

Subject: TPD Patrol Division East Newsletter - February 2026
From: "Tucson Police Department" <tucsonpolicedepartment@public.govdelivery.com>
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TPD Patrol Newsletter

East



Captain Matthew Brady
Operations Division East

February 2026

Community Response Team Working to Reduce Gun Violence

In January, one of our Community Response Teams (CRTs) had two impressive stops that resulted in arrests of individuals involved in felonious activity while in possession of handguns and narcotics.

Our CRT officers were working in the area of 29th and Craycroft when they contacted a suspicious vehicle occupied by two individuals. Officers were able to articulate probable cause for a search of the vehicle.

During the search, officers located two pistols – one with an extended magazine – approximately 2.5 pounds of methamphetamine, 20 grams of cocaine, and 6 grams of fentanyl. Both vehicle occupants were arrested for drug sales, and the driver was identified as a prohibited possessor.

Earlier in the month, CRT made another stop where they recovered 360 fentanyl pills, 4 grams of methamphetamine, and 9 grams of crack. The driver of that vehicle also had a handgun concealed on their person. The driver was arrested on numerous narcotics and weapons related charges.

*ODE CRTs are committed to making our community safer.
In 2025, ODE's two CRT units seized 110 guns.*

DUI and Child Abuse Arrest

Officers from ODE were on the scene of a collision where a vehicle had crashed into a residence. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence. While investigating that collision, another individual arrived on scene in a vehicle looking for the first driver.

When officers contacted the second driver, they noticed signs of impairment. The second driver was also driving under the influence (DUI). To make matters worse, the second driver had two children in the car.

The second driver was arrested on two counts of child abuse and will be facing aggravated DUI charges as well.

Driving under the influence is 100% preventable. If you drink, don't drive!

New Year, New Faces in ODE

The new year brought two new commanders to Operations Division East. Lieutenants Alfredo Mesa and David Fritsch both joined the team in January. They are replacing Lieutenants Jesse Chamberlain and Jason Bredehoft. We would like to thank both Lieutenant Chamberlain and Lieutenant Bredehoft for their dedication and service to Operations Division East and wish them well in their new assignments.

Lieutenant Alfredo Mesa



Lieutenant Alfredo Mesa has served with the Tucson Police Department since July 2007. He began his career in Operations Division South, working in both the Zebra and Bravo Squads. During his time in ODS, he served as a General Instructor and Field Training Officer. Lieutenant Mesa was later assigned to the Gang Tactical Unit before being promoted to sergeant in November 2015.

In that role, he worked multiple assignments, including Operations Division West patrol, Counter Narcotics Alliance, Office of Professional Standards, and the

Criminal Investigations Division.

Lieutenant Mesa is the father of two teenagers and enjoys coaching football and watching sports. He looks forward to serving the community members of Operations Division East.

Lieutenant David Fritsch



Lieutenant David Fritsch was hired by the Tucson Police Department in 2012 and graduated from SALETC Class 12-3. He began his career assigned to Operations Division Downtown (now part of Operations Division West) before earning positions in the DUI Squad and the Motors Unit. During his tenure as an officer, he served in a variety of roles, including Field Training Officer, Driving Instructor, and DUI Instructor, and was responsible for teaching traffic-related courses at the academy. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2022 and served in Operations Division South, the

Public Information Office, and the Office of Professional Standards.

Lieutenant Fritsch earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Grand Valley State University. Originally from Michigan, he has called Tucson home since 2012. Outside work, he keeps active through cycling, golf, and hockey. As an Eastside resident, Lieutenant Fritsch is proud to serve in Operations Division East

alongside the men and women of ODE.

ODE Statistics

Activity

Type	2026 Division Year to Date	2026 Department Year to Date
Calls for Service	2,003	8,405
Officer-initiated Activity	859	4,790
Gun-related Crime	2	18
Homicide	1	5
Traffic Citations	820	6,273

Staffing

Type	2026 Division Year to Date	2026 Department Year to Date
Sworn Members	105	826
Community Service Officers	26	133
Professional Staff Investigators	3	31
Professional Staff	2	247

Supporting Special Olympics





The Special Olympics are an amazing event where individuals with talent and drive get to demonstrate unbelievable feats of courage and determination. The Special Olympics are truly one of the most rewarding events to volunteer for and attend.

ODE is dedicated to supporting Special Olympics in several ways. This month, current and former staff from ODE participated in the “Polar Plunge” to support athletes with special needs. BRRR! The event, hosted by the Special Olympics Arizona Coronado group, has been a community tradition for over 20 years and included eight participating teams.

The Highland Vista community pool was generously donated for use, and the athletes were so excited that TPD was there that participants jumped in twice! This year’s event raised \$12,100 in support of Special Olympics athletes. ODE is proud to continue supporting this event and the athletes who inspire our community.

Member Highlight



Officer Raeya Miller has served the Tucson Police Department since Sept 2019. Throughout her tenure, she has shown superlative dedication to professional and thorough investigations. She takes pride in treating everyone with the highest degree of respect, empathy, and compassion.

Officer Miller consistently goes above and beyond in responding to calls for service, often having one of the highest number of cleared calls in ODE. More importantly, each investigation is taken to its conclusion, as Officer Miller values complete and thorough

investigations. Recently, Officer Miller completed search warrant training for patrol officers, resulting in her becoming an invaluable asset for patrol and detective units, as she obtains search warrants before investigative units arrive.

In 2023, Officer Miller completed Field Training Officer School, training nine officers since then. As an FTO, Officer Miller works tirelessly to instill the same high level of investigative standards and service-oriented policing in all officers she trains.

As a result of a 2025 call for service, Officer Miller has been nominated for the Lifesaving Medal. Responding to a call, she found a victim who had been shot and sustained severe injuries to both legs. Officer Miller took quick and decisive action, applying bilateral tourniquets and saving the victim’s life.

Officer Miller hopes to be promoted to sergeant within the next five years, viewing it as an opportunity to further develop younger officers. In this regard, Officer Miller represents the very best of the Tucson Police Department and its commitment to our community.

Crime Prevention Tip



Keep unused prescription meds out of the landfill and out of harm's reach. Pima County's [Dispose-A-Med](#) program provides several secure drop-off locations for



program provides several secure drop-off locations for unused medication.

Many cases of opioid addiction begin with a prescription, either to the person who later becomes addicted, or to a family member or friend, when pills are shared or stolen. Safely disposing of unused pills reduces temptation, helping to keep family and friends safe.

Join the Tucson Police Department



Know someone who cares about Tucson and would be a good fit for TPD and Operations Division East?

Send them this QR code and encourage them to apply!

Links

[Graffiti Removal](#)

[TPD Non-Emergency Online Reporting System](#)

[Report a Code Violation](#) (weeds, trash, junked vehicles, building or sign violations)

[Report a Homeless Encampment](#)

[File a Trespass Letter](#) (for businesses)

[TPD Website](#)

For emergencies: call 911

For police non-emergencies: call (520) 791-4444

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance.

Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipació.

