getting colder. Sgt. Mewshaw went to get an extra coat he had in the backseat of his cruiser. As he gave it to Tim, he saw that Cpl. Materka had gone inside the store and bought Tim a cup of coffee, a blanket and lunch.

As you can imagine, Tim was pretty happy and very appreciative. And, just when you think a story can't get any better – it does! Citizens began stopping the deputies to thank them for their kindness. One man yelled, "God Bless the Sheriffs!" The next thing Mewshaw and Materka know, two other men had brought gloves and a hat from their cars for Tim. Other people simply rolled down their car windows as they left the parking lot just to say thanks.

Needless to say, Sgt. Mewshaw and Cpl. Materka made Tim's day, but the snowball effect of kindness brightened the day for everyone in the parking lot that day. And, it got Sgt. Mewshaw thinking about a coat drive to help others like Tim. "My hope is that the "pay it forward" feeling will catch on in more places, more often as it did that morning," says Sgt. Mewshaw.



"Around the County!"



Cadets Serve Seniors at Thanksgiving



Building Partnership with County Schools



Helping citizens in need at Christmas



Shining a light on Domestic Violence