



Northwest Area Command Commander Sanchez Corner

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I hope that everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and that you were able to spend time with friends and family. I would first like to start by thanking everyone one of you for the support you have provided me and my staff. We are very blessed to have such a good area command that supports the officers.



I also want to let you know that I will be retiring on December 18, 2021. I began my career with the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) in January of 2001. During my career with APD I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in different areas of the Department. I attended numerous trainings, such as the FBI National Academy (FBINA), and other leadership schools. I moved through the ranks up to the rank of commander. Those opportunities only came to me because of the support our community has had for the officers and the Department believing in me enough to allow me those opportunities. I will always remember, and be most thankful for, the friendships I made during my career. The officers who are so dedicated and committed to this community, who are also very dedicated to ensuring we are providing the services that you deserve. Although we are facing some challenges in our City, there is no question that these officers will continue to be committed to making this community safer. I will now join you in that same mission, as a civilian. I am currently assisting the new commander, David Saladin, who will be taking over the Northwest Area Command and introducing himself in the next newsletter. I will tell you that you are in very good hands, as I have known him for many years. Please continue to provide him the same support you did to me.

Now I will go over a few items from this last month for the area command. We continue to see an increase in violent crimes, particularly in robberies. Our property crimes, however, continue to drop! With that being said, the shopping season for the holidays is starting. This means that we may see an increase in more criminal activity. Please look at our crime prevention safety tips on page 3. As always I would like to encourage everyone to take part in the Community Policing Council (CPC) and your neighborhood associations. Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or information that can help us improve the safety in our community.

Again, I would like to thank you all and please stay safe. Have a Happy Holidays!





**NORTHWEST AREA COMMAND WATCH I
VACANT**



In November we saw the beginning of cold weather and the return of typical cold-weather crimes, such as the stealing of vehicles left unattended warming up. We also saw the beginning of the Christmas shopping season, starting with Black Friday the day after Thanksgiving. Northwest Graveyard shift officers kept a careful watch over the early hours of Black Friday in the Cottonwood shopping area, which went smoothly. And after seeing an uptick in burglaries to commercial businesses in the past month, we have also stepped up our watch over certain stores in the area that have been hit more than once during the nighttime hours. Northwest Graveyard officers continued our Problem-Oriented Policing project in Sector 62, using increased patrols and periodic watches on frequently-targeted areas to reduce property crimes.

**NORTHWEST AREA COMMAND WATCH II
LT. Amy Sedler**

There have been a few changes for the northwest substation during the month of November. I will be transferring to day shift as the Watch II watch commander for the northwest. Sergeant Christopher Romero will be upgraded to acting Lieutenant for swing shift hours. During this month and as we continue towards the Holiday season Northwest swing shift officers will direct their proactive activity on local businesses in the northwest area command. These businesses will primarily involve the Cottonwood area but will venture out as needs arise. Criminals often times look for crimes of opportunity; with the help of local residents we can deter such incidents. Remember to lock your vehicle doors, don't leave holiday packages or purses in your vehicle where visible, park in well-lit areas, and stay aware of your surroundings. If you "see something, say something". Being a good witness can assist police in capturing criminals but also provide you safety without getting involved. Please, stay safe and we look forward to serving you.

**NORTHWEST AREA COMMAND WATCH III
ACTING LT. CHRISTOPHER ROMERO**

Happy Holidays! The Northwest Area Command continues to work diligently at deterring crime during the holiday season. I am excited to announce we started our Holiday Operational plan. Violent crimes and thefts increase during the holiday season. To deter robberies and other related violent and property crimes from occurring during the holiday season the northwest area command will bring additional officers and detectives into the area to deter and apprehend criminals. Criminals often times look for crimes of opportunity; with the help of local residents we can deter such incidents. Remember to lock your vehicle doors, don't leave holiday packages or purses in your vehicle where visible, park in well-lit areas, and stay aware of your surroundings. If you "see something, say something". Being a good witness can assist police in capturing criminals but also provide you safety without getting involved. Please, stay safe and we look forward to serving you.



Northwest Area Command Crime Prevention Corner



Pete Gelabert,
NW Crime Prevention
Specialist
pgelabert@cabq.gov
Office 505-768-4873
Mobile 505-803-2982



Holiday Crime Prevention Tips While Shopping

- While out and about, present an alert appearance. Be aware of your surroundings; scan the area from time to time. Avoid focusing so much on shopping that you fail to keep track of your surroundings, others near you, or your personal property.
- Simply securing your automobile can significantly reduce your risk of becoming a victim.
- Park in visible and lighted locations. Most criminals who steal from vehicles are easily deterred by people viewing their activities. When selecting a parking spot, determine how many opportunities exist for others to see it. If the parking spot is highly visible in a high traffic area, the chances of becoming a victim are significantly reduced.
- Plan your shopping/errands so that you don't load your trunk until you are ready to drive to another destination.
- Try to avoid leaving packages or shopping bags visible in your car by locking them in the trunk out of sight if you have to leave packages in your car unattended. Locking everything valuable in the trunk may be difficult when you're combining errands at multiple destinations. "Out of sight, out of mind" is often effective. If items cannot be hidden within the vehicle, the next best option is to remove them completely.
- When returning to your vehicle, carry your keys in your hand and be ready to unlock the door and enter as quickly as possible. As you approach your vehicle, scan the area, glance around the vehicle, and take a quick look inside before entering.
- When you return to your vehicle, scan the interior of your car to be sure no one is hiding inside. Check to see if you are being followed. If you suspect someone following you, report it to the Albuquerque Police Department at 242-COPS (2677).
- Don't resist if someone tries to take any of your belongings. Don't chase someone who robs you, they may have a weapon. Instead call 911.
- If you go to an automatic teller machine for cash, check for people around and make sure it is well lit and in a safe location.



Northwest Area Command Crime Prevention Corner



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How to Start A Neighborhood Watch

ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION, NW AREA COMMAND

1. You or a neighbor decides to host an initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
2. Whoever is going to host the meeting calls Pete Gelabert, NW Area Command Crime Prevention Specialist at, 505-768-4873, and or E mail Pete at pgelabert@cabq.gov, to provide their name, address and telephone number. Pete Gelabert will send a starter packet to you.
3. The host or designee goes up and down the block contacting the neighbors and recording their name, address and phone number on the form.
4. The host then sends the completed neighborhood list back to Pete Gelabert, Crime Prevention Specialist..
5. Crime Prevention Specialist, Pete Gelabert will contact the host to set up a date and time for the Neighborhood Watch meeting.
6. At the meeting, the host provides chairs and simple refreshments.
7. The Crime Prevention Specialist 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.
8. The Block Captain is responsible for contacting new neighbors and for providing updated information to the Crime Prevention Office (Block Captain replacement, etc.).
10. 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 (ABCA). The block can also officially participate in the annual National Night Out celebration held the first Tuesday of August each year.



Northwest Area Command Community Policing Council Corner



Council Acting Chair:

Jeff Miller E mail north-westcpc@cabq.gov

Other Members:

- Karen Schwartz
- Racheal Donovan
- Dr. Stephanie Coleman Mack
- Tom Borst

Don Newton - Taylor Ranch Community Center
4900 Kachina NW
and or

CPC (zoom) meeting ,
3rd Wednesday of
every month. Link.
https://cabq.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZH3iX6nRSOmGbBA

Council Goals

The goal of each Community Policing Council is to engage in candid, detailed and meaningful dialogue between Albuquerque Police and the citizens they serve. Councils are independent from the City and Department. They are encouraged to formally recommend changes to Albuquerque Police Department policies and procedures. They are also asked to make recommendations and identify concerns, problems, successes and opportunities within each area command and for the department as a whole.

Council Membership

Each of the six Community Policing Councils is composed of members from the community and voting members. Voting members must reside within or have businesses within the boundaries of their area command.

All attendees (members) are encouraged to submit recommendations, provide input concerning recommendations, ask questions and submit topics for discussion.

The zoom meeting link is;

https://cabq.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZH3iX6nRSOmGbBA

E-mail contact information for the CPC Board is;

NorthwestCPC@cabq.gov.



Northwest Area Command Community Outreach Corner



Outreach:

APD'S COAST Outreach (Crisis Outreach and Support Team):

The COAST team continues to work with the West Side Homeless shelter, service providers and Field Officers to ensure that the homeless and most vulnerable are being offered shelter and resources. Service providers are continuing to do homeless outreach throughout the City.

Cop on the Corner Event:

The Albuquerque Police Department launched a new program called "Cop on the Corner" to help build relationships with the communities where officers patrol. The program will give people the opportunity to attend police field briefings where they can interact with the officers assigned to their neighborhoods. The day shift officers and swing shift officers held briefings at two neighborhood parks.

The day shift briefing was held on November 17, 2021 at 7:00am. The briefing was held at the Mariposa Basin Park, in the Taylor Ranch neighborhood.

The swing shift briefing was held on November 17, 2021 at 2:30pm. The briefing was held at the Ventana Ranch Park, in the Ventana neighborhood.

Business Coalition meetings:

We have three community business locations. The Westside area businesses, Riverside area businesses and the Cottonwood area businesses. We are working with the businesses to identify and reduce criminal activity. In the meetings we will identify the business stakeholders that will be involved, concerns on any type of criminal activity. We will talk about resources that can be used to deter and reduce criminal activity and provide crime prevention training, business security assessments and educate the businesses concerning property crimes.

Crime Prevention:

Establish neighborhood watch programs in the NW Area Command. A block captain will be assigned and function as the neighborhood leader. Each neighborhood watch block captain will have a police officer assigned to them.

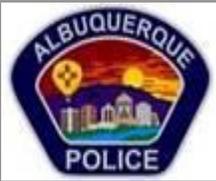
ADAPT Program (Abandoned & Dilapidated Abatement Property Team):

The program identifies and addresses abandoned and/or dilapidated properties that become public nuisance because they have a pattern of calls for service, serious criminal activity or because they pose a public safety threat. The goal is to work with property owners to increase the health, safety, and welfare of the buildings and the community. Making our community a safe environment for us to enjoy. Through community policing we will reduce crime and increase quality of life in the area.

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Northwest Area Command Problem Response Team Corner



The Northwest Problem Response Team is constantly working to build positive relationships with the community through community outreach, tac plans with local businesses, and events with youth centers and schools.

The PRT currently includes Officer Brandon Forsberg, Officer Sean Morper, Officer Patrick Garcia, and is supervised by Sergeant George Gabaldon. Sergeant Gabaldon has been with the Albuquerque Police Department since June of 2004 and has served in the Field Services Bureau, Open Space Unit, General Crimes Investigations, the Downtown Community Policing Unit and now is the Sergeant for NW PRT.

NW PRT is frequently involved in neighborhood and community meetings to help better understand what the public's concerns are and bridge the gap between the public and law enforcement. NW PRT also coordinates with schools in the NW Area Command to help create a positive relationship between Albuquerque's youth and the police.

During the month of November, NW PRT conducted a property crimes operation in the West Bluff Shopping Center located at 2800 Coors Blvd NW. The operation resulted in the arrest of a serial shoplifter who had been repeatedly stealing from The Home Depot daily for several weeks. The suspect led officers on a short foot chase after fleeing from the vehicle he was driving. A search warrant on the suspect's vehicle was executed and the stolen property was recovered. It was determined the recovered property belonged to The Home Depot. A loaded handgun was also found inside the car and in the immediate area of where the suspect was sitting before fleeing on foot. The suspect was found to be a convicted felon and an arrest warrant for felon in possession of a firearm is being issued. NW PRT officers are working closely with asset protection from The Home Depot to consolidate all the previous cases involving our suspect so they can move forward with submitting a case to the DA's office.

In the month of December, NW PRT will be increasing patrol efforts in the all major retail areas to help reduce crime and make it safer for Holiday Shopping.

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December 2021



**Cop on the Corner November 17, 2021
Mariposa Basin Park and Ventana Ranch Park**



Northwest Area Command December Calendar of Events Corner

◀ Dec 2021	December 2021						Dec 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 6:30pm Westside Coalition (zoom) meeting 1st Wednesday of every month	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 9am Santa Fe Village Neighborhood Patrol Training at the NW Area Command. 3pm Ladera West N.A. annual meeting at the Ladera Golf Course cafe	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31	30	
							