



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief Strachan's Weekly Update

This Is Just Good Police Work... Last week, Officer John VanSantford distributed a surveillance video to department members from a convenience store of a female suspect using a stolen credit card to buy cigarettes. The card had been stolen in a recent vehicle prowl on Thompson Drive in West Bremerton.



Officer Jordan Ejde thought the woman may be a person he recognized from past contacts, and checked her record. It turns out she had just been released from prison on a robbery conviction, and had an arrest warrant from the Washington State Department of Corrections. Officer Ejde did some research on social media and found her, along with some information on her current boyfriend. A records check showed that he, too, was wanted by the Department of Corrections. Birds of a feather, and all that. A short while later, Officer Ejde spotted the woman walking down the street near Burwell and Bloomington. She tried to run, but no one outruns Jordan. Officer Ejde had the woman in custody within minutes. While transporting the woman to the station, Officer Ejde saw the boyfriend out walking as well. When the man spotted Officer Ejde's patrol car, he unwisely decided to run through some yards. This time the police radio outran him. Sergeant Plumb located the man a few blocks away and these two crime-waves-in-progresses were halted in their tracks. Both are now in jail. Just in time for Valentine's Day.

I Need Some Ketchup...at the Hotel?: Staff from a West Bremerton fast food restaurant called dispatch just after 3:00 AM last week to let us know a man had passed out...in the drive thru. Officers Jeff Schaefer and Matt Thuring arrived and found the (unsurprisingly) intoxicated driver. He was asked if he knew where he was, and he proudly answered "at the best hotel in town." The officers indicated that the question and answer phase of this contact went downhill from there. The State Patrol assisted and the man was arrested for DUI; his brand new Dodge Challenger SRT was impounded. He admitted to going through the drive thru and receiving his food. When he discovered he was missing some ketchup he pulled back through and apparently fell asleep.

I'm Way Ahead of You: Last week Officer David Hughes stopped a vehicle in the area of 6th Street and Bryan Avenue that had run a red light and he also noticed it had significant front-end damage. Moments later, the dispatch center advised officers of a hit and run crash at 13th Street and Warren Avenue, with a person who had been injured. The description provided by the dispatcher matched the vehicle that had already been stopped by Officer Hughes. The driver was clearly intoxicated and his driver's license was revoked in the 2nd degree. The man was booked into the Kitsap County Jail for Hit and Run, DUI and Driving While License Suspended. The victim of the hit and run was a taxi driver; he was taken to the hospital and his injuries included a sprained back and cuts to his face. Always good when the hit and run driver has been stopped before the call is even put out by the dispatcher! Below is a photo of the damage to the taxi - you can see how hard the driver must have hit him.

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Last Saturday, Officer Jeff Inklebarger did a great job stopping an occupied stolen vehicle at 11th Street and Adele Avenue. The vehicle had been stolen out of Sequim. This was Jeff's third recovered stolen vehicle in the last two weeks. The driver had an arrest warrant for a probation violation from the Department of Corrections. Later in the week, I received this message from the owner:

Hello Chief Strachan,

Just wanted to send a quick note to let you how much my son and I appreciate the excellent work done by Officer Inklebarger this past Saturday. We live in Sequim and last Monday our son had his car stolen from our home. On Saturday morning he and I set out to go car shopping to find a replacement. He was obviously disappointed about the money it was going to cost to replace his car. We got as far as Issaquah looking for the right deal. While test driving a car that we thought we would buy, we got the call from your department letting us know that the car had been recovered. That was good news indeed. Added to that good news was Officer Inklebarger's offer to wait with the car until we could drive to Bremerton from Issaquah, saving us the towing costs. That was above and beyond our expectations.

When we arrived Officer Inklebarger went with us to a Dept. of Licensing office to vouch for us and help us get temporary tags for the drive home. As we came to find out, the fact that the car was recovered in relatively good condition and the driver arrested was due to a nice bit of police work by Officer Inklebarger. Top to bottom it was a great outcome for my son and made that much better by the courteous and professional service of your officer. I very much appreciate the work of Law Enforcement and recognize when an officer has gone that extra mile to serve. Just wanted to be sure you knew as well the good job your people are doing!

Here's another good example of going above and beyond. This week Officer Jason Vertefeuille was checking an area off of Werner Road when he discovered a pile of mail that had apparently been stolen from addresses outside of our city. There was mail addressed to 39 different victims at 23 different addresses. Jason made attempts to contact each of the victims and has mailed them all an ID Theft informational brochure with a cover letter explaining they have been victims of mail theft and what they can do to protect themselves. Great job!

[Click here](#) for the updated High Five list - two of them were in custody just shortly after it was created so we are already down to three...

Also last week several of our detectives attended a "Heroin and Opioid Overdose Summit" at which I was also a panelist on the topic of heroin, overdoses, and better response to this problem. [Click here](#) for a story about the conference.

Finally, I just wanted to provide a few excerpts from a speech given this week about Race and Law Enforcement by the FBI Director, James Comey. I think he did a great job of providing some background and focus on the current national conversation. So much of the coverage following Ferguson and the Garner case was sensationalized and missed the point. These are just a few portions, and I have provided a link to the entire text as well - I encourage you to take a look.

I worry that this incredibly important and incredibly difficult conversation about race and policing has become focused entirely on the nature and character of law enforcement officers, when it should also be about something much harder to discuss. Debating the nature of policing is very important, but I worry that it has become an excuse, at times, to avoid doing something harder.

Jordan Ejde
Aaron Elton
Christopher Faidley
Steven Forbragg
Martin Garland
Timothy Garrity
Crystal Gray
Lawrence Green
Brandon Greenhill
Michelle Griesheimer
Bryan Hall
Rodney Harker
Russell Holt
David Hughes
Jeffrey Inklebarger
Kent Mayfield
Kelly Meade
Jonathan Meador
James Miller
Michael Nelson
Steven Polonsky
William Prouse
Rodney Rauback
Johnny Rivera
Dahle Roessel
Donnell Rogers
Keith Sargent
Jeff Schaefer
Frank Shaw
Matthew Strombach
Jacob Switzer
Matthew Thuring
John VanSantford
Jason Vertefeuille
Harold Whatley
PROFESSIONAL STAFF
David Boynton
Rena Brown
Barbara Forbes
Donna Goodwin
Marie Hansen
Dennis Hughes
Elizabeth Lumsden
Cathy Mattson
Elena Rinonos
Marixa Scott
Joseph Sexton
Debra Williams
SERGEANTS
Kevin Crane
Richard Cronk
William Endicott
Ryan Heffernan
Randy Plumb
Randy Olson
Billy Renfro
Mark Thompson
LIEUTENANTS
Luis Olan
Pete Fisher
CAPTAINS
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Tom Wolfe
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Steven Strachan

First, all of us in law enforcement must be honest enough to acknowledge that much of our history is not pretty. At many points in American history, law enforcement enforced the status quo, a status quo that was often brutally unfair to disfavored groups.

Second, much research points to the widespread existence of unconscious bias. Many people in our white-majority culture have unconscious racial biases and react differently to a white face than a black face. In fact, we all, white and black, carry various biases around with us.

Something happens to people in law enforcement. Many of us develop different flavors of cynicism that we work hard to resist because they can be lazy mental shortcuts. For example, criminal suspects routinely lie about their guilt, and nearly everybody we charge is guilty. That makes it easy for some folks in law enforcement to assume that everybody is lying and that no suspect, regardless of their race, could be innocent. Easy, but wrong... A mental shortcut becomes almost irresistible and maybe even rational by some lights. The two young black men on one side of the street look like so many others the officer has locked up. Two white men on the other side of the street-even in the same clothes-do not. The officer does not make the same association about the two white guys, whether that officer is white or black. And that drives different behavior. The officer turns toward one side of the street and not the other. We need to come to grips with the fact that this behavior complicates the relationship between police and the communities they serve.

So many young men of color become part of that officer's life experience because so many minority families and communities are struggling, so many boys and young men grow up in environments lacking role models, adequate education, and decent employment-they lack all sorts of opportunities that most of us take for granted. A tragedy of American life-one that most citizens are able to drive around because it doesn't touch them-is that young people in "those neighborhoods" too often inherit a legacy of crime and prison. And with that inheritance, they become part of a police officer's life, and shape the way that officer-whether white or black-sees the world. Changing that legacy is a challenge so enormous and so complicated that it is, unfortunately, easier to talk only about the cops. And that's not fair.

We-especially those of us who enjoy the privilege that comes with being the majority-must confront the biases that are inescapable parts of the human condition. We must speak the truth about our shortcomings as law enforcement, and fight to be better. But as a country, we must also speak the truth to ourselves. Law enforcement is not the root cause of problems in our hardest hit neighborhoods. Police officers-people of enormous courage and integrity, in the main-are in those neighborhoods, risking their lives, to protect folks from offenders who are the product of problems that will not be solved by body cameras. We simply must speak to each other honestly about all these hard truths.

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/speeches/hard-truths-law-enforcement-and-race>

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