

Subject: TPD Patrol Division East Newsletter - December 2023

From: "Tucson Police Department" <tucsonpolicedepartment@public.govdelivery.com>

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TPD Patrol Newsletter

East

December 2023

**Captain James Wakefield
Operations Division East**

Member Highlight

On November 8th, officers responded to an elementary school located in Operations Division East (ODE). Several staff members at the school called 911 to report that a male with a backpack had jumped the fence into the playground. The male claimed to have a bomb in the backpack. At the time of the incident, several hundred students and staff members were on the playground and in grave danger. The bomber began chasing students while threatening to detonate the device. Staff members acted quickly and physically put themselves between the bomber and students. The bomber informed those staff members that he was going to hold them hostage and detonate the bomb. Other staff members quickly moved students into the building and initiated a hard lockdown, restricting the bomber's access to additional victims.

Without hesitation and consistent with their active attacker training, Officers Sean Cleary, Katherine Hofmann, Nicholas Oliver, and Brian Trevino from ODE responded to the school, arriving within minutes. Officers located the bomber still on the school grounds and near two portable classrooms. Without regard for their own personal safety, officers immediately engaged the bomber from a dangerously close position. According to the Joint Counter Terrorism Guide, the severe injury and death radius of a pipe bomb or pressure cooker bomb is 70 feet, or a quarter of a football field. The officers were well within this distance.

The initial responding officers were unable to deploy lethal force because staff

members were standing in close proximity to the bomber. Officers were able to direct staff away from the bomber and directed him to place the backpack on the ground or they would use lethal force. A short time later, Sergeant David Ortiz arrived on scene and took incident command. He formulated a plan and directed officers' actions to work toward a resolution. Additional officers, some of whom were not assigned to ODE, heard the call for service and began arriving to assist with hostage negotiations, long gun support, and leadership to oversee the crisis response team. These were Officers Jason Barton, Andrew Fedor, Nikolas McCarthy, Vincent Sullivan, and Jacob Valenzuela, and Sergeants Jason Bredehoft and Richard Legarra.

Within 16 minutes of the first officers arriving on scene, the suspect surrendered and was taken into custody. Under Sergeant Ortiz' leadership, the focus shifted from engaging the suspect to evacuating the school and searching for secondary devices that may have been left by the bomber. In less than an hour, 244 students and 35 staff members were evacuated and transported to a nearby high school to be reunited with their parents.

No additional devices were located and TPD's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team rendered the suspected bomb safe.

Street Racing Update



In November, ODE continued to work on the problem of street racing, car meetups, and street takeovers. We've conducted several deployments during 2023 and increased our efforts following a Ward 4 Street Racing Town Hall in October. We'll continue this focus moving into 2024, but we wanted to highlight our enforcement actions during street racing/takeover deployments for the year so far.

- Traffic stops—376
- Speeding citations—168
- Verbal/Written warnings—83

- Racing—23
- Vehicle impounds—23
- DUI (felony)—4
- DUI (misdemeanor)—2
- Other civil violations—59
- Felony warrants—2
- Guns recovered—3

ODE Statistics

Activity

Type	2023 Division Year to Date	2023 Department Year to Date
Calls for Service	37,568	165,380
Officer-initiated Activity	19,792	86,812
Gun-related Crime	316	1,745
Homicide	4	56
Traffic Citations	1,943	25,509

Staffing

Type	2023 Division Year to Date	2023 Department Year to Date
Sworn Members	105	805
Community Service Officers	26	143
Professional Staff	2	230

ODE in the Community

ODE members participated in eight community events in November, including the Annual Holiday Share Event at Palo Verde High School on November 18th.



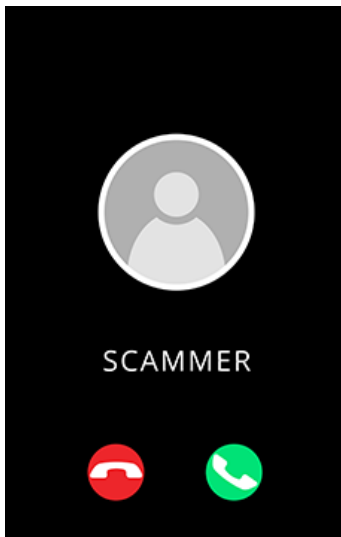


At the food giveaway at Palo Verde High School.



TPD members at the food giveaway - giving back feels great!

Crime Prevention Tip



This time of year, many charities solicit donations. Scammers know this, and may try to take advantage of your goodwill.

Here are some red flags, indicating a scam:

- They pressure you to give right away.
- They want you to donate via cash, cryptocurrency, gift cards, or wire transfer.

Instead of giving over the phone, tell callers to send you information in the mail. Then do an internet search for the charity. Using contact info from their website, call them and ask about their fundraising efforts. Sometimes scammers impersonate a real charity, so verify the



mailing address to send a check to, or the web address to make a donation online.

The Federal Trade Commission has information on charity and other scams on their website, [here](#).

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 anticipación.



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