Just the Facts

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, July 24 to Thursday, July 30

 Busiest Day of Week: Friday—103 events
 Busiest Hour of Day: 200 PM—43 events
 Total # of Events: 585
 Average Events/Day: 83.57
 Average Events/Hour: 3.48
 Average Traffic Stops: .70 per hour
 DWIs for the week: 4

Department News—

On Thursday we said good bye to a good friend when CSO Cody Mosher signed off-duty for the last time. Cody has resigned his position to take a police officer job with the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Police Department. Cody has been with the department as a CSO since September of 2014 and has also served as a reserve officer—Cody, we wish you the best of luck. Background investigations are currently taking place on Cody’s replacement.

Night to Unite is happening on Tuesday, August 4th. We’re looking forward to meeting many of our residents taking part in this great community partnership program.

On Wednesday morning, CSO Officers Travis Johnson and Cody Mosher paid a visit to Kid’s Corner. The CSOs gave the kids squad car tours and passed out junior police badges.

Texting and Driving—

Drivers who repeatedly choose texting over safety while behind the wheel risk a higher fine for violating the law beginning Saturday. Under the enhanced law, drivers face a $225 fine for second and subsequent violations of the texting while driving law, in addition to the current $50 fine. In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign. It is also illegal for drivers with a permit or provisional driver’s license to use a cell phone while driving, except for emergencies to call 911.

 Over the last five years in Minnesota (2010-2014), 19 percent of all traffic fatalities and serious injuries were distraction-related.
 Driver inattention or distraction was the number one contributing factor in multiple vehicle crashes in 2014.
 In 2014, driver inattention or distraction contributed to 61 deaths and more than seven thousand injuries on Minnesota roads.

Since the texting law went into effect in 2010, citations have gone up 278 percent.

Make the Right Choice—Put the phone down!

Bar Dispute Lands Two In Jail—

A thrown bar glass and a punch landed two in jail early Friday morning. It started when an employee at Reggie’s Brewhouse tried removing a female from the bar after she allegedly threw a glass. Her boyfriend came to her defense, allegedly striking two employees and threatening to burn down one of their houses. The male was arrested at his home, as was the female when she interfered with the officers by throwing cigarettes, spitting in an officer’s face and kicking at them. Ashley A. Hernandez, age 36, was formally charged with Terroristic Threats, (2) counts of 5th Degree Assault and Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot. Desiree L. Anderson, age 25, was charged with 4th Degree Assault of a Police Officer and Obstructing the Legal Process.

During the early morning hours on Thursday, one of our officers was stopped by a motorist who reported a vehicle off-road near the County Rd. 45 and Highway 14 interchange. The officer responded and found the car unoccupied in the ditch to the 45 on-ramp from eastbound Highway 14. As the officer was investigating the crash, he observed a male walking out of a wooded area to the southeast of the crash. The male indicated he was the driver in the crash and ran from the crash so he could wait until morning to get the vehicle out. While speaking to the driver, the officer observed the driver was showing signs of intoxication—shortly thereafter, he was placed under arrest after failing roadside sobriety tests. When speaking with the driver, he admitted he was drinking and had the munchies. He admitted to driving from his home in Burnsville to Arby’s. He didn’t want to go to Arby’s in Burnsville because there were too many cars so he jumped on I-35 to head to Owatonna. Lance J. Weingartz, age 35, was formally charged with two (2) counts of 3rd Degree DWI—both gross misdemeanors. Weingartz’s breath alcohol content was reported at .16 or twice the legal limit to drive.

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