



Chief Strachan's Weekly Update

I Am Not Sure Appealing to God Is a Good Idea Here...: We had a couple cases last week where folks became very religious when they got caught. Early in the week Officer Brandon Greenhill saw a man on a bicycle, whom he knew had a felony arrest warrant. The bicyclist sped away, fleeing from the officer. I wouldn't call it a pursuit - more of a "following", which went off Kitsap Way down Marine Drive. The man eventually dismounted and ran off toward the beach. Officer Greenhill took up the foot chase and caught the man, holding him on the ground as backup arrived. As the man was taken into custody he shouted, "Why me, Lord?" He also had meth in his pocket, which I do not think the Lord placed there. Later in the week, Officer Cory Ditmer along with Sgt. Billy Renfro and Officer Dave Hughes did a great job making an arrest on a serious robbery case. A man had threatened another with a gun and the suspect was in custody within minutes. When he was arrested immediately after robbing someone with a handgun and threatening him with violence, officers found a tattoo on the suspect's chest that read "My Brother's Keeper". Not so much. The man is in jail with a \$100,000 bail.

Is This The Definition of Irony?: Officers took a report of the theft of liquor from a grocery store in West Bremerton. Security at the store had gotten a license plate, and several minutes later Officer Jason Vertefeuille spotted the vehicle in the parking lot... behind the Alcoholics Anonymous Hall. Investigation determined that the license plates did not match the serial number on the car and it was a stolen vehicle. The liquor was also recovered and the car's occupant was arrested and jailed.

Way Above and Beyond: A great example last week of an officer going the extra mile. Two sailors from the Naval Base had their car broken into while parked at a location several miles away from our city, and their credit cards, ID, and cell phones were taken. When they called the report in, they were told to make a report online and no one would respond. When they got to the Base, they had trouble getting in, because their IDs were gone. Officer Johnny Rivera was called to assist, and he talked with them about what had happened. Officer Rivera went on base to assist the two victims to check their credit cards on-line, discovered the credit cards were being used in Silverdale at multiple businesses, and then proceeded to follow up with the businesses. The businesses called the following day when the bad guy returned to the store. Officer Rivera followed up and assisted in making the arrest, interviewing the suspect, and transporting him to jail. A great example of taking ownership, even when the crime did not specifically occur in our jurisdiction, and doing all we can for our service personnel.

Last week Officer Vertefeuille dealt with one of our worst types of calls - when officers have to take a baby away from a parent, to be placed at Child Protective Services. An officer took a photo of Jason and his "prisoner" making arrangements to place the baby in protective care.

We received three "thank you's" last week from sources you don't normally see - it speaks to the quality of our officers and professional staff:



April 14, 2014

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Officer Roessel,

I just wanted to thank you for how you handled my situation on Monday March 31, where you arrested me on an unlawful imprisonment case. You were very professional and caring not only to me but to my fiancé as well. I do understand that I have some issues...which I'm addressing by going to treatment at anger management classes that I started last Thursday. Keep up the good work and again...THANK YOU!!

Chief Strachan,

I just wanted to take a moment of your time and report to you mine and my wife's experience with a few officers tonight around 9pm. We were on our way to our buddy's house to record our band's new CD, and we stopped momentarily off of Old Belfair Hwy to get some directions from our guitarist who we were following. Moments later, Officer Mayfield pulled up and asked us to put up our hands and a few more officers pulled up and disarmed us (we're both Concealed Pistol License holders).

It turned out that someone had called in a report of someone attempting to car jack someone at the same location. As Officer Mayfield said, we were "at the wrong place at the wrong time".

After all said and done, our overall experience was great, and Officer Mayfield was nothing but respectful. We just wanted to send some positive feedback and let you know, that it's a great feeling when officers of the law treat us no differently because of our tattoos, etc. You guys are doing a great job, and as citizens of this great city, we couldn't be happier with the Bremerton Police Department. Keep up the great work and stay safe guys.

Dear Chief Strachan,

I wish to express my gratitude on a very kind, understanding and courteous police and municipal court staff. During a past visit, my rental car received a red light camera ticket. The car was under my name but had several authorized drivers. After receiving a notice from the rental car company on the violation, it eased my mind to contact the appropriate people through the police department and municipal court web site and phone numbers for help on this matter. All of the staff were pleasant to help resolve the issue and get the information I needed. The issue has been resolved, with only me to further investigate it with my co-workers. But your town staff made me feel much better. Cannot truly say it was a pleasure under the circumstances, but I can say it was a pleasure on dealing with the staff.

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