Police Services’ 5-year operations review

During the late 1990’s, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Police did not have a very positive image within the University community. The University was extremely concerned about this, and decided to enlist the services of an external team of university policing experts to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the UNLVPD. The results were so successful that it has become NSHE policy, and all NSHE law enforcement agencies must conduct these reviews every five years.

The external team is typically comprised of three law enforcement experts. This year, the team will include Dr. R. Bruce McBride, Executive Director for Economic Crime and Justice Studies, Utica College, New York; Mr. John Carpenter, retired Chief of Police at San Diego State University, San Diego, CA; and a third member that is yet to be named by the panel. Dr. McBride and Mr. Carpenter were members of the management assessment team for the two most recent reviews in 2007 and 2002.

During the assessment, the team reviews reports from the previous visits and current documents provided by the Public Safety Advisory Board nominees selected. They will also conduct interviews with Police Services’ staff.

Public Safety Advisory Board nominees selected

We are excited to announce that President Neal Smatresk has approved nominees for the next Public Safety Advisory Board. It is sometimes forgotten by the general public that while the Department of Police Services is primarily responsible for maintaining a safe campus environment, it is also the responsibility of community members to share in this responsibility. It is only through a successful partnership that problems can be anticipated, issues discussed, and solutions found, thus the Public Safety Advisory Board was created.

In the past, the board focused on the relationship between campus law enforcement and the campus community. That emphasis is now beginning to change. The Vice President of Student Affairs, along with the UNLV Administration, is now advocating an additional focus for the board involving the issue of emergency preparedness on campus.

There are 18 positions on the PSAB. Each of the positions on the board represents one of the constituencies on campus, and the following individuals have been appointed to the board for the fall semester:

Faculty Senate Representatives:
- Susan Van Beuge, School of Nursing
- Tamara Madesen, Criminal Justice Department

Professional Staff Representatives:
- Claire Tredwell, University Preschool
- Christine Smith, Associate Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law

Classified Staff Representatives:
- Vikki Welbourne of Facilities & Maintenance Services
- Charles Mrozek of Library Security

Undergraduate Student Representatives are:
- Ashley Celis
- Tyler Carlton
university employees and students to gain a broad perspective of the campus and the quality of its police service. When all of the research has been gathered, a report is compiled containing information describing the department, listing identified strengths and weaknesses, and providing recommendations for improvement as necessary.

UNLV Chief of Police, José Elique, who came to UNLV in 2000, used the findings and recommendations of the first review to set priorities and begin to implement the much needed changes recommended by the report. Two years later, Chief Elique requested that the management team return to conduct a follow-up assessment to determine if any progress had been made and if perceptions of the department had become more favorable. The results were noteworthy and were documented in the second management assessment report.

The fourth management assessment will be conducted in late September, and all interested faculty, staff and students will have an opportunity to meet with the evaluators. The results of the assessment will be presented to the NSHE Board of Regents and will be made available online at our website, along with the three previous management assessments. To learn more about Police Services’ assessments you can go to http://police.unlv.edu/policies/operation.html.

“5-year review” continued from pg. 1

UNLV’s mounted unit makes the news!

The UNLV Department of Police Services’ mounted unit was featured on Fox 5 News, after Officers Preston and Culver brought their horses Rebel and Pride to pay a visit to the young students of Joseph Neal Elementary School on February 10th. The Mounted Unit often visits local elementary schools to show the horses to younger students and discuss how the animals assist them with campus patrol and community-policing. The students are allowed to pet the horses and learn how to approach and interact with them. The officers also teach the students the importance of safety when around these large animals.

The mounted police unit was formed in 1995 as a way to effectively patrol large events such as concerts, football games, and rodeos, while also patrolling the campus. Mounted police unit officers are considered professional equestrians. All officers are required to pass a written examination and a mounted riding & skills qualification test. This is required for the safety of the officer, his/her mount, and the university community. Officers are also required to attend a yearly police-mounted training class for recertification.

Mounted officers are regularly asked to participate in community outreach, as many people are interested in the horses and their role within the police department. Officer Laura Silva is now the new mounted officer and will resume former Mounted Officer Culver’s role in the mounted unit’s community involvement.

We would like to thank Fox 5 News for providing coverage for this event.

To see Fox 5 News’ complete coverage of the event go to http://www.fox5vegas.com/story/16911601/elementary-students-get.
Graduate Student Representative:
- Fred Meyer

The UNLV Department of Police Services Representative:
- Sergeant Scott Lewandowski

Campus Administrator Representative:
- Luke Schultheis of Admissions & Recruitment

The Non-UNLV Police Professional Representative:
- CSN Chief of Police Darryl Caraballo

Southern Nevada Representative:
- Kelly Benavidez, the Clark County Commissioner's Office (Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member)

The UNLV Code Officer:
- Marty Howard, UNLV General Counsel’s Office

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Please Note: The PSAB still has two undergraduate student vacancies that will be filled during the upcoming semester. In addition, there is no representative from UNLV’s Inclusive & Just University Committee due to the fact that this committee is no longer functioning. Jose Melendrez of the Office of Diversity Initiatives has agreed to serve as a surrogate until the PSAB can come up with a permanent representation solution for this position.

Departures: Melody Polay, Tillie Hurd, and R.V. Smith

It is with great sadness that the UNLV Department of Police Services announces the passing of one of our former police communications dispatchers, Melody Polay. Melody served this department and the University community for over 20 years. Her contributions have made an everlasting impact and difference in our department and the campus community we serve. As a full-time Police Services employee with 20 years of service, Melody received a commemorative ring in appreciation of her long-standing service prior to her retirement in 2010. Melody will be sorely missed.

The UNLV Department of Police Services announces the retirement of “Tillie” Claxine Hurd. Tillie came to Police Services in 2005 and has spent her years with us working in the department’s accounting unit as an administrative assistant, assisting with accounts receivable and payable. Prior to her appointment with the Department of Police Services, Tillie worked in the collections division of a company called Credit Acceptance. A farewell reception was held in her honor on June 19th at police headquarters. We thank Tillie for all of her hard work over the years, and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

The UNLV Department of Police Services announces the retirement of Detective R.V. Smith. Prior to his appointment with the UNLV Police Department, Detective R.V. Smith had served 29 years with the City of Chicago Police Department. He joined UNLV Police Services in 2001 after his retirement in Chicago. R.V. started with the department as a police officer and was recognized for his outstanding job performance with the Lieutenant Rochelle Sax, Police Officer of the Year Award. R.V. was promoted to the rank of Police Detective in 2004, where he was in charge of crime scene analysis and follow up investigations. We are grateful for Detective Smith’s contributions to our department and wish him well in his retirement.
New mounted patrol officer: Laura Silva

We are excited to announce that Officer Laura Silva recently became a member of the mounted unit. Officer Silva will be working alongside Mounted Officer Stephani Preston, with our horses Rebel and Pride to patrol the campus. Officer Silva is currently in the process of becoming a certified mounted officer. Training for this role involves a vigorous training program, which includes more than 500 hours of saddle time and many hours spent learning about horse psychology and first aid. Training is ongoing and a trusting relationship must be developed and maintained between officer and horse.

Prior to Officer Silva’s appointment with UNLV, she was employed as a police officer with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for approximately one year. Officer Silva has also worked as both a personal fitness trainer and a singer on a cruise ship. She received her law enforcement training from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Academy, graduating 5th in her class.

The mounted officers begin their day with feeding, bathing, and exercising the horses, and are responsible for maintaining all equipment. The mounted officers are on campus most weekdays and maintain a great relationship with the campus community. The mounted unit is ideally suited to the community-policing environment we have on campus.

The unit has the ability to serve in numerous capacities, including: campus patrol, crowd control, parking lot patrol, and search & rescue operations. Mounted officers also spend some of their time visiting local elementary schools to teach young students about the horses, the unit, and the police department as a whole. To learn more about their elementary school outreach efforts take a look at our article “UNLV’s Mounted Unit make the news!” on page 2.

We feel that Officer Silva will be a great member of the mounted unit, and we look forward to her certification!

New hire: Police Officer Nelson Silva

The UNLV Department of Police Services is pleased to announce the hiring of Police Officer Nelson Silva. Before his appointment to Police Services, Officer Silva worked for UNLV for over three years as a reserve police officer within our special events unit. Prior to his employment with UNLV, he worked for one year with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department as a patrol officer.

Previously, Officer Silva spent over a decade of his career working with one of NASA’s jet propulsion laboratories on both the "Star Wars" Space Defense Initiative (SDI) and the Cassini Spacecraft. He also spent a considerable amount of time working with Pepsi Co. Nelson received his police academy training from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Police Academy in 2008. He holds an Associate Degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from ITT Technical Institute and a University Certificate in Thermal Dynamic Engineering from Havana University.

Officer Silva’s appointment became effective on April 26th, 2012. The department looks forward to working with Officer Silva, and we are excited to have him on board.
You may not be aware of it if you only take classes at UNLV’s Maryland Parkway campus, but the UNLV Department of Police Services actually has three locations. Police headquarters is located off Harmon Avenue east of Maryland Parkway behind Chipotle, the Maryland Parkway campus sub-station and dispatch office is located at the Claude I. Howard Public Safety Building, located behind Lied Library, and the third location is the Shadow Lane Campus sub-station, on the northeast corner of Charleston Boulevard and Shadow Lane.

The Shadow Lane campus consists of four buildings on 18 acres and is the home of the UNLV School of Dental Medicine and the UNLV Bio-Tech Center. There are no residential facilities. Police Services takes seriously the fact that the Shadow Lane campus is a special campus with certain unique problems. The Shadow Lane Campus is considered by Police Services to be just as important as the main campus.

Police services staff at the Shadow Lane Campus includes: Sergeant Scott Taylor, Officers Evan Carney, William Fender, Eileen Wells, and John Kong, and administrative assistant Mike West. The unit offers 24-hour, 7-days-a-week assistance.

Administrative Assistant Mike West, wears two hats as an assistant for both police and parking services at the Shadow Lane Campus. While he admits there is more parking related work for him, the police officers are active on patrol all times. “We have students here very late, and oftentimes they request closer parking or an escort to their vehicle,” said West. Sergeant Scott Taylor said that another common issue for the campus is the amount of homeless people that come onto the campus and occasionally cause disturbances. Interestingly, Taylor also mentioned that at times they respond to the dental school regarding patients who are upset regarding treatment.

Another important aspect of the campus is the outside visitors it attracts. “We frequently have conferences in the simulation room for nurses,” said West. “We provide help with directing visitors who are not familiar with the campus.” Sergeant Taylor mentioned that while these events may not be widely publicized, they can create a significant workload for the officers at the SLC location. “We are busy all the time, largely due to the amount of events we cover at various clinics,” he said.

Years ago, the Shadow Lane Campus had a rash of auto thefts and vandalisms and as a result Police Services created special investigative details to bust up crime rings. The department pushed for the installation of emergency call boxes at the Shadow Lane location similar to those located throughout the main campus and was successful in doing so.

The Shadow Lane Campus collaborates with UNLV’s Maryland Parkway Campus on the biennial Campus Safety and Lighting Walk. As West noted, it can be very dark there at night and students tend to leave at odd hours, so it is important to conduct the visibility inspections on the Shadow Lane Campus too.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the SLC campuses’ safety, security, or parking, please don’t hesitate to call the sub-station main line at (702) 774-2331, or visit the office located at Shadow Lane Campus, Building C. Sergeant Scott Taylor can be reached at his office on (702) 895-2060.
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

Active shooting training on campus

As part of our continued emergency response preparedness, the UNLV Police Department will be conducting hostile intruder response training.

The training sessions are scheduled as follows:

Tonopah Central South, 6th floor

Wednesday, July 11th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. = C Hall (UCG) 1st floor
Wednesday, July 18th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. = C Hall (UCG) 1st floor
Wednesday, July 25th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. = C Hall (UCG) 1st floor
Wednesday, August 1st from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. = C Hall (UCG) 1st floor

During these times you may see a small group of UNLV police officers and training personnel on campus engaged in realistic training scenarios using ‘disabled’ blue tipped weapons with non-projectile rounds.

All training sessions are limited to a small group of officers from each tour so that they can work together as they would during a critical call for service: 4 officers, 2 safety police officers, and 1 lead police training officer.

Check here for UNLV Police Services’ Upcoming Events!

- Laptop Registration - September 4th, September 5th, September 6th
- Rebel Roundtable - September 7th
- UNLV Police Awareness Day - September 19th
- Rebel Roundtable - October 3rd
- Rebel Roundtable - November 7th
- Laptop Registration - December 3rd, December 4th, December 5th, December 6th
- Rebel Roundtable - December 5th

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