

# Issue 8

January 2015

# Northwest Area Command



Michael R. King & Richard W. Smith Jr.

**The Northwest Area Command**  
**Commander Dodi Camacho**  
**Office: 768-4850**  
**Cell: 553-2248**  
**Fax: 768-4860**  
**Email: [dcamacho@cabq.gov](mailto:dcamacho@cabq.gov)**  
**Citizen Contact Center: 311**  
**Police Non-Emergency:**  
**242-COPS (2677)**  
**Police Emergency: 911**

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Happy New Year Everyone!

I would first like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! 2014 was a good year and I am hopeful about what 2015 will bring, although we are certainly not off to a good start. As many of you may have heard we had an officer get shot during a traffic stop. Although tragic, the good news is that the Officer (a 30+ year veteran) is doing well and is continuing to recover from his injuries. Our heartfelt prayers go out to him and his family. I am pleased to report that the suspect was caught and is currently in jail. Thanks to our law enforcement partners at the Sheriff's office for all their help.

Speaking of families, the Albuquerque Police Department really came together this holiday season to try and reach out to families in need. The Northwest Area Command was able to put together packages of food and gifts for 15 families. Many officers and supervisors went above and beyond anything I could have ever imagined by reaching into their own pockets to help brighten these families' holidays. In addition, I would like to thank the APD Chaplain unit who donated more than 13 boxes of food; the APOA Union for their donations of toys, local businesses such as Walmart, Home Depot, and Costco who donated food, gift cards, gifts and in one case a Christmas tree (with ornaments), and other NW businesses and community members who also provided donations of toys. This type of operation went on throughout Albuquerque and we were lucky to be a part of it. It was both humbling and heart-warming at the same time. I thank you all again.

With winter in full effect, the frigid temperatures continue to stick around. Over the past week I have seen an increase in vehicles getting stolen while they are warming up. Although I feel a little like a broken record, I would like to remind you please DO NOT to do this. Leaving your car started, unattended, with the keys in the ignition, is not a good idea no matter how cold it is. Criminals look for these prime opportunities, please don't become a victim. In closing, I would like to say thank you to everyone who is currently partaking in the Nextdoor.com conversations and continue to encourage your neighbors to sign up. I look forward to our future at APD and can't wait to see what 2015 has in store for us.

I also would like to Congratulate Northwest Officer, Chris Poccia, who is one of our hardest working officers here in the Northwest! He received the December Officer of the Month award and it is well deserved. Thank you for the job that you do. Your work is appreciated!

## Watch I Lieutenant L. Poccia

With the close of 2014, we here on graveyard look forward to an even better 2015. December was a steady month with some cold temperatures; nevertheless call for service still persisted. A particularly dangerous call I would like to highlight was a domestic dispute that our officers responded to.

The call indicated a female's boyfriend held a gun to her head earlier in the day and had been sending her threatening text messages stating he would kill her as well as the couple's child. The messages advised the boyfriend was on his way over and he arrived prior to officers while 911 had an open line. The 911 operator heard

the male tell the female this would be her last chance to see her son alive again. As officers quickly arrived on the scene they waited for more responding units due to the volatility of the situation. While waiting, the male exited the apartment armed with a handgun. The officers engaged the male and were able to peacefully take him into custody. The male was booked for the domestic charges reported earlier to the State Police. This was a very dangerous call that was handled impeccably well by the graveyard officers on scene.

**Lt. Larry Poccia  
NW Area Command  
768-4850**



## Watch II Lieutenant T. Espinosa

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a joyful and safe holiday season. We completed our Holiday Tact Plan and I am fortunate enough to say that we did not have any major incidents at any of our shopping areas. We are very thankful to all of the officers and specialized units who worked long hours to make the Holiday Tact Plan a success.

Moving forward to the New Year we want to remind everyone about the concerns that come up with cold and inclement weather. Please, do not leave your car unattended while it is warming up. We all know how cold it can get in the morning, but we want to eliminate that opportunity for auto thefts. Also, although we have had a relatively calm winter thus far,

please be careful when there is ice on the road. Make sure to drive slowly and carefully and be cognizant of other drivers when driving in severe weather.

Property crimes are still an issue of concern for the area command, specifically residential burglaries during the daytime. If you are at home during the day and see suspicious activity make sure to report it as soon as possible. Also, make sure our doors are locked and alarms are armed. Our officers will continue to do directed patrol, field briefings and tactical operations to deter and catch our property crime offenders.

We will also focus efforts on our two major thoroughfares:

Coors and Unser, especially during rush hour. Make sure to watch your speeds and be mindful of other drivers. Officers will be on patrol in these areas during the rush hours to help alleviate any problems with speeding.

We will continue to address areas of concern and strive to keep property crime and traffic problems to a minimum.

**Lt. Tim Espinosa  
NW Area Command  
768-4850**

## Watch III Lieutenant S. Altman

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. The busy holiday season is over along with our Tact Plans in and around the Cottonwood Mall Area. It was very busy month for the Department, especially around the mall. Officers were brought in for overtime and assigned to handle calls and patrol in the commercial areas. Many citations and arrests were made which had a positive reduction in crime around the mall. I am sure most of you saw the highly

visible Mobile Command Post was set up at the entrance to Cottonwood Mall. This not only gave officers working the Tact Plans a place to stop and do paperwork but was also a visual deterrent for criminals.

Now that the holiday season is over we will be focusing on stolen vehicles and auto burglaries in the northern section of the Northwest Area Command. There has been a moderate increase in stolen vehicles mainly due to warm ups. Please do not

leave your vehicle running at your residence if you are not in it. Car thieves are actively searching for citizens who are leaving their cars running and taking advantage of this easy opportunity to steal your car.

I hope everyone has a great New Year and stays safe. As always, do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 659-7385 if you need anything.

**Lt. Steve Altman  
NW Area Command  
(505) 659-7385**

<b>Watch 1: Lt. L. Poccii</b>	<b>250-2654</b>
<i>lpoccii@cabq.gov</i>	
Sergeant G. Webber	263-3799
<i>gweber@cabq.gov</i>	
Sergeant M. Norris	503-0632
<i>mnorris@cabq.gov</i>	
Sergeant T. Sierra	270-6739
<i>tsierra@cabq.gov</i>	
<b>Watch 2:Lt. T.Espinosa</b>	<b>553-2269</b>
<i>tespinosa@cabq.gov</i>	
Sergeant M. Grossetete	553-2269
<i>mgrossetete@cabq.gov</i>	
Sergeant R. Hilger	554-9782
<i>rhilger@cabq.gov</i>	
Sergeant T. Chambers	503-9730
<i>tchambers@cabq.gov</i>	
<b>Watch 3: Lt. S Altman</b>	<b>659-7385</b>
<i>saltman@cabq.gov</i>	
Sergeant R. Ingram	508-9212
<i>scasaus@cabq.gov</i>	
Sergeant P. Judd	503-9417
<i>pjudd@cabq.gov</i>	
Sergeant F. Garcia	205-5688
<i>felipegarcia@cabq.gov</i>	
<b>NW Impact Team</b>	
Sergeant D. Tafoya	697-7534
<i>dennistafoya@cabq.gov</i>	

## Crime Prevention Specialists Corner

### How to Avoid Warm-Up Theft This Winter

As temperatures drop in the winter, drivers may be tempted to stay inside and keep warm while they wait for their cars to warm up.

However, car owners may want to think twice before they leave their cars running, unlocked and unattended.

Car thieves are on the lookout for these vehicles warming up in driveways.

**Here are some tips from to avoid becoming a victim of warm-up thefts:**

- Never leave your vehicle running or leave the keys in the

ignition when the vehicle isn't within eyesight. Not even for "just a minute."

- Keep your valuables such as purses, credit cards and cell phones out of sight or in the trunk.
- Roll up the windows and lock the car.
- Do not leave the registration or title in the car. This makes it easier for thieves to dispose of your vehicle and it also makes you a target for identity theft.
- Stay alert when approaching the vehicle. Check around the car for thieves and suspicious persons. Leave as soon as you are concerned for your safety.
- Park your car in busy areas that are properly lighted.
- Install a mechanical locking device that locks to the steering wheel, column or brake. These devices are known as clubs,

collars or j-bars.

Use alarms or anti-theft devices if your vehicle has one.

**Pete Gelabert**

**768-4873**

**Cell: 803-2982**



# Starting a Neighborhood Watch

The following steps show how to start a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood.

- You or a neighbor decides to host an initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- Whoever is going to host the meeting calls the APD Crime Prevention Office at 924-3600 to provide their name, address and phone number. After making the call, the Crime Prevention Office will send a "starter packet" that will include, among other items, a form to collect information from your neighbors.
- The host or designee goes up and down the block contacting the neighbors and recording their name, address and phone number on the form.
- The host then sends the completed list back to the Crime Prevention Office in the self-addressed envelope provided in the starter packet.
- After the CP Office receives the list from the interested party, a Crime Prevention Specialist, Pete Gelabert will contact the host to set up a date and time for the Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- At the meeting, the host provides chairs and simple refreshments.
- The Crime Prevention Specialist, Pete Gelabert will conduct the meeting and towards the end, facilitate the group's selection of a Block Captain who will function as the neighborhood leader and will serve as a contact person for the Albuquerque Police Department.
- The Block Captain is responsible for contacting new neighbors and for providing updated information to the Crime Prevention Office (Block Captain Replacement, etc).
- The block is now organized and may collectively purchase Neighborhoods Organized Against Crime (NOAC) Street Signs. The signs may be ordered (by the Block Captain only) through the Crime Prevention Office. The Block Captain may also join the Albuquerque Block Captains Association (ABC). The block can also officially participate in the annual National Night Out celebration held the first Tuesday of August each year.

Crime Prevention Specialist, Pete Gelabert will give information on how to secure your home, home security tips and how to secure your vehicle, auto burglary tips. Items burglars are taking from homes and vehicles. Crime trends and patterns in the NW Area Command. What time of day the burglars are committing the home burglaries and auto burglaries.

