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Police Blotter

UNLV Department of Police Services

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The Police Blotter

Volume IV Issue I

July 2008

Three Reasons Why You'll Want to Read this Newsletter!!!

- You will learn about UNLV's implementation of it's new Emergency text message system.
- You will learn of the proposed Emergency Siren system.
- You will learn about how our new assistant chief earned a degree that will help our entire department run more efficiently in a crisis.

Inside this issue:

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"Protecting and serving the University Community"

UNLV Begins the process of Implementing an Emergency Text Messaging System

In the aftermath of highly publicized campus shootings, it has become painfully clear that American universities must rethink the way they handle future emergencies. The shootings on the campus of Virginia Tech strongly demonstrated that a deficiency for most universities is their inability to send mass emergency notifications to all members of the campus community. Indeed, Virginia Tech's administration was forced to rely solely on an e-mail notification system that failed to inform the entire campus quickly enough of the gravity of the situation. The end result was that the assailant had an opportunity to leave the campus after killing two victims and

return later to a largely unaware campus to continue his killing spree.

If an emergency were to occur on the UNLV campus today, we would have to rely on a similar notification system. It is for this reason that UNLV's administration has purchased an emergency text messaging service for the campus. The service will be implemented and administered by a company called "Send Word Now" and will be available to all faculty, staff and students. Enrollment in the system will be voluntary. Students will be able to update their contact

information during class enrollment, and all members of the community will be able to enroll or update their



contact information throughout the year via the web. Currently, Police Services is working with Information Technology, Public Affairs, Risk Management and the Registrar's Office to create the necessary mechanisms that will provide the ("Text" *Continued on page 2*)

UNLV Police Services Does Its Part to Raise Awareness Regarding "Shootings on Campus"

You may have recently noticed that Police Services has begun a series of discussions with the campus community regarding "campus shootings and personal safety". Chief José Elique and his staff felt that there was a need to discuss this issue with the campus community after seeing what Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University and other universities have recently experienced.

("Shootings on Campus" Continued on page 3)

Hate Crimes: Knowing the Signs and Learning How to Stop the Cycle of Hate

UNLV's Police Services Department takes hate crimes very seriously. This is particularly true due to the fact that Police Services is amongst UNLV's most diverse departments with over 50% of its personnel representing a variety of minority groups. While our campus has not to date had any reported incidents of hate crimes, this is a subject that requires special attention by the campus community since these types of crimes historically go unreported and can lead to other serious crimes.

In fact, the United States Justice Department has noted that failure to report such incidents is "particularly serious because many perpetrators of hate crimes repeat and escalate their behavior until they are confronted by authorities".

What is a hate crime? – It is a criminal offense committed against a person or property, which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or disability.

- **Attacks with weapons, and**
- **Murder**

While any form of discrimination runs counter to the goals of UNLV, all campus community members must know that there is a difference between "hate crimes" and "bias incidents" and not all hateful acts are illegal. So what is the difference between a hate crime and a bias incident? Like hate crimes, bias incidents involve behaviors that are motivated by a bias against a victim's race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or disability, but bias incidents are not criminal acts. Hateful speech and behaviors only become a crime when they directly incite perpetrators to commit violence against a person or property, or if it places a potential victim in reasonable fear of physical injury.
(*"Hate" Continued on page 3*)



Hate crimes can include:

- **Graffiti**
- **Verbal intimidation or threats**
- **Hate mail (including e-mail)**
- **Property damage**
- **Harassment**
- **Trespassing and stalking**
- **Physical assaults & threats**
- **Arson**

(*"Text" Continued from page 1*)

up-to-date contact information needed by "Send Word Now" for initiating this service. In future newsletters we will update you on our progress towards implementation and the details of how this system will work. Text messaging will be a welcome improvement to UNLV's current emergency notification system, but as with any notification system, it is worth noting that, like our current e-mail system, it will not be 100% effective in



notifying everyone. The new technology will provide an additional asset to our emergency preparedness program but will not replace UNLV's emergency e-mail notification system. The reality is that there is no single "silver bullet" system that can guarantee or provide emergency notification to the entire campus, but (when the system is fully operational) we can and will dramatically enhance this capability.

UNLV's Administration is Considering the Placement of Audible Sirens on Campus

If you were raised in the Midwest or are old enough to know what "Duck and Cover" means during a school day drill then you likely know what an audible siren sounds like. However, if you're younger and from the Western United States.... maybe not.

Sirens have been used in the past

by communities to warn of a variety of potential disasters (ie. hurricanes, tornadoes, nuclear, etc.), but their role is expanding. Today, universities see these systems as one more tool in providing emergency notifications to their campus communities.

Imagine a classroom environment in

which a faculty member is conducting a test and has asked his or her students to turn off all cell phones and computing devices. An "emergency" strikes the campus, and UNLV immediately springs into action. Members of the campus community quickly evacuate from the campus as they receive e-mail
(*"Sirens" Continued on page 3*)

("Shootings on campus" Continued from page 1)

The goals of these presentations have been to:

- Make students, faculty and staff aware of what UNLV Police will do in the event of such an emergency.



- Give the community ideas of how best to ensure their own personal safety in the event of such an emergency, and
- Alleviate some of the stress held by the community by conducting open and frank discussions on the topic.

In order to accomplish this effort the department has in essence established a "speakers bureau" through the Office of the Chief that can schedule speakers and provide presentation materials to interested members of the campus community. Police Services has also teamed up with UNLV's Risk Management & Safety Department who have provided an instructional video during these presentations entitled "Shots Fired". To date, Chief Elique and his staff have given presentations

during Rebel Connection to students and their parents. Presentations have also been given during the orientations of new staff, UNLV's Rebel Roundtable discussions and at a variety of classified and professional staff events. If you would like to arrange for a presentation to be given to members of your staff please contact Hobreigh Fischer via e-mail at hobreigh.fischer@unlv.edu or via phone at extension #51302.

If you are interested in viewing Risk Management's "Shots Fired" video, and are unable to attend one of Police Services' future presentations you can view the 20 minute film on the web from your work computer at <https://rms.unlv.edu/training/videos/shotsFired.php>.

("Hate" Continued from page 2)

Reporting a Hate Crime – What can you do?

- Write down in detail exactly what happened (who, what, when, where & why)
- If anyone else witnessed the crime, record their names and phone numbers. Ask them to write an account of what they witnessed and sign & date the document.

- Record names and descriptions of the perpetrators.
- Make photocopies of hate mail or other documentation. Keep the originals.
- Keep a careful log of hate calls and make a tape of them on your answering machine.
- Photograph physical injuries, offensive graffiti and evidence of vandalism.
- Call the UNLV Police. Give the

police dispatcher complete information to ensure the incident is documented as bias-related. ***You do not need to be a citizen to report a crime.***

Please Note: Dial "9-1-1" from a campus land-line in an emergency. Dial "3-1-1" or 895-3668 from a campus land-line in a non-emergency. All "9-1-1" & "3-1-1" cell phone calls from campus initially go to Las Vegas Metro before being forwarded back to UNLV Police.

Department of Police Services Promotion: Dustin Olson

(January 1) = Dustin Olson

Lieutenant Dustin Olson has been promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief. Assistant Chief Olson's new job responsibilities will put him in charge of Support Services including special events and homeland security for the UNLV campus. He will also be responsible for administrative functions of the Department including police records & property control,

accounting, communications & dispatch and technology. Lieutenant Olson was appointed to the Department of Police Services as a police officer in 1999 after having spent 9½ years in the United States Marine Corps. He is a graduate of UNLV with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice, and a Masters Degree from UNLV in the field of Crisis and Emergency Management. Assistant

Chief Olson resides in Las Vegas and has two children.



Services Offered by the

UNLV Department of Police Services Records Unit

- **Police Services' lost and found program**

If you have lost an item on campus or have found an item on campus, you should be aware that the UNLV Department of Police Services has established a "central" repository for all lost and found property on campus. If you are in the need of this service then you should call the UNLV Police Property and Evidence Unit at 895-5795 for more information.

- **UNLV's crime statistics**

University crime statistics are available to the public through the UNLV Annual Campus Safety and Security Report. There are several ways to obtain a copy of the report. The report is available on the Internet at <http://publicsafety.unlv.edu/report.htm>. It is also available in person at both the Department of Police Services Dispatch Office located inside the Claude I. Howard Police Services building on the main campus and at the Department of Police Services Records Office located at 1325 East Harmon Avenue. A copy of the report can also be obtained through the mail, free of charge, by calling the UNLV

Department of Police Services Records Office at 895-4747.

- **Police Services' "Daily Log" of Criminal Activity**

UNLV's Department of Police Services maintains a chronicle of all reported criminal activity on the UNLV campus and all of its properties located throughout the Southern Nevada area. The "daily log" is available for viewing on the Internet at the following address: (*"Records" Continued on page 5*)

Assistant Chief Dustin Olson Earns Critical Degree in Emergency Preparedness

In the spring of 2008, Assistant Chief Dustin Olson graduated from UNLV's Graduate Program in Homeland Security & Emergency Management. This master degree level program is one of only a handful of programs available throughout the United States and is offered by the College of Public Administration. The program provides its graduates with opportunities to learn about the following:

- Leadership, management and coordination skills for emergency management and homeland security.
- Community preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery from natural and man-made disasters, and
- General frameworks for emergency management and homeland security operations.



Graduates from the program receive an Executive Master of Science in Crisis and Emergency Management after completing a two-year curriculum and a graduate-level "capstone" project. The focus of Assistant Chief Olson's capstone was on P.O.D.'s (Points of Distribution). His capstone developed a template that can be used for the distribution of critical commodities during an emergency (ex. clothing, food, water, etc.) His template can be

(*"Sirens" continued from page 2*)

and text messages describing an armed assailant on campus. In this scenario, the faculty member and the class would be completely unaware of the pending threat. Campus sirens would be able to prevent this scenario from occurring. As the sirens go off, the class would know something was out of the ordinary, and they would be able to immediately activate their cell phones and computers to ascertain the threat.

In order to address this type of scenario, UNLV's Department of Risk Management has taken the lead in designing an R.F.P. (Request for Proposal) to acquire a siren system for the campus. The R.F.P. has been recently completed and is being reviewed by UNLV's Risk Management and Safety Department and Police Services. In future newsletters we will inform you of the progress of implementing this worthwhile addition to the University's overall emergency notification system efforts.



Mailing Address for the Department of Police Services

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 & Parking Services

- Police (Non-Emergency Calls): 702-895-3668
- Parking Enforcement: 702-895-1300
- Police Fax Line (Campus Police & Parking Enforcement): 702-895-3600
- Police Fax Line (Office of the Chief, Police Records & Police Administration): 702-895-2685



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES & POLICE SERVICES

Public Safety 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.

We're on the Web!

www.unlv.edu/studentlife

UNLV Department of Police Services New Hires

- (May 28) = **Bill Sigarroa** — Prior to Officer Sigarroa's appointment at UNLV, he was an 8 year veteran of the Merced County Police Department in California, where he was a member of their S.W.A.T. team. During his tenure with the Merced Police Department, Bill also served as a community liaison with local elementary school children and their parents. In addition, Officer Sigarroa has an Associates Degree from San Diego Mesa College. He is currently a senior at Fresno State and is nearing completion of a Bachelor's Degree from that institution. Bill currently resides in Las Vegas with his wife Michelle and their son & daughter.
- (May 26) = **Stanley Berry** — Before his appointment to UNLV, Officer Berry was a parole officer with Nevada Parole and Probation in Las Vegas for 4 years, and prior to that he was a police detective with the Highland Park Department of Police Services's homicide unit in Highland Park, Michigan. He worked for the Highland Park Public Safety Department for 12 years. Stanley received his police academy training from the Detroit Metropolitan Police Training Academy. He has also received certification from Northwestern University's prestigious School of Police Staff & Command and training from the Detroit Fire Training Academy. He resides in Las Vegas with his wife Doris and their son and daughter.

(“Records” Continued from page 4)

<http://police.unlv.edu/media.htm>. The PDF document at the address covers the last six months of activity in the UNLV Police Department jurisdiction. Paper copies of the "daily log" may also be made available upon request.

- **Police Services' Fingerprinting Services**

The Department's fingerprinting service is available at Public

Safety's Paradise Campus facilities on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every week except holidays. There is a fee for the service. Anyone wishing to utilize this service should either provide fingerprint cards from the entity requiring them to be fingerprinted or, if acceptable, they may take advantage of available fingerprint cards at the Records office. Everyone using the service must have a government issued photo identification card with them for the fingerprint session (ex. driver's license, state issued photo identification card, etc.) The fingerprinting service is particularly useful for UNLV's education and nursing students who are required to go through a fingerprinting process prior to being hired within their professions. Special group fingerprint sessions can be arranged for university classes and employees by calling the Records Office at 895-4747.