



## Police Department Report to the Des Moines Community March 2022

### Chief's Message:

The following message will provide you with an update on police department activity in our community.

This has been a tough two weeks for law enforcement across the state, I am heartbroken for our law enforcement colleagues and the families who have endured the pain and suffering of losing a loved one whose lives were taken while protecting us.

We are honored to serve our Des Moines community and will continue to do our very best to keep you safe.



**Ken Thomas, Police Chief**

## Criminal Investigations Team:

- Detectives are investigating three shootings that have occurred in the past week.
  - On March 25<sup>th</sup>, a total of 26 bullet casings were found in the parking lot of an apartment complex located on S. 234<sup>th</sup> Street. No victims were located, nor damage on any vehicles or buildings.
  - On March 27<sup>th</sup>, a shooting occurred in the 23000 block of Pacific Highway South, and a **suspect was arrested by DMPD patrol officers and a stolen gun was recovered.**



- In another incident, DMPD received notification from St. Francis hospital where it was learned that a subject had been shot near South 260<sup>th</sup> on March 29<sup>th</sup>; we are working with Federal Way PD on this case.
- Detectives are also working on a bank robbery that occurred on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the US Bank inside Safeway North. The robbery suspect implied that he had a handgun before fleeing; this case may be related to others and we are working with multiple other agencies.
- On March 18<sup>th</sup>, a citizen called to report finding a gun in a bag on top of his rental home on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It will be examined to determine if stolen or connected to any crimes in the area.
- A handgun located by a diver who found it in the water off of Des Moines was turned in to the department on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Although encrusted in barnacles and corroded, it will be examined closely to determine serial number and background.



### Special Investigations Unit:

- SIU conducted a search warrant on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave South in response to citizen's complaints about drug activity.

This resulted in the seizure of over 1,200 illegal marijuana plants. The entire residence had been converted into a commercial grow operation. There was a significant quantity of processed marijuana with a street value of over \$750,000. The operation was part of a Chinese National Criminal Organization and it is estimated that this grow produced a street value of \$1 million dollars per month.

- We also hosted another meeting with local police departments and our federal law enforcement partners to facilitate intelligence sharing and collaboration in addressing crime and violence in south King County. **Two dozen local and federal officers met at the station to discuss specific plans and operations that will be occurring over the next few months.**

### Community Outreach:

- We coordinated a community and business meeting held at La Familia where Chief Thomas addressed concerns regarding crime and quality of life issues along Pacific Hwy S. More than two dozen business owners and interested parties attended. Additional meetings will occur throughout the spring and summer.



- Our Community Service Officer Tonya Seaberry has met with block watch captains and prospective new neighborhood groups interested in establishing block watch programs. Please contact with her directly if this is of interest to you: [Tseaberry@desmoineswa.gov](mailto:Tseaberry@desmoineswa.gov) or 206-878-3301
- A church group was also contacted for a meeting concerning crime safety.
- We have recently worked with management at Safeway to address various quality of life issues that are present at the Safeway store located at 216<sup>th</sup> & Pacific Hwy.
- We have also contacted a number of businesses located along Pacific Highway South to address graffiti and litter.
- We coordinated with Metro to remove graffiti from several bus stops along Pacific Highway South corridor.



- With the assistance of residents and social media posts, we were able to locate and identify a female who dumped a mattress on Right of Way in a chronic illegal dumping area. She admitted to dumping it and was issued a \$513 ticket.



- Coordinated with Walgreens management on removal of an encampment and garbage throughout the property; Manager is working with corporate to reduce vegetation to meet CPTED standards to decrease issues



## Patrol Team



As part of the ongoing emphasis along Pacific Highway South Patrol conducted these statistics since our last report:

- 307 hours dedicated to the emphasis area
- 21 people were arrested and/or cited for various offenses
- 11 warnings were issued for various infractions
- 115 people were offered social services/housing information
- 175 Suspicious persons or vehicles contacted

Including the Pacific Highway South emphasis, patrol was involved in just over 1400 incidents during the month.

Our DMPD Patrol Officers participated in the memorial service for both the Pierce County Sheriff Deputy Dom Calata and the City of Everett Police Officer Dan Rocha.

We are proud of our DMPD Officers for covering the streets so the colleagues of the fallen could attend the memorial services. DMPD Officers also participated in the memorial procession, provided security as well as participated in the memorial services. The death of a law enforcement officer, no matter what department, effects all police personnel and is heart wrenching for our officers and their families.

## **TRAFFIC OFFICER REPORT**

Our dedicated traffic officer reported these statistics for the month:

115	Infractions
36	Warnings
9	Accident Reports
7	Responded to traffic Complaint Calls



## DMPD AWARDS:

We congratulated two officers this month for their 20 years of service to the Des Moines Police Department.

Detective Casey works in our Criminal Investigations Unit:



Master Police Officer Dave Shields works on the Patrol Team:



## Retirement

After over 27 years in Law Enforcement Detective Sergeant Bill Shepard has retired from service. We wish Bill all the best in his next chapter of life!



## NEW LATERAL OFFICER:

Welcome our new Officer Eric Morris, a 14 year veteran from Jackson, Mississippi.

