What Should You Do When Stopped By An Officer?

I’ts the one answer that every officer, every sergeant, and every lieutenant unanimously agree upon: “We’re looking out for your safety, and ours. We all have families, many of us with kids the same age as the students here at UNLV. We just want to make it home to see them.” They prefer the adage prevention before detention, and they would much rather a traffic stop result in a conflict-free learning experience than a traffic ticket and a blemish on your record. It’s about community outreach, crime prevention, and a second chance to be better — and, of course, keeping the roads on and around campus as safe as possible.

Learn the tips for how to proceed when stopped by an officer — straight from UNLV’s finest — by turning to page 11.
A Day at the Range
Learning to Aim From UNLV’s Finest

As I pulled in to the North Las Vegas Police Department shooting range to join two of UNLV’s most talented leaders — Lieutenant Richard Dohme and Sergeant William Queen — I was excited, albeit daunted by the size and power of the guns I was about to learn how to shoot. Poised, patient, and tactically-sound, Sgt. Queen expertly explained terminology, instructions to maintain safety at all times, and offered advice to me throughout the afternoon. As I made the common rookie mistakes, Sgt. Queen spotted my tendencies and assisted me with correcting poor form. In the weeks preceding my shooting range initiation, Lt. Dohme and Sgt. Queen, the quintessential professionals, taught me terminology and allowed me to shoot a Smith & Wesson and an AR-15 using blanks. Little did I know then, Lt. Dohme and Sgt. Queen would soon provide me with the most memorable — unfathomably awesome — experience of my life. Forget “Call of Duty” and “Halo”; after shooting Lt. Dohme’s gun, I transformed from nerdy journalist to Rambo in a matter of 10 rounds of ammo.

Standing beside a veteran beneath the blistering midday sun, Remington 870 12-gauge police shotgun in hand, I pulled the trigger and heard the powerful boom and saw bullet holes in the target 15 yards away. Trying desperately to recall which part of the gun controlled certain functions, and attempting not to clumsily drop the bullets as I scrambled to load my gun before each drill, I realized I hadn’t just left my comfort zone — I had obliterated it with a police shotgun.

After being instructed on the finer points of aiming, proper positioning of the gun and how to combat load my ammo, Sgt. Queen commanded me to aim and fire at the targets located to the left and right of me. This drill simulated an active shooter aiming a gun at me then successive shooters preparing to aim at me. My ability to immediately reload and defend myself, follow orders, and withstand a barrage of hypothetical shooters was tested; though I didn’t display the same masterful pivoting from one target to the next or the unshakable confidence in the face of (hypothetical) danger that the two supervisors exhibited with ease, I stood my ground and completed the drill. Surprisingly, the recoil of the gun wasn’t as dramatic
as I anticipated, but Sgt. Queen’s watchful eye in the beginning of the drill helped prevent improper form and, surely, a broken cheekbone and brutal black eye.

Upon completion of the drill, Sgt. Queen instructed me to “police the range” and pick up bullet casings. This display of professionalism and courtesy is a necessity for ensuring proper safety for all shooters at the range. With sweat now cascading down my body, arms weakened from the unexpected weight of holding a gun in position for over a half hour, I was summoned to begin my next lesson: skeet shooting. I sprinted over to Sgt. Queen and, as instructed, pulled a lever that launched a clay target sky-high. Within a matter of seconds, the clay pigeon (a biodegradable clay disk that is used instead of, thankfully, a real bird) was on the receiving end of Sgt. Queen’s bullets, and smashed into several pieces. After another example shot, I told Sgt. Queen I was ready to test my skills.

Remembering my days in sport psychology lab, I visualized my success: a clay target soaring 25 yards in front of me, climbing higher into the sky as I pull the trigger and shatter it down. I dominantly yelled *Pull!* as I got my gun ready, aimed, and fired. My first shot missed, although I was reassured that I was close to my intended target. Undeterred, I yelled once again, and then looked up after I pulled the trigger — a hit! Sgt. Queen congratulated me for picking up the drill so quickly, and I abandoned my fear of the heavy-duty machine in my hands. We discovered that I am a cross-dominant shooter: I am right-handed, and left eye-dominant. This, of course, makes aiming and hitting targets considerably more difficult.

We took a break after a few more practice shots, and the gallon of water I brought disappeared just as quickly as the clay pigeon I successfully shot from the sky. Indeed, a newfound respect was fostered in me that afternoon for the courageous officers who aren’t afforded the patience, the safety, and the learning curve I enjoyed.

“Now imagine doing this with full gear on,” Sgt. Queen said as I dropped my head incredulously and poured my remaining water to cool off. A few minutes later, Lt. Dohme summoned me to fire a few rounds on his AR-15.

Intimidated by the size and power, I was hesitant. Once he put the strap over my shoulder and I lifted the gun, I tried not to outwardly display the energy it took to carry such a heavy gun for an extended period of time. The gun, despite its size, had virtually no recoil, and its smoothness and ease of operation made me feel like I was shooting the Cadillac of guns. For a true expert and talented professional like Lt. Dohme, the gun was certainly fitting for an officer of his talent.

Sore, smarter, and not without a dozen pictures to document the coolest experience of my life, I departed the facility as a SWAT team arrived to begin their practice. Trading in my reporter’s notepad for a shotgun, and my smartphone for an AR-15, was an undeniably awesome experience, and instilled in me an appreciation for Police Services’ officers for their remarkable dedication to their craft.
Stoic, focused, and unshakably confident, Tony Baker searched for an answer, attempting to draw from a collection of memories from a dispatching career at UNLV that spans 19 years and counting. “A moment when I felt scared? I can’t — being scared means different things for different people.” It makes sense: in a unique environment that includes specialized lingo and potentially harrowing phone calls, the notion of fear simply has no place in the life of a dispatcher.

On the other end of a dispatch radio call are the responding officers, undaunted by the prospective severity of the situation on which they’re about to embark. “Have I ever avoided a situation because I’ve been too nervous? That’s just not a luxury my job affords.” The quintessential tough guy, Sergeant William Queen has indeed seen it all, and his experience and relentless drive to protect his community underscores the importance of a well-functioning Dispatch Unit and the officers with whom they communicate.

On an open campus located within the most famous round-the-clock city in the country, UNLV’s dispatchers are in a unique situation at all times. “We’re not a typical 911 center,” said Dispatch Manager Sandra Barfield, with a smile. “We get a lot of miscellaneous calls, because we’re the only ones on campus who are available 24/7.”

Barfield sits back in her chair, reflecting on her time as a dispatcher in Georgia as well as her experience as an officer. “I talked to a suicidal woman one time, and a grandfather who had run over his grandson. I also took a call for a police chief shooting,” she said. Typically, after finishing the calls that are difficult to stomach, dispatchers can take a moment to collect themselves. However, “if you can’t take a break because there’s nobody there to relieve you, you just go on. The phone is going to continuously ring. If you have to, you wait ‘til the end of the day to reset.”

After taking a call of that nature, most agencies now require the dispatcher to go through therapy to help them overcome the emotional stress that may develop. Especially now that research has begun on the development of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from taking tough calls, the mental health of a dispatch unit is of critical importance. “The police officers are out there on the scene — but the dispatchers, if they have a bad call, they don’t know the end result of it, and that weighs more on them than knowing exactly what happens,” Barfield said. Between the emotional support from a dispatcher’s colleagues and the mandatory crisis management training they must undergo, there are measures in place to help dispatchers avoid becoming too overwhelmed. “You have to talk it out,” she said. “You don’t want to be burned out.”
It’s not any easier for the responding officers who come face-to-face with difficult situations with little time to mentally prepare. “I’ve seen too much death, and I don’t want to see any more,” said 2014 Police Officer of the Year Award winner Sgt. Stan Berry, whose career spans nearly 30 years and includes time as a homicide detective and arson investigator in Detroit. As he contemplated three decades’ worth of memories, tactfully choosing the right words to describe his tougher experiences, the resiliency of his spirit and unshakable mental power was evident.

When calling an emergency number, proper communication of details and cooperation with the dispatcher is vital to not just receiving the help you need, but helping the responding officer prepare for the situation ahead. “Hopefully, the person on the other end has those answers,” Barfield said. “We’d like to know what we’re sending our officers into.” Barfield emphasized the importance of the perpetual training dispatchers receive, as well as adherence to a script to ensure that every necessary question is asked.

Incidents with disgruntled callers underscores the importance of maintaining a professional attitude at all times. “We also get DVDs and videos for customer service training. We’re in the customer service business — it’s just a little bit different,” Barfield said. It’s the ability to remain composed during frustrating conversations that helps dispatchers resolve emergencies. “Everyone’s got a different personality. If they’re irate and yelling, and you get to the yelling phase, you never really get across what you need to say and they never get across what they need to say,” Barfield said. “Some people can’t ever be talked down. You just have to go with it and try to get the most information you can out of them. If you stay calm, it usually de-escalates and they’ll calm down.”

The Nevada Chapter President of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, Barfield and her talented team of dispatchers have successfully responded to difficult calls over the years, including a call from the family of a missing student. Because of the time the dispatch unit is able to spend on these unique calls, as well as the diligent efforts from UNLV’s officers, the situation was resolved. “We can spend more quality time with the caller, whereas with Metro, they’re so busy, and they have so much to do,” Barfield said.

Indeed, there are advantages to working in a smaller environment like a campus or more modestly-sized city in Georgia — a comparably less hectic work day, to be sure, although there are quirks that come with the job. “You get to know the ones who always call. Policing is a family, whether you’re a smaller agency or large,” Barfield said.

For APCO Secretary Gina Schneider, the working relationship between the members of the dispatch unit is vital to ensuring that information is properly documented — “If it isn’t documented, it didn’t happen” — and the appropriate responding officers are sent as quickly as possible. “When you have a good partner, you are able to establish a rhythmic dance, especially if you are busy,” Schneider said. “Each partner is aware of their back-up and [is able to] handle radio traffic for other calls.”

It’s difficult to forecast what kind of day is in store for a dispatcher, due to so many factors beyond their control. “Is it a 20-phonecall day or a 200-phonecall day? Are there five police units on today or 10? What was the event load like at Sam Boyd Stadium or Thomas & Mack? All of those things can, and do, make a difference in the life of the dispatchers and the officers,” Schneider said. Ultimately, regardless of how the last call ended, the dispatch unit must be ready to assist the next caller. “Did you provide assistance and make a good first impression on a new student who has never had to ask the police for assistance before? At the end of the day, these are the things that make us come back,” Schneider said. “We strive to provide the best, most effective assistance to our community and to our police officers.”
Groundbreaking Ceremony for new PHQ:
The groundbreaking ceremony for a 610-space parking garage, which will include Police Services’ new 10,000 square foot headquarters, took place on January 12. The project is expected to be completed by 2017 and is located across the street from Greenspun Hall.

UNLV’s Emergency Notification System switches vendors: Police Services announced in November 2015 the switching of vendors for the university’s Emergency Notification System, with no disruption in service. The ENS sends voicemail, text message, and email alerts for emergencies on campus. All UNLV students, faculty, and staff are automatically enrolled, and are encouraged to visit unlv.edu/safety/ens to log in with their ACE account and review their contact information.

Police Services’ Jurisdiction Expands to Tropicana/Deckow Ln.: On December 24, 2015, it was announced that ownership of the 42-acre site on the northeast corner of Tropicana & Deckow was officially transferred to UNLV. A milestone in the university’s ongoing Master Plan, the acquisition also means the UNLV Department of Police Services’ jurisdiction now includes this 42-acre area. Police Chief Jose Elique issued instruction to all patrol lieutenants and sergeants that, effective immediately, patrols had been expanded to include this area, and a formalized directed patrol sector was established early in January 2016. This area joins a list of other new UNLV properties, including University Park Apartments and the Drones and Autonomous Systems Lab.
Vaping: At least 10,591 stores in the country identify as “vape shops”. With 6.7 vape shops for every 100,000 residents, Nevada has, by a substantial amount, the most vape stores per capita in the country. Furthermore, a majority of these vape shops are located in Las Vegas. Please remember that the same Nevada laws for cigarette use apply to E-cigarette and vape pens. (Source: qz.com/608469/what-yelp-data-tells-us-about-vaping/)

Medical Marijuana: Nevada lawmakers voted to allow medical marijuana dispensaries and commercial growing in 2013, but the state’s first dispensary did not open until July 2015. The state’s second dispensary opened on Aug. 24 in Clark County. In a 38-page order filed Feb. 5, District Judge Rob Bare upheld Nevada’s medical marijuana registration program as constitutional, and he determined the state is legally immune from related claims of fraud and unjust enrichment. Dispensaries have also benefitted from Nevada’s allowance of out-of-state medical marijuana cardholder purchases. Some storefront medical marijuana dispensaries in Nevada have begun offering home deliveries. The Las Vegas Sun reported that there are at least 14,000 Nevadans currently with state medical marijuana cards, and with 300 applications per month, the number is ultimately projected to increase to 60,000.

Hoverboards: The self-balancing two-wheeled devices, popularized by celebrities like Wiz Khalifa and Justin Bieber, are a point of contention between hoverboard owners and cities around the country. In Clark County, the use of hoverboards is not allowed on the Las Vegas Strip. UNLV Student Union Director Jon Tucker noted that they “disallowed hoverboards in the Student Union under the same guidelines that they are similar to skateboards, inline skates or other wheeled navigation. With a high traffic environment and furnishings/fixtures in place, there is too much risk having people on them within the facility. We have just included that in our existing Student Union policies.”
Officer Stephani Loffredo hits the alarm at 1 p.m., mentally previewing the 12-hour overnight patrol shift that awaits her later that night. She packs her books, bags her lunch, zips her vest and laces her boots then proceeds to prepare for the long night ahead. The typical day for an officer includes patrolling campus, the occasional stop at Coffee Bean, security services for on-campus sporting events, and writing reports at Police Headquarters. For Officer Loffredo, who will spend three to four hours in classes pursuing her Master’s degree before showing up for her shift, her work with Police Services is only part of the seemingly round-the-clock schedule she maintains. “At the end of my shift at 7:00 a.m., I will go home and try to get in a 5k jog before having a small breakfast with my husband,” she said. “If I have homework, I will do that after my shower, and then get to bed as soon as possible.”

If her name sounds familiar, it should: Officer Loffredo is, for all intents and purposes, everywhere. “On my days off, I continue to maintain my mentoring of children at schools from Las Vegas to Boulder City. I try to be a confident and pro-education model for children to do well, and ensure them it pays off in the end.” Still wondering where you’ve heard her name? Officer Loffredo has also been a mainstay as a team captain in UNLV’s Corporate Challenge teams, leading her bicycle team to a second place overall finish in the biking events and leading her running team to a fourth place overall finish in the 5k running event.

Officer Loffredo has earned an Associate degree in Business Administration and Marketing with honors, a Bachelor’s degree in Business and Finance with honors, a Bachelor’s in Public Administration with honors, and will soon receive a Master’s degree from UNLV in Public Administration with a 3.87 grade point average. “I started pursuing my college degree about 25 years ago. I was considered poor, I was a single parent, and I had to work two jobs to make ends meet. Therefore, I plugged away at my education one class at a time.”

On the other end of campus, a phone call arrives in the Police Services Communications & Dispatch Center before the morning sun does. A reassuring dispatcher quells the fear in the caller’s voice, and the situation is resolved. The confident voice on the other end of the phone belongs to dispatcher Mark Sakurada, a recent recipient of the Police Services Outstanding Achievement Award for earning his Bachelor’s degree from UNLV in Public Administration. He’s currently in pursuit of his Master’s. “As our department runs 24/7, 365 days a year, I think one
thing that makes our employees unique is the schedule. Working at all times during the day or night can have its benefits and challenges,” he said. “The availability of online undergraduate courses made all the difference for me, as did night graduate courses. If held during traditional times and in an in-person format, it would have been significantly harder and taken longer for me to attain my degrees while working overnight shifts.”

Back at Police Headquarters, numbers are being crunched, budgets are being planned, and the always-smiling Jennifer del Valle in the accounting office is juggling the responsibilities of being a full-time personnel technician, a dedicated family woman, and a student in pursuit of her Master’s degree in Public Administration at UNLV. “The process has been incredibly demanding yet rewarding. I juggle managing my time as a student, employee, wife, and mother the best that I can by being committed to each.” At one time, she was a student worker at Police Services in pursuit of her Bachelor’s degree; the obvious question, of course: is it strange having homework again? “Homework has not been the same as it was in my undergraduate studies,” she said. “The work now is more focused on developing professionally by learning how to manage, network, and give back to the community.”

As the civilian and patrol staff at Police Services continue developing the professional skills that has made the department stand out for more than four decades, it’s the diligent, extracurricular commitments they make to further their education that makes the department and its staff truly special.

**Police Services’ Honor Guard Presents Colors at First-ever Board of Regents Meeting at NSC**

From left: Officer Darrell Johnson, Lieutenant Richard Dohme, Officer Nelson Silva, and Officer Brett Goff pose outside of the Board of Regents meeting at Nevada State College on March 3.
This Fall, Police Services launched its Twitter page to the campus community. Follow @UNLVPD to be the first to receive department news and notification of events, such as Girls on Guard self-defense registration! Stay tuned for Police Services’ first-ever virtual ride-along on Twitter, as well as weekend safety tips from our K-9 Unit.

UNLV Police Upcoming Events

UNLV Criminal Justice Career Fair
April 13 – SU Ballroom
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Girls on Guard Self-Defense Class
April 15 – PHQ
1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Rebel Roundtable Meet & Greet
April 27 – Student Union
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Laptop Registration Event
May 2 – Lied Library Lobby
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

May 3 – Lied Library Lobby
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

May 4 – Lied Library Lobby
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

May 5 – Lied Library Lobby
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Campus Presentations:
UNLV Police Services offers group presentations on any topics involving personal safety, campus policing, crime prevention, and emergency preparedness. We can create a custom presentation to suit your group’s needs. To arrange a presentation, call Hobreigh Fischer at (702) 895-1302 or email him at hobreigh.fischer@unlv.edu.

To view Police Services’ calendar of events, visit: www.unlv.edu/police/events
Departure of Dispatcher Kendra Fuentes

The UNLV Department of Police Services bid farewell to dispatcher Kendra Fuentes.

Kendra was born in Sparks, Nevada and earned her bachelor’s degree from UNLV in Criminal Justice in May 2013. She is currently working on earning her Master of Science degree in Cybersecurity and Intelligence from Utica College in New York. Prior to her appointment with Police Services, she interned for a year with the FBI, where she worked with agents on federal cases. She also worked in the Records Bureau for the Henderson Police Department for two years.

We wish her well in her future career endeavors!

What to do when stopped by an officer cont. from pg. 1

Naturally, we are inclined to argue our case in an effort to avoid receiving a ticket. According to Lieutenant Jeff Green, politely interacting with the officer will facilitate a safer, easier experience. If you disagree with the stop, that’s not the place to contest it. “You have that right, on the court date that is listed on the ticket.”

By safely pulling over, away from traffic — or, as a pedestrian, staying put and speaking calmly to the officer — the process will be resolved that much more quickly, and you are signaling to the officer that you are not a threat. “Remain calm and don’t argue about why the officer stopped you,” said Lt. Green. “Follow all the instructions the officer gives you; that includes providing your license, registration, and proof of insurance.”

Whether you are stopped by an officer as a pedestrian or as a driver behind a vehicle, don’t immediately assume the worst. You may have unknowingly committed a traffic violation, the officer may think you are in need of help, or you are otherwise at risk. While our first instinct is to reach for our cellphone to contact someone when we are panicked or frustrated, Sergeant Stan Berry cautioned that “when you do that, we don’t know if you’re reaching for a weapon.”

Per NRS 202.3667, if you are in possession of a concealed weapon with a CCW permit, and you are asked by an officer if you are in possession of a concealed weapon, you must answer truthfully and provide your permit. It is strongly encouraged that you inform the officer upon initial contact, “and keep your hands in plain sight, on the steering wheel,” advises Lt. Green.

Police Accountability

The Department of Police Services prides itself on accountability, transparency, and cooperative interactions with the campus community. If you are stopped by an officer in plain clothes — or uniform — you have the right to request that officer’s credentials. You may also contact UNLV Police Dispatch at 702-895-3669 to verify that the officer with whom you are interacting is a confirmed member of UNLV Police Services.

Why Your Voice Matters

Thanks to helpful feedback from the campus community, the Department of Police Services has evolved over the past 40 years. It’s equally important to the department to know the aspects of interactions that were well-received as well as the negative experiences. You are encouraged to visit: unlv.edu/police/process to learn more about providing us with your input.
UNLV breaks ground on long-awaited development
by Ian Whitaker

Emergency notifications may save lives, Police Services says
by Jessica Segovia
http://www.unlvrebelyell.com/2016/02/01/emergency-notifications-may-save-lives-police-services-says/

The Police Blotter
April 2016 • Volume XII, Issue I

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.

The Police Blotter is a biannual newsletter published by the UNLV Department of Police Services’ Office of the Chief in order to assist the department in achieving this mission.

UNLV Police Chief
Jose A. Elique

Assistant Chief
Sandy Seda

Newsletter Staff:
Manager, Office of the Chief & Editor
Hobreigh Fischer

Content & Design
Jamie Bichelman

Contact Information:
Police Department Address:
UNLV Department of Police Services
University of Nevada Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy.
Las Vegas, NV 89154-2007

Police Department Websites:
www.unlv.edu/police
facebook.com/UNLVPoliceServices
twitter.com/unlvpd

Police Non-Emergency Phone Line:
702-895-3668

Police Fax Lines:
General: 702-895-3600
Police Records & Administration:
702-895-2685

Questions & Comments on Newsletter:
hobreigh.fischer@unlv.edu