UNLV Police Services celebrates 40 years of serving the campus community (1972 - 2012)!

We are very excited to announce that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Department of Police Services is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. UNLV Police Services is the largest, most well-equipped NSHE police force in Nevada. It is fully self-sufficient in all of its operations.

The road leading to where the department is today began on June 11th, 1965. The Board of Regents created the University of Nevada Police on that date, and since that time, university police officers have served the UNLV community. In 1972, the Board of Regents further refined law enforcement services on the campus when it founded an independent police department at UNLV. The department began its existence operating out of a trailer on Harmon Avenue, as a group of campus security watchmen. This continued until the early 90’s. As the population of the campus increased, there were some modifications to the department. More police officers and fewer watchmen began patrolling the campus because the department was being asked to take on more responsibilities than could be expected of security officers.

Like most university police departments, it is often forgotten that the officers are more than just uniformed security. In fact, UNLV’s police officers are category-one peace officers and are required to complete a 22-week, 750-hour state Peace Officer Standards & Training (P.O.S.T.) Academy, as well as pass 560 hours of field training to qualify for the rank of University Police Officer I. After successfully completing a one-year probationary period, the officer is promoted to the rank of University Police Officer II. UNLV Police Services prides itself on its professionalism and is a member of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (I.A.C.L.E.A.) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (I.A.C.P.). Our department follows a community-policing philosophy, which guides all department interactions with the UNLV community and the Las Vegas community in order to identify and solve problems.

Since its inception, the department has had four full-time police chiefs and two interim chiefs. The first chief of police at UNLV was Chief Dale Florian in 1972. Nine years later, Chief William Kolber took the position. In 1987, Chief Hollenbeck was named the UNLV Chief of Police, and 12 years later, Sergeant Don Drake and former A.T.F. Chief Ed Verkin served as interim chiefs before Chief Jose Elique was appointed to the position in 2000.

Today’s department would be barely recognizable to the officers who inhabited that trailer off Harmon Avenue back in 1972. Today the department consists of an off-campus police headquarters, sub-stations on both the Maryland Parkway Campus and the Shadow Lane Campus, as well as a 24-hour emergency communications police facility. The department consists of several units including vehicle patrol, bicycle patrol, communications & dispatch, community relations & crime prevention, investigations, enduro bike patrol, an explosives detection K-9 unit, the mounted police unit, records and property, and student security. The department also manages all police and emergency dispatching services for all of the CSN campuses along with limited criminal records checks for Truckee Meadows Community College.

Recently, the Police Services Department established an Emergency Notification System (E.N.S.) for the campus. The E.N.S. is one of the methods our police use to inform the campus in case of an emergency. This system sends emergency warnings to members of the campus community through a variety of channels, including: university e-mail, personal e-mail, voicemail and text messaging.

Of course, the UNLV Police Department isn’t only noteworthy for its size and development compared to its fellow NSHE law enforcement
Police Services unveils a new look for its website

As you may have noticed, the UNLV Police Services website was looking dated and in need of an overhaul. We noticed it too, which is why we initiated a redesign of the entire site recently. The goal was to revamp the entire site and bring it up to modern specifications; hence, a new and improved site was launched that nearly doubled the size of the site in terms of material. Some previous information was retained, but our new site features an array of upgrades. One of the most exciting new features can be viewed on the homepage. You can now access an entire section devoted to campus announcements, timely warnings & crime alerts, and a calendar of upcoming Police Services events. This is generally updated on a weekly basis, so interested members of the campus community should visit regularly to see what’s new.

There is also a new “Community Relations and Crime Prevention” page, which serves as a one-stop shop for arranging everything from campus presentations, to officer ride-alongs, to police honor guard and vocal ensemble performances. In addition, the number of topics and volume of information regarding crime prevention and personal safety has quadrupled. A new “Services” page was also created that compliments the information found on the “Community Relations” page. The “Services” page was created to give visitors the ability to go to one location for all information regarding fingerprinting, notary services, police reports, property registration, event services and more. Other new additions include an extensive new page regarding employment opportunities that describes all the positions in Police Services, the training required, and whether or not openings exist. A page regarding awards and recognitions for members of the department was created that gives the viewer a better sense of the departments’ history and professionalism. Even our “Contacts” page was expanded to better help the public find who and what they are looking for.

Unlike the previous site, a team of Police Services personnel have been assigned to regularly review and update the website, and plans are already underway to even further enhance your web-browsing experience. We hope you enjoy the new and improved site, and feel free to let us know if you have any suggestions!

UNLV burglaries end, suspect caught and sentenced

The outstanding work of a team of police officers has resulted in the arrest of a man in connection to a string of burglaries that took place last year at Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. The initial arrest came as a result of a tip received from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. However, the tip may never have come had a team of UNLV officers not waged an extensive media campaign to make the public and law enforcement aware of the problem through timely warnings and media interviews.

Communications such as the “timely warning” notification are occasionally sent out to the university community when circumstances merit it in order to alert the campus of criminal activity. Campus e-mail was used to alert everyone on campus, and surveillance cameras across campus were used in order to track down and apprehend the suspect.

The police determined through surveillance that the criminal in question forcibly entered a number of offices in Greenspun Hall over the course of several months and stole electronic and computer equipment. It is suspected that the criminal was also connected to a number of other burglaries across campus.

After following up on numerous leads, UNLV’s police department learned of a tip from Las Vegas Metro that led to the criminals’ ultimate arrest. He pled guilty in district court and has been sentenced to serve between 18-60 months in a Nevada Department of Corrections facility. He was also fined for various court expenses.
UNLV Police Department contributed to the increased professionalism of NSHE law enforcement was through its hosting of the 49th Annual I.A.C.L.E.A. Conference in 2007. I.A.C.L.E.A. is considered the premier world-wide law enforcement association for university police agencies, and hosting its conference is considered a rare opportunity. Not only did hosting the event shine a bright light on the NSHE’s growing emphasis on community-policing, it gave UNLV and all of its peer agencies in Nevada higher education an opportunity to learn and adopt “best practice” law enforcement techniques from the best experts in the field.

In order to commemorate the department’s 40th anniversary and honor the contributions of all those who have worked to build the department to where it stands today, all officers of the Police Department are sporting a special anniversary patch on their uniforms. The patch will be worn throughout this year as a celebration of the 40th anniversary and as an acknowledgement of how far we have come as a university police department.

On Sunday, October 23rd, 2011, UNLV Police Services hosted the first annual 5K Fun Run and 1.5 Mile Family Walk at UNLV’s North Field to raise funds for the UNLV Mounted Unit. The 5K run began at 8:00 a.m. and the 1.5 mile walk followed at 9:00 a.m. A Health and Wellness Expo along with a Safety Expo also took place during the event. The run, walk, and expos were pet and stroller friendly.

Prizes were awarded to many of the event participants, ranging from tickets to the Titanic Exhibit, Bodies the Exhibition, the Springs Preserve, and the Atomic Testing Museum. Race registrants also received a ticket for a free beverage at the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf.

Other activities staged during the event included the following:

- A "Rebel Pride" costume contest,
- The Las Vegas Metro crime prevention & safety booth,
- The Clark County Fire Department's inflatable "smokehouse" for a fun, hands-on lesson in fire safety,
- Photos with the UNLV Mounted Unit's horses,
- Pet adoption,
- Free VIN etching and more.

The event was directed by the "Friends of the UNLV Mounted," which is a program designed to provide financial assistance for the police horses at UNLV. Community-Oriented policing is the Mounted Unit’s number one priority so every effort is made to have the officers and their horses serve as ambassadors to the community. As a result of these efforts to better integrate officers with the public, the UNLV community has become very fond of the horses, "Rebel" and "Pride." The horses have played a major role in community outreach and UNLV events, while also serving an integral role in our regular patrol. Their role as ambassadors even extends beyond the campus with the Mounted Patrol Unit serving as mentors to several Clark County schools, and holding demonstrations at several Southern Nevada community events.

UNLV Police Services was encouraged by the university’s support and are planning to make the UNLV “Run for the Horses” an annual event. We hope to see you there next time!
In-Depth: What is the UNLV campus lighting & safety walk?

Back on Monday, November 7th, 2011 at 5:30 p.m., representatives of the University departments of Police Services, Facilities & Maintenance, and Risk Management & Safety, along with other key university leaders and stakeholders participated in the biennial “UNLV Campus Lighting & Safety Walk.” The purpose of the event was to identify areas on campus which were not sufficiently illuminated and as such could give rise to safety concerns. Locations with insufficient or damaged lighting were identified, as were other potential safety issues. The goal of the walk was to make the campus a safer environment for students, faculty and staff.

Participants assembled at Pida Plaza, where they were met and escorted by UNLV police officers on one of two pre-determined routes. A third team covered the Shadow Lane Campus. The Shadow Lane Campus team was composed of members of Police Services and Facilities & Maintenance along with interested students, faculty and staff from the Shadow Lane Campus. The three groups surveyed sidewalks and walkways across campus in an effort to identify potential problem areas.

The event took approximately one-and-a-half hours, and provided Police Services’ with some great insights and suggestions. The findings were then presented to UNLV’s Department of Facilities & Maintenance for follow-up and potential corrective action. These efforts are already bearing fruit. For example, solar-powered LED lights have been installed in various locations around campus and are providing great illumination while remaining energy efficient.

Deputy Chief Michael Murray retires

It is with great pride and sadness that the UNLV Department of Police Services announces the retirement of Deputy Chief Michael Murray as of Thursday, June 30th, 2011, after 11 years of service. Deputy Chief Murray served as the alternate incident commander, as well as the operations chief for the Emergency Operations Center (E.O.C.) The responsibilities of this position will be assigned to the new assistant chief, Sandy Seda, for the immediate future.

Deputy Chief Murray was responsible for the direct oversight of all police operations. In addition, Deputy Chief Murray was responsible for the direct supervision of the day-to-day operation of the detective unit and the department’s internal investigations. Assistant Chief Seda will also assume these responsibilities.

Prior to his appointment at UNLV, Michael Murray served as a police lieutenant with the Port Authority Police of New York and New Jersey in patrol staff and command positions. This included oversight of the crime scene following the first bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City in 1993. Murray also served as a combat marine during the Vietnam War.

Commenting on Deputy Chief Murray’s departure, Chief Elique noted, “I have known and worked with Mike for over 40 years. He has served his country, state police agencies and this University with honor, integrity, distinction and humility and has been a trusted colleague, advisor and confidant. He has been a testament to Police Services’ core values.”

(Pictured): Officers guiding community stakeholders on a light tour of the Maryland Parkway Campus.
UNLV’s Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) to resume operations with new mission after recent hiatus

The Department of Police Services’ Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) is due to resume action this summer after a recent hiatus following the departure of the PSAB chairman. The PSAB was formed in 2002 and serves as a liaison between the campus community and the UNLV Department of Police Services. The relationship between the PSAB and UNLV Police Services has provided the department with invaluable insights into the safety and security concerns of UNLV’s faculty, staff and students. Representation on the board is determined by its bylaws which require representation for all key stakeholders in the campus community. Representation on the board is broken down into the following groupings:

- Two faculty senate members,
- Two professional staff members,
- Two classified staff members,
- Four undergraduate student members,
- One graduate student member,
- One UNLV Department of Police Services member,
- One UNLV campus administrator,
- One Non-UNLV police professional representative,
- One community representative,
- One UNLV Diversity Committee member,
- One ex-officio, non-voting UNLV code officer,
- The UNLV Director of Police Services.

A slate of nominees will be selected by the Faculty Senate, Professional Staff Committee, Classified Staff Council, GPSA, and CSUN during the spring semester. The slate of nominees will then be forwarded to President Smatresk for final approval. Look out for an announcement of the board nominees in a future Police Services’ newsletter!

A new service is now available to the campus community!

Police Services now registering iPads to combat campus thefts.

Students, faculty, and staff will now be able to register iPads along with any other personal belongings that have serial numbers at UNLV Police Services’ property registration events.

Police Services is providing the campus community with this opportunity in an attempt to assist with the prevention of theft on campus, as well as aid in retrieving stolen or misplaced items.

Registration events are held throughout the semester and are free to all students, faculty and staff.

To learn more please visit the UNLV Police Services website at http://www.police.unlv.edu/events.html to view future events, or simply review the upcoming events calendar on page 6 of this newsletter.
UNLV Police Services
Contact Information

Mailing Address:
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Department of Police Services
4505 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-2007

Non-Emergency Contact Telephone Numbers
for Police Services:
- Police (Non-Emergency): (702) 895-3668
- Police Fax Line (Campus Police): (702) 895-3600
- Police Fax Line (Office of the Chief, Police Records & Police Administration): (702) 895-2685

Police Services Mission Statement
The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Department of Police Services is dedicated to providing excellence in protection and service to the University community. As law enforcement officers, we shall continuously endeavor to ensure a safe and secure environment conducive to a positive social and educational process.

Check here for UNLV Police Services’ Upcoming Events!
- Laptop Registration - January 30th, January 31st, February 1st, February 2nd
- Rebel Roundtable: Stalking - February 1st
- Rebel Roundtable: Safer Social Networking - March 7th
- Rebel Roundtable: Racial Profiling - April 12th
- Laptop Registration - April 30th, May 2nd, May 3rd
- Rebel Roundtable: Meet the Mounted Unit - May 1st

(Pictured): UNLV’s Sergeant Denise Murphy and Officer Laura Silva were among Southern Nevada’s officers who made a recent appearance to Carson City’s law enforcement memorial service last May.