

VALLEY AREA COMMAND

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Special points of interest:

- For crime prevention tips, presentations, and property inspection, please contact Mr. Ron Hollie (Crime Prevention Specialist) at 761-8830.
- The annual Field Services Bid takes effect on April 26, 2008. This is when police officers are able to move to new assignments throughout the City.
- Commander Romero's Contact Information:
Office # 761-8828
Cell # 553-3517
e-mail promero@cabq.gov

COMMANDER PAUL ROMERO

Welcome to the first issue of the Valley Area Command's quarterly newsletter. The officers assigned to the Valley Area Command are responsible for the geographical area between I-25 and the Rio Grande River. This area presents many challenges for our police officers. The Valley is host to many special events, whether they are held at the Balloon Park, Civic Plaza, or Tiguex Park. The Valley is also home for many popular attractions such as the Albuquerque Biological Park, Old Town Plaza, and the Albuquerque and Natural History Museums. Downtown Albuquerque consists of many governmental entities, businesses, and the Convention Center. On the weekend, the nightlife comes alive in downtown when many people come to see a movie, enjoy a meal, or patronize one of the many nightclubs. In addition to policing these areas, Valley Area Command officers are responsible for serving the many residents living in the area.



Commander Paul Romero

For this newsletter, I asked my three lieutenants, also known as watch commanders, and my Impact Team (detective unit) sergeant to write articles informing the community of what their responsibilities and challenges are. This first newsletter is meant to be introductory in nature and our goal for future newsletters will be to provide updates on ongoing activity within the Area Command and crime prevention tips.

IMPACT TEAM REPORT SERGEANT STEVE MAREZ

The Valley Impact Unit would like to welcome the community to the Valley Area command News Letter. We would like to introduce ourselves and inform you of the responsibilities of the unit. The Valley Impact Team is comprised of nine Detectives, six who work on dayshift and three who work swing shift. We are responsible for all follow-up felony investigations involving Domestic Violence, assaults, batteries, larcenies, embezzlements, Criminal Sexual Contacts of Persons over 12 years of age, and other incidents involving children 13 years of age and older. We are also assigned various tasks in our area which address high crime activity at a specific residence and persons committing crimes in the area. We accomplish these tasks with tactical plans, "knock and talk" contacts, and other means available. We also work closely with other units such as the Criminal Nuisance Abatement Unit (CNAU).

One of Impact's most recent cases involved the brutal beating of a security guard at Bob Turner's Ford which resulted in her death. Through investigative techniques used by the Detective assigned and the use of other resources such as Field Units, Crimes Stoppers, and another Police Agency in California, all five suspects were identified and arrested.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Impact Team continued)

Working along side with the Impact Team is the Valley Anti-Street Terrorism Team (VAST). The VAST Team works primarily swing shift and is a proactive team assigned to handle various crimes throughout the area command. Like the Impact Team, the VAST Team utilizes various means to accomplish the assignments. The VAST Team has conducted numerous narcotic, prostitution, and graffiti operations, to name a few, which resulted in many arrests and seizures. Through their operations, VAST has been able to identify many suspects involved in other crimes throughout the City. VAST, with the assistance of CNAU, has also had several problem properties posted as substandard.

Due to the creation of a 6th Area Command in the Cottonwood area, the members of the VAST Team have been temporarily reassigned to patrol duties. The VAST Team has been a vital unit in addressing criminal activity and their efforts are appreciated.



A.P.D. Detective Badge

WATCH I (GRAVEYARD) REPORT LT. CLIFF SAYLOR

We come to work late so that you may sleep in peace. We are the night shift for the Albuquerque Police Departments' Valley Area Command. Watch 1, also known as "graveyard," patrols from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. The officers are currently working a 10-hour shift, 4 days per week. Watch 1 has four teams of officers. Three teams work that 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. shift and one team works an overlapping shift Friday through Monday from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m.



Downtown Albuquerque

The Valley Area Command is an extremely long area from north to south. We have a diverse population and variety of businesses. Working the night shift is a mixture of varied calls for service and D.W.I. enforcement. Graveyard officers made 183 D.W.I. stops and arrests in the month of February 2008, while taking 2,457 calls for service. Graveyard shift also has the responsibility of patrolling the Downtown area. Sunday through Thursday tend to be light on demands for police presence Downtown, however Friday and Saturday consume much of the police resources in the Valley Command on a weekly basis.

Over the course of February and March the Valley Area Command has been making adjustments in the way we patrol the Downtown district. The officers are spread out more, police cars and removed from the area, and the Horse Mounted Unit is utilized for a police presence and a public relations tool. These changes are intended to maximize the public safety and law enforcement while remaining a low-key presence. The Officers are patrolling on foot along Central Avenue, Gold Avenue, Copper Avenue and the alleyways in between. They work to eliminate parking issues, prevent fights, disturbances, and public disorder.

The Valley Area Command has been working closely with the Downtown Action Team, Downtown Neighborhood Associations, Downtown businesses and other City Of Albuquerque departments to improve the quality of police service, business services and opportunities for recreation and commerce to the citizens of Albuquerque. The streets are safer, the environment is cleaner, and the variety of businesses is growing. Downtown is taking a revitalized breath of life. There are wonderful restaurants, entertainment venues and nightlife choices within the area.

"We come to work late so that you may sleep in peace." (Lt. Cliff Saylor)

WATCH II (DAY SHIFT) REPORT

LT. BETH PAIZ

Greetings! from Watch II or "Dayshift" officers of the Valley Area Command. Our officers are the patrol officers on your streets and in your neighborhood whose primary function is to answer "calls for service" or calls people make to our dispatch center. Our Dayshift officers start their shift at 6:30 am and end their shift at 4:30 pm. We have three teams of Dayshift officers. Team 1 works on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Team 2 works Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Team 3 works Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

The "calls for service" take up most, if not all of our time on patrol. However, we have been focusing our attention in our neighborhood's school zones. We have been enforcing speeding and other traffic laws in, and around your neighborhood schools. This has resulted in our Area Command having the highest number of traffic citations written than any other Area Command in the City. Traffic enforcement is an important component of police work. We believe a strong police presence in your neighborhood is a good deterrent of crime. Of course, we cannot be in every neighborhood all the time. We depend on you, our community, to be our "eyes and ears." We want to hear from you if something in your neighborhood is unusual or unsafe.

In the downtown area of Albuquerque, we have patrol officers on bicycles and on foot. These officers literally walk and ride the streets to take care of crime at street level. They have been an invaluable resource for the residents and businesses in the downtown area. Many downtown businesses know Walking Beat Officer Armijo and Officer Dye by name and call upon them when the need arises. Officer Armijo and Dye work very closely with the Downtown Action Team and its Ambassadors to keep downtown a safe and culturally diverse place to work, shop and play.

WATCH III (SWING SHIFT) REPORT

LT. TIM DELGADO

The swing shift for the Albuquerque Police Department Valley Area Command is composed of three (3) squads supervised by Sergeants Mark Garcia, Joseph Esquibel, and Todd Armendariz. The Watch Commander is Lieutenant Tim Delgado. The officers work from 2 PM to 12 PM. The squads have varied days off, in order to ensure adequate coverage.

The Valley Area Commands' swing shift is very busy for the officers with a large numbers of calls for service. For the months of January and February the swing officers wrote 2472 moving citations for various infractions. They also were able to arrest 79 offenders for DWI during that same period. They handled 4526 calls for police service, meaning most came from citizens telephoning our dispatch center to report an incident or some type of crime. The officers also wrote 1107 police reports which were generated by our contact with citizens during this time span. These reports deal with crimes, incidents and also information that needs to be documented. The squads also held various briefings in different neighborhoods throughout the Valley Area Command.

Swing shift officers conducted various traffic tactical plans during this period at different locations in the Valley Area Command. We conducted a tactical plan on Mountain Rd. NW and it generated 137 moving citations in a two (2) week period. We had received complaints from the neighbors in the area that vehicles were not abiding by the posted speed limits. We also targeted 5th and 6th Streets NW for speeding vehicles on an ongoing basis. The reason being is the large number of complaints we receive reference this problem by citizens in this area. We conduct these tactical plans to ensure the safety of the people in that area, especially children. We issued 125 moving citations and arrested 2 DWI offenders.

Valley Area Command 2007 Crime Stats

Felony Arrests:

2,311

Misdemeanor Arrests:

6,076

Misdemeanor Citations:

1,734

Traffic Citations:

40,580

DWI Arrests:

2,214

Calls for Service:

84,563

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Albuquerque Police
Department
5408 2nd St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Phone: 505-761-8800
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In Step With Our Community

Valley Area Command
Supervisors:

WATCH COMMANDERS
(effective April 12, 2008)

Watch I (10 PM to 6 AM)
Pending

Watch II (6 AM to 2 PM)
Lt. Beth Paiz
(Cell # 350-9128)

Watch III (2 PM to 10 PM)
Lt. Shawn O'Connell
(Cell # 553-2268)

SERGEANTS
(effective April 26, 2008)

Watch I

Sgt. Jeff Peterson
(Cell # 379-7305)
Sgt. John Sullivan
(Cell # pending)
Sgt. Arturo Gonzalez
(Cell # 681-2792)

Watch II

Sgt. Richard Dilley
(Cell # 553-2223)
Sgt. Joseph Esquibel
(Cell# 553-2259)
Sgt. Gregory Callaghan
(Cell# 553-2263)

Watch III

Sgt. Todd Hudson
(Cell # 977-0481)
Sgt. Cassandra Kukowski
(Cell # 917-1064)
Sgt. Mark Garcia
(Cell # 553-2218)

(Watch III continued)

Lieutenant Delgado also attends neighborhood meetings during the month. This gives the Valley Area Command a chance to interact with citizens and to have them advise us of any problems or concerns that they may have in their respective neighborhoods. A lot of the information we have received from these associations have led to numerous arrests for such things as drug dealing and other criminal offenses. Citizens are always encouraged to advise us of any problems or concerns in their neighborhoods at the meetings or by telephoning us at the 761-8800. The citizens are our extra eyes and ears on the streets and their help and assistance is always appreciated.

A.P.D. RECRUITING COMMANDER MATT SUAZO

The recruiting and selection units are hard at work promoting the great opportunities and career available with the Albuquerque Police Department. We are currently seeking qualified applicants who have the determination to be successful and make a difference in their communities. The Albuquerque Police Department has many benefits for employees and their families. In addition to receiving state of the art training, individuals selected to attend the Albuquerque Police Academy will receive a \$5,000.00 bonus. Employees are also provided with tremendous stability, a twenty year retirement and many, many more benefits that are explained in detail at www.APDonline.com.



Mayor Chavez and his administration continue to support the Albuquerque Police Department and our recruiting efforts. Incentives for new Albuquerque police officers is ever increasing in an effort to remain competitive and recruit the most qualified and deserving candidates. New police recruits are provided with free lunches while at the training Academy and are also equipped with new uniforms and equipment. Most recently, the Albuquerque Police Department has become one of the highest paid police agencies in the southwest, which will greatly contribute toward the goal of having 1100 officers serving our community by the end of the year.

The Albuquerque Police Department Training Academy currently has thirty-one police cadets in the 99th Cadet Class and they will be graduating May 16, 2008, after twenty-four weeks of intense and rigorous training. An additional fifty-one police cadets started their new career in the 100th Cadet Class on March 31, 2008. The 100th Class is scheduled to graduate on September 19, 2008. The entire recruiting, selection and training staff should be commended for achieving the milestone of hosting eighty-two police cadets at one time at our training facility. This achievement is evidence of their dedication, commitment and passion for making a difference in their community.

In an effort to recruit more women to a career in law enforcement, the Albuquerque Police Department Recruiting Unit will be hosting the 1st Annual Women's Fitness Challenge and Health Expo at the Albuquerque Police Academy on April 12, 2008, from 10:00 to 2:00. The Police Academy is located directly behind the Gerald Cline Substation at 5408 2nd St. N.W. This event will showcase the opportunities available for women in law enforcement and empower women to be successful in a rewarding career. Various health and fitness vendors will be available at this family event, with women competitors having the opportunity to win numerous prizes, including fitness equipment and an assortment of gift certificates.