

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

J. MITCHELL WALLER, CHIEF OF POLICE



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A Message from the Chief



Summer is now upon us and six months have already passed since I was sworn in as Westminster's ninth Chief of Police. In that short period many new things are underway at the Department and I'm pleased to report on their progress.

First, the new police facility is approximately 75% complete, on schedule and under budget, with a targeted completion date of March 2011. This new facility is critical to the efficient delivery of public safety services to our community.

We too have felt the sting of these recessionary times and have implemented significant budget cuts to meet the needs of the City. Specifically, the Department has reduced staffing in management, supervision and line-level positions over the past year. Though we are now at late 1980 staffing levels, we have maintained the same number of police officers in the street.

Through interaction with the community, input from business groups and the Chief's Advisory Board, we have focused on core functions and implemented a complete reorganization of the Department.

Having operated on the same deployment plan for nearly 50 years, the Westminster Police Department is transitioning to a contemporary Area Command system. Area Command is both an operational and a

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management philosophy. To achieve our core mission it is necessary to effectively deploy resources, identify priorities, solve problems, maintain order, reduce the fear of crime and improve the quality of life of our citizens.

In its simplest form, Area Command consists of dividing the City into specific geographical areas and assigning 24/7 responsibility to a police manager. This new practice establishes specific accountability and responsibility for developing response strategies. To implement the Area Command structure, the Department will use a variety of traditional and community based policing practices to address crime and quality of life issues. The successful implementation of this plan will help the Department achieve its vision of being a "World Class Police Department."



Crime Survivors Recognition

During a banquet at the Rose Center on April 23, 2010, Crime Survivors recognized 37 law enforcement officials, deputy district attorneys, investigators and victims advocates.

This year's banquet also honored a civilian, which is uncommon at these events. Christian Conrad was honored for saving the life of a woman, a domestic violence victim, during an incident in June 2009. The victim's ex-boyfriend was assaulting her by beating her head against the concrete curb of a street in Ladera Ranch.

The Crime Survivors event was hosted by Tanya Brown, sister of Nicole Brown Simpson.

Crime Survivors is a nonprofit that serves as an advocate for crime victims and their families.

For more information visit:
www.crimesurvivors.org.



*Submit Feedback to:
Ja'Nelle Belton,
WPD Police Services Office
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California Peace Officers Memorial Week



Each year during the week of May 15, groups of people gather together to honor the memory of a member of their family. Surviving spouses grieving a lost partner; children missing a parent; older couples who have survived their son or daughter; brothers, sisters, fellow peace officers - so many of us commemorate National Police Week as participants of a Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

In Westminster, a memorial ceremony was held on May 14, 2010, at the Police Memorial located in the Civic Center.

We understand that the grief of the loss still lingers on. It is important that those of us left behind to, recognize that these officers did not die in vain. We owe a debt to those who have given their lives. Peace officers of this state want this memory to stay fresh in the minds of all. To reflect on the courage and sacrifice; and, to assure that valiant lives will not be forgotten.

DeMille School Officer Appreciation



In honor of National Police Officers Memorial Week, on May 13, 2010, students of DeMille Elementary hosted an officer appreciation lunch.

We appreciate the efforts of these students for such a generous expression of gratitude.



Flag Day



On June 14th our nation honors one of its traditional symbols with the celebration of Flag Day. In Westminster, we also joined the celebration.

Mayor Margie Rice and the City Council hosted a Flag Day ceremony which included patriotic music and inspiring remarks of patriotism.

This year marked the 233rd anniversary of the first Flag Act, passed by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777.

The Act created the first flag for the original 13 colonies as they broke away from England. It stated that "the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation".



Flag Day, is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag.

Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation. Our flag has a proud and glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans. Many people have died protecting it.



Pool Safety



As the summer heat continues and more families visit pools, please observe the following safety tips:

- Install a fence at least four-feet high around all four sides of the pool. The fence should not have openings or protrusions that a young child could use to get over, under, or through.
- Make sure pool gates open out from the pool, and self-close and self-latch at a height children can't reach.
- Never leave children alone in or near the pool, even for a moment.
- Keep rescue equipment (a shepherd's hook - a long pole with a hook on the end - and life preserver) and a portable telephone near the pool. Choose a shepherd's hook and other rescue equipment made of

fiberglass or other materials that do not conduct electricity.

- Avoid inflatable swimming aids such as "floaties." They are not a substitute for approved life vests and can give children a false sense of security.
- Children may not be developmentally ready for swim lessons until after their fourth birthday. Swim programs for children under 4 should not be seen as a way to decrease the risk of drowning.

Whenever infants or toddlers are in or around water, an adult should be within arm's length, providing "touch supervision."



Every 40 minutes and nearly 40 times a day, someone in the United States dies in an alcohol impaired traffic crash according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That is why Westminster Police Department, along with other highway safety, community health and law enforcement officials are reminding everyone this Fourth of July that Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving and to designate a sober driver before the celebrations begin.

- In 2007, 41,059 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Out of

that number 12,998 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin so you can be alive to enjoy the next celebration.

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact local law enforcement.

Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk. Impaired driving has serious consequences. The tragedies and costs from drinking and driving impaired do not just end at the potential death, disfigurement, disability and injury caused by impaired drivers.

Driving with a BAC of .08 or higher is illegal in every state. Yet too many people still ignore the law. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report over

1.4 million people were arrested for driving under the influence during 2006.

Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant and not the way you want to celebrate the July 4th holiday.

People that break the law, often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses from attorney fees, other fines and court costs, car towing and repairs, lost time at work, etc.

Over the Limit. Under Arrest.

Make smart decisions. Plan ahead, so you can assure a safe way home. Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk.

Remember, Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving. Don't ever get behind a wheel of a vehicle when you are impaired.

DUI Checkpoint

On Saturday, June 19, 2010, the Traffic Bureau conducted a sobriety checkpoint at Westminster Boulevard, just West of Magnolia.

Over 1,200 vehicles passed through the checkpoint. The preliminary results from the checkpoint are as follows:

- Officers conducted 14 field sobriety tests
- 2 arrests were made for driving under the influence
- 1 arrest was made for narcotics possession
- 16 citations were issued for non-licensed drivers
- 2 citations were issued for driving on a suspended license
- There were 22 citations issued for various vehicle code violations
- 17 vehicles were impounded

The Traffic Bureau will conduct similar checkpoints in the coming months. All costs for checkpoint enforcement are paid through a state grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

CONSUMERS SWINDLED

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) continues to receive reports of individuals' e-mail or social networking accounts being compromised and used in a social engineering scam to swindle consumers out of thousands of dollars.

Portraying to be the victim, the hacker uses the victim's account to send a notice to their contacts. The notice claims the victim is in immediate need of money due to being robbed of their credit cards, passport, money, and cell phone; leaving them stranded in London or some other location. Some claim they only have a few days to pay their hotel bill and promise to reimburse upon their return home. A sense of urgency to help their friend/contact may cause the recipient to fail to validate the claim, increasing the likelihood of them falling for this scam.

If you receive a similar notice and are not sure it is a scam, you should always verify the information before sending any money.

If you have been a victim of this type of scam or any other Cyber crime, you can report it to the IC3 website at: www.IC3.gov. The IC3 complaint database links complaints for potential referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency for case consideration. Complaint information is also used to identify emerging trends and patterns.

**Intelligence Note
Prepared by the**

*Internet Crime Complaint Center
(IC3)*

July 2, 2010
