

WHAT'S New

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, August 12, 2016

CHIEF LANIER RECOGNIZES MPD'S ROBBERY SUPPRESSION TEAM IN 4D

This week, Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier recognized Officers Geiger, Hall, Mull, and Rosette of the Fourth District's Robbery Suppression Team. Hand-picked by Captain Bray, of the Fourth District, this team provides visibility and proactive patrols to deter and reduce potential robbery threats. Since its inception in February 2016, the team has dramatically reduced robberies in the area by 30 percent.

"Everything we do is proactive. Our increased visibility has really played a major role in the large decrease in robberies," said Officer Geiger. "We have also heightened our communications with individuals who have had prior robbery and gun arrests. This reinforces that we are not far and has assisted with discouraging many robberies in the area."

Although the team's main objective is to patrol designated areas that have had recent robberies, they continue to close drug, guns, and other violent crime cases, including a recent incident that occurred in another jurisdiction.

The Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) was dispatched for an armed robbery and kidnapping offense that occurred on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at approximately 12:27 am, inside of the Travelodge Motel, in the 8000 block of 13th Street, Silver Spring, Maryland. The suspect fled the motel in his vehicle into the District of Columbia, where members of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) later spotted the vehicle heading southbound on Georgia Avenue, Northwest. MPD officers attempted to make a traffic stop, when the suspect intentionally rammed three police cruisers and almost ran over a police officer on foot.

"Our duties are to be visible in designated areas, conduct traffic stops, respond to any robberies, man with gun calls, sounds of gunshots and any other felonies that come out during our tours," said Officer Rosette.

Officers then observed the suspect crash his vehicle into a parked car in the 300 block of Ingraham Street, Northwest. The suspect exited his vehicle, fled on foot and pulled a gun from his waistband. A brief foot pursuit ensued and 22-year-old Deshun Gladden of Temple Hills, Maryland was placed under arrest in the District of Columbia for Carrying a Pistol Without a License, Assault on a Police Officer, and Leaving After Colliding. He was also arrested for Robbery, Kidnapping, and Attempted Murder in Maryland.

"Incidents like this showcase our team's determination and hard work. It is a small team, but we are doing good work, and seeing positive results," said Fourth District Commander Wil Manlapaz.

Since February the Fourth District Robbery Suppression Team has made 20 felony arrests, 11 misdemeanor arrests, and 14 traffic arrests. Additionally, they recovered 16 firearms and two stolen autos.

"The robbery stats have proven that our efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to address these trends have really paid off," said Manlapaz. "We will continue to be proactive and focus on prevention and suppression."

"It is very humbling to receive a reward for doing your job. We are very thankful and appreciative to be recognized for doing a good job," said Officer Mull.

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF BECOMING A ROBBERY VICTIM

Robbery and assault are serious crimes. While money is often the motivation, these incidents are considered crimes of violence because they involve the threat or actual use of physical violence. Year to date, robberies are up 33 percent. While no safety measure is foolproof, there are precautions one should take to reduce the risk of becoming a robbery victim. The basic rules of robbery prevention are to be sensible and to be alert. The following tips will also help reduce the risk of robbery or assault.

Personal Safety Tips on the Street

- If possible, don't walk alone during late-night hours. Walk in groups whenever you can—there is always safety in numbers.
- Let a family member or friend know your destination and your estimated time of arrival or return. That way, the police can be notified as quickly as possible if there is a problem.
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible. Avoid alleys, vacant lots, wooded areas, and other short-cuts or secluded areas. They are usually not well-lit or heavily traveled.
- Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible. Walk close to the curb, avoiding doorways, bushes, and other potential hiding places.
- Walk confidently, directly, and at a steady pace. Don't stop to talk to strangers.
- Don't burden yourself with too many packages or items.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. If you are wearing headphones, don't turn up the volume so high that you cannot hear outside noises.
- Avoid carrying large sums of cash, or displaying expensive jewelry in public.

Basic Street Smarts

- Wherever you are—on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway—stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.
- Send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live and work.
- Check out the locations of police and fire stations, public telephones, hospitals, and restaurants, or stores that are open late.

If Someone Tries to Rob You

- Don't resist. Give up your property—don't give up your life.
- Report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.

Self-defense measures are most effective when applied as preventive steps—avoiding the crime in the first place. These measures include running away, hiding, screaming, and raising an alarm—remember, more people will respond to someone yelling “Fire” than they will to “Help!”

Anyone who is the victim of a crime or witnesses a crime in progress should call 911 immediately. Individuals who have information regarding crimes should call police at (202) 727-9099. Additionally information may be submitted to the TEXT TIP LINE by text messaging 50411. The Metropolitan Police Department currently offers a reward of up to \$10,000 to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any robbery committed in the District of Columbia.

» Get more tips on guarding against robbery and assault at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/robbery>

» The MPD encourages members of the public to visit our YouTube page, view videos of cases, and contact police if they recognize persons of interest at:
<http://www.youtube.com/OfficialDCPolice>

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

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