Soccer Crowd at Sam Boyd Stadium Sets Las Vegas Record

Nearly four years after rowdy fans sabotaged an El Super Clasico match between Mexican soccer rivals Chivas and Club America, UNLV Police Services and local law enforcement safely oversaw a record-breaking crowd for the Mexican National Soccer Team match against Iceland.

By Jamie Bichelman

In this case, no news is good news. Whereas unruly fan behavior stole the show at the highly-anticipated match between Chivas and Club America in July 2013, this time around, crowd-favorite Mexico bested Iceland 1-0 as a Las Vegas soccer attendance-record 30,617 fans were on their best behavior.

Learn about the cooperation and teamwork between local law enforcement agencies that made the record-setting night so successful — including what the vibe was like on the sidelines — by turning to page 2.
Family-Friendly Fútbol: Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Oversees Record Crowd Without Incident

By Jamie Bichelman

While the Mexican National Soccer Team capped off the night with a win, they certainly weren’t the only ones feeling victorious. When the biggest concern of the night is the quickest way out of the Sam Boyd Stadium parking lot — with nary a road rage incident to report — the event was labeled a success by everyone involved.

“The partnership between UNLV Police, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, and Henderson Police really shows how willing, professional, and cooperative our agencies are towards ensuring a successful night,” said UNLV Police Acting Assistant Chief Jeff Green.

As with all special events, multi-agency teamwork and planning ahead were the keys to success. “Event planning is the backbone of any successful event. We started the planning with the promoters and UNLV Police a few months before the event took place,” said LVMPD Special Events officer Gordon McGhie.

Having a police presence from before the start of the event through its conclusion is another strategy to ensure fan safety. “Part of the planning that usually helps squash any problems is making sure that the police are visible,” Officer McGhie said, “which was accomplished by having them present when the spectators drove onto the venue. We had officers visible when they entered the stadium and then had officers visible inside the stadium at each portal.”

As the smell of homemade sausage and peppers, tacos, and churros wafted beyond the tailgate area and into the stadium, and with the humming of hundreds of vuvuzelas joining the chants from thousands of fans on every kick that was this-close to adding to the score, the atmosphere was truly astonishing.

For UNLV Police Detective Paul Velez, who had a close-up view of the action from the sidelines, the experience was likewise memorable. “It was pretty exciting. The crowd was electric. You can feel the energy from the fans being directed towards the field — it’s almost a physical feeling of excitement. Being up close to the action is always great.”

The event planning also involved “pulling in all the different resources, such as police, fire, security, medical, and event staff to make sure we were all on the same page, and we knew what was expected,” Officer McGhie said. “The uniqueness of this event was having three different law enforcement agencies working together in different aspects and being able to communicate with each other if any issues arose.”

UNLV Police Officer Courtland Smith, left, and UNLV Police Sergeant Javier Hernandez, right, were part of the multi-agency special event patrol that made the event so successful. Photos | Jamie Bichelman
By Jamie Bichelman

The man behind the badge

On January 23, the Department of Police Services lost a member of its family, shockingly, abruptly. Recently-retired officer James Rudnik was gone. In one fell swoop, a beautiful morning turned heartbreaking with the delivery of an email: “It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of James Rudnik.”

Never without a smile, his death left the office devoid of his trademark wit. “The jokes — and the sass — never stopped,” said Vanja Josipovic, a frequent recipient of his deadpan humor. “You expect to see his face around the office, and it’s not there. You definitely feel the impact of his loss.”

The loss of the man who was always in search of his next lesson was a shock. “I considered him a friend,” Acting Assistant Chief Jeff Green said solemnly, reflecting on 13 years’ worth of memories. “He was a fellow New Yorker, ‘Alphabet City’, lower Eastside. Always asking questions, wanting to learn more.”

The quintessential go-with-the-flow colleague, “he was in his element” when mingling with community members, never putting on a facade or a fake persona. He shunned fancy luxuries, preferring instead to remain the humble, reliable patrolman — tenets on which he built a respected reputation that precedes his service to the UNLV community. In fact, Rudnik served as a member of the U.S. Marines reserve ranks for 20 years, retiring as a Master Sergeant.

“Rudnik was a dear friend to me,” said Rachael Carpenter, one of his closest friends at the department. “We shared many great times hiking. He was so knowledgeable; he read often, and he was always taking online classes in different fields.” While everyone admired that James Rudnik always sought to learn and to grow, it was his warmth that has his closest friends feeling his absence. “He was just so unique and special. He was never judgmental, and always accepting. I’m going to miss how that made me feel.”

Achievements

Across his 13-year career with UNLV Police, he accumulated honors for his longevity and service. In addition to his five- and ten-year longevity awards, his first commendation came in 2006 for his assistance in a multi-unit incident involving gunshots at a fraternity party.

As if that defining moment wasn’t enough, Officer Rudnik’s work alongside a team of undercover officers in 2008 that helped thwart a months-long wave of automobile burglaries and vandalism that left the Shadow Lane Campus searching for answers. For their efforts, the team was awarded a Meritorious Police Unit Citation.

In 2012, he was awarded a Valorous Unit Citation for his assistance in apprehending assailants who had beaten and robbed a campus custodian.

Though no longer with us, his legacy of kindness remains eternal.
Virtual Ride-Along Makes First Stop at NSC

As blustery winds and piercing cold weather swept through the Valley, reigning Police Officer of the Year Joe Alliyani mingled with Nevada State College students, faculty, and staff. Police Services’ first-ever virtual ride-along was underway.

Tweets from future law enforcement officers and interested students alike came pouring in: “What advice would you give somebody, like me, heading into a Law Enforcement career? #AskUNLVPD”

Atop the Liberal Arts & Sciences building, Officer Alliyani surveyed the campus around him and reflected. “Listen. Learn. If you’re in training, don’t give up. The pride in protecting your community helps get you through the long hours... The feeling of togetherness in the community makes the job worth it.”

It’s the pride in their community that drives Police Services’ officers to set out each day and accomplish their community policing missions. Be on the lookout for the department’s next virtual ride-along at UNLV!

Got a Question?

Use the hashtag #AskUNLVPD to send our officers a question! Ever wondered what a typical day in the life of a patrol officer is like? Wondering what our lieutenants’ favorite flavor of donut is? Considering a career in law enforcement and can’t quite decide on the right major? This is your opportunity to get connected with the experts at Police Services!

Want to get connected in other ways? Follow Police Services on Facebook at: facebook.com/UNLVPoliceServices. You can also visit the Police Services website at: www.unlv.edu/police.
Humble, dedicated to his job, and passionate about protecting the campus community, Officer Ghessan “Gus” Istefan is the quintessential officer to drive a department’s community policing mission.

Approachable, knowledgeable about the university, and friend to all, Officer Istefan is highly regarded by his peers and well-liked by the students, faculty, and staff around campus.

Officer Istefan received his law enforcement training from the Detroit Police Academy. Prior to joining UNLV Police Services, he worked for the Detroit Police Department for nearly 14 years, where he served in several roles, including patrol, special operations, and investigations. He has received training from the Detroit Police Department in mountain bike patrol as well.

Officer Istefan has received life-saving commendations and several work excellence awards in Detroit. His presence at UNLV has bolstered the relationships between the department and the community it serves.

Connect with Officer Istefan and the UNLV Police Department at our next virtual ride-along in March. Use the hashtag #AskUNLVPD and be sure to tag us in your photos if you catch him on campus!
On Nov. 8, 2016, Nevada voters passed Question 2 to the tune of 602,400 (54.4%) in favor against 503,615 (45.5%) opposed. Starting Jan. 1, 2017, it became legal for adults 21 and older in Nevada to possess up to an ounce of marijuana, or up to one-eighth of an ounce of cannabis concentrate.

With new legislation comes a bevy of questions about the impact of these laws on our day-to-day lives. We’ve compiled a list of answers to commonly asked questions to keep you safe on campus and in-the-know as Nevada’s recreational marijuana laws evolve.

**Can I now smoke marijuana or consume edibles?**
Smoking or consuming marijuana is limited only to within the user’s private residence, which includes the front yard, backyard, and inside the user’s private residence. Federal law prohibits smoking marijuana or consuming edibles on campus.

**What about in my dorm room on campus?**
You may not smoke or consume marijuana while on the university’s premises. According to UNLV’s controlled substances policy, “Students found in violation may be accountable to both civil and criminal authorities and to the University for actions that constitute violations of the UNLV Student Conduct Code and this policy.”

**Can I possess up to an ounce of marijuana (or up to one-eighth of an ounce of cannabis concentrate)?**
Anyone under the age of 21 may not possess marijuana. Regardless of age, you can not possess, smoke, or consume marijuana while on UNLV’s premises. Additionally, it is considered a misdemeanor if you’re over the age of 21 and you give marijuana to someone under 21. If the recipient is under 18, it is considered a gross misdemeanor.

**If I’m 21 or older, can I possess marijuana while operating a vehicle?**
If you’re 21 or older, as long as you’re not smoking or consuming it, driving under the influence, or carrying more than the legal amount of 1 ounce of marijuana flower or one-eighth of an ounce of marijuana concentrates, you may possess the marijuana inside your vehicle. NRS 484C.110 defines “unlawful amounts of marijuana in the blood or urine” as 10 nanograms per milliliter of urine and two nanograms per milliliter of blood.

Additionally, it is illegal for passengers inside the vehicle to smoke marijuana.

**Faculty, Staff, & Student Workers (21 and older): If I smoke marijuana during my lunch break off campus, can I still be held accountable, or fired, for testing positive on a drug screen?**
By federal law, employers may still ban marijuana in the workplace. According to the UNLV Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace Policy, “It is the policy of the state to ensure that its employees do not: report for work in an impaired condition resulting from the use of alcohol or drugs”. By violating university policies, student workers, faculty, and staff alike risk the potential of termination
Where can I purchase recreational marijuana?

Despite speculation regarding temporary regulations to allow for the sale of marijuana for recreational use, as of the date of this publication, retail dispensaries may only provide their products to people with valid medical marijuana cards. Officials from the Nevada Department of Taxation have until 2018 to determine the regulations that will govern retail marijuana dispensary licenses and sales at retail dispensaries.

In the meantime, can I purchase marijuana in another state and bring it back to Nevada?

No. According to Nevada State Senator Tick Segerblom, it is illegal to cross over the Nevada state line from another state with marijuana you bought from that state.

If I smoke off campus, can I still come to class without fear of discipline?

No. According to UNLV’s collection of official statements on student and employee compliance, “The University will continue to enforce its current policies, including the Code of Student Conduct, regarding controlled substances.” Those who violate controlled substance policies “will be subject to referral for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school and termination of employment, and, if warranted, criminal action.”

Have questions? UNLV encourages you to contact the Office of Student Contact (702-895-2308) or Human Resources (702-895-5510) for additional information on university policies.

IGI & PLuS Center host UNLV Police Appreciation Breakfast

On January 18, UNLV Police Services’ officers and command staff were treated to an appreciation breakfast courtesy of UNLV’s International Gaming Institute and Center for Professional & Leadership Studies at the Stan Fulton Building at UNLV.

“You job is hard, and you deserve to know that your work is appreciated. You have made a difference in a lot of lives,” said UNLV PLuS Center Director John G. Burlison.

Before a room full of officers, detectives, sergeants, lieutenants, and chiefs, Burlison added to his praise of the department. “To every police officer, thank you for everything that you do. Thank you for making that choice to protect and serve. Thank you for doing what so many of us aren’t brave enough to do. Thank you for keeping us safe.” All in a day’s work at UNLV Police Services.
### Meet the UNLV Police

#### Q&A

**Get to Know Us: New Year’s Edition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>What is your New Year’s Resolution?</th>
<th>What was your favorite class in school? Least favorite?</th>
<th>My secret talent is:</th>
<th>Favorite place around campus to eat lunch?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Velez, Detective</td>
<td>I don't make resolutions. This way, I can’t disappoint myself.</td>
<td>Favorite class: History</td>
<td>I can't tell you that, it's a secret!</td>
<td>Eating the delicious food my wife sent me to work with. She's a great cook!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Morrow, Property &amp; Evidence Manager</td>
<td>Spend more time with my family.</td>
<td>Favorite class: Constitutional Law</td>
<td>I played the trumpet in the marching band at UNLV.</td>
<td>Chao Thai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Dohme, Lieutenant</td>
<td>Get in better shape throughout the year.</td>
<td>Favorite class: Science classes</td>
<td>My knowledge of science fiction.</td>
<td>Metro Pizza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanja Josipovic, Student Worker</td>
<td>Take my dog with me on a 5K run.</td>
<td>Favorite class: Physical activity for aging individuals</td>
<td>Ability to deliver bad news in an optimistic way.</td>
<td>Oodolee Sushi</td>
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Officer Darrell Johnson & Buster (left)
Officer Bruce Taylor & Simba (right)
at Sam Boyd Stadium

Deputy Chief Sandy Seda
speaking at the Immigration Legal
Info and Advice Forum.

Chief José Elique at President
Jessup’s Town Hall Meeting

Service rates for the providing of police services at university events have been established for fiscal year 2018:

- Lieutenant: $84 per hour
- Sergeant/Detective/K-9: $77 per hour
- Police Officer (with vehicle as needed): $68 per hour
- Reserve Officer: $39 per hour
- Dispatcher/Intake Technician: $57 per hour
- Student Security: $21 per hour

Want to learn more? Visit: unlv.edu/police/units/fees

Special Event Rates for Police Services Set For FY 2018
### UNLV Police Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Student Union</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Student Union</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Student Union</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls on Guard</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>PHQ</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>PHQ</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighting &amp; Safety Walk</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>UNLV Pida Plaza</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Ride-Along</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Follow @unlvpd</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Safety Forum</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Mob Museum</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Registration</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Lied Library Lobby</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Lied Library Lobby</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Lied Library Lobby</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Lied Library Lobby</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
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To view Police Services’ calendar of events, visit: [www.unlv.edu/police/events](http://www.unlv.edu/police/events)
PASSING OF POLICE OFFICER JAMES RUDNIK (SEE PAGE 6)

It is with a heavy heart that the UNLV Department of Police Services announce the passing of recently-retired former UNLV Police Services officer James Rudnik.

Officer Rudnik was a 13-year veteran with Police Services, serving as both a reserve and full-time patrol officer with the department. Prior to his time with UNLV Police, he served as a member of the U.S. Marines reserve ranks for 20 years, retiring as a Master Sergeant.

Officer Rudnik was a highly-respected member of both the Police Services family and the UNLV community, and he will be sincerely missed.

DEPARTURE OF DISPATCHER SHELBY SEMERAD

The UNLV Department of Police Services bid farewell to Dispatcher Shelby Semerad. After providing more than 12 years of service with UNLV Police, Shelby will be pursuing a career in nursing at Sunrise Hospital.

Before her appointment at UNLV, Shelby worked for the North Dakota Department of Corrections State Penitentiary. She is from Bismarck, North Dakota. During her time in North Dakota, she worked as a sheriff’s reserve deputy, a transport officer, and a police officer.

She holds an associate’s degree in Criminal Justice from Bismarck State College and a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Shelby resides in Las Vegas with her husband Keith.

We wish her well in her future career endeavors!

WANT TO JOIN POLICE SERVICES?

Considering a career in law enforcement? Want to learn administrative responsibilities working within a schedule that is flexible with your classes?

The UNLV Department of Police Services offers full-time and reserve police officer positions, as well as classified and professional staff and student worker positions! In fact, some of our student security officers have joined local law enforcement and UNLV administrative positions after graduation.

To learn more about positions as they become available, visit: unlv.edu/police/employment.
Still Want to Learn More?

Just take a look at some of the people talking about UNLV’s finest in the media!

UNLV police investigate series of vehicle break-ins
by Lawren Linehan

Ready for the Calls
by Jamie Bichelman
https://www.unlv.edu/news/article/ready-calls