

# UNIVERSITY AREA COMMAND

November, 2024 / Vol. 6

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## Commanders Corner:

### November News Letter

With winter coming our way the University Area Command is seeing significant reductions in almost all crime categories. Officers in the University Area Command continue to work hard in the community to apprehend those who choose to victimize.

An example of this was highlighted in a property crime case on September 23, 2024 at CNM Main Campus. An individual broke into a construction trailer and stole several thousands of dollars' worth of construction tools. University Area Command officers responded to the scene and conducted a thorough investigation into the incident. Surveillance camera footage was obtained and the investigative package was forwarded to Albuquerque Police Department detectives with the Burglary Unit. Burglary detectives received the case and began looking into the incident to determine the perpetrators. Through investigative processes the Burglary detectives were able to positively identify two individuals who committed the commercial burglary. Two no-bond hold warrants were issued for the perpetrators of the incident.

I am confident these two individuals were responsible for other property related crimes throughout the city and their apprehension will reduce overall crime rates while they are in custody.

The University Area Command will begin the process of creating its own Civilian Police Counsel (CPC). The University Area Command CPC is a way for community members, living in the University Area Command, to participate in the policy creation and renewal process. If you are interested in becoming a CPC member please call the University Substation at (505) 768-4994 or email Paula Mondragon at e51028@cabq.gov.

As always it is an honor to serve the City of Albuquerque and the University Area Command. Thank you, Ray



~ Commander Ray Del Greco





# Message from Chief Medina



Hello Albuquerque! I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather and gearing up for the holiday season.

I'd like to start off by sending a big thank you to all of our officers who have stepped up to the plate the last few months assisting with many events like the State Fair, Balloon Fiesta, protests and political rallies. There has been a lot going on in our community and it's the support from our officers that allow these events to run smoothly, and I truly appreciate each and every one of you.

I'd like to make the community aware of operations our department has conducted along the Central corridor in regards to open-air drug use and the trafficking of Fentanyl in the area. Over a two-day period, officers arrested 109 people who were using or selling Fentanyl.

In total, the operation resulted in the following:

- 147 on site generated calls
- 109 total arrests and warrants cleared
- 1 firearm recovered
- 10 traffic citations



We recently hosted a Domestic Violence Awareness seminar in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month.

We encourage anyone in need of assistance or who may be looking for resources to contact the Family Advocacy Center at (505)-243-2333 or APD's Victims Assistance Unit at (505)924-6059 or via email at [vau.cabq.gov](mailto:vau.cabq.gov).

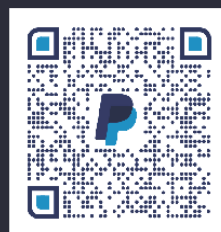
Lastly, as we gear up for the holidays, we are preparing for our 30th annual Cops for Kids event providing a special day to underprivileged children in our community.

If you have the means and are willing to donate to this great cause, use the QR code here, or visit [Crimestoppersnm.com](http://Crimestoppersnm.com), hit the **DONATE** button and select "Cops for Kids". Every cent counts! We appreciate your support!



-Chief Harold Medina

Thank you, and stay safe Albuquerque!



DISPATCHED IN THE PINK! SUPPORT THIS YEAR'S FIGHT! YOU CAN DONATE AT [CRIMESTOPPERSNM.COM](http://CRIMESTOPPERSNM.COM) AND HIT THE DONATE BUTTON, THEN SELECT COPS FOR KIDS.





**DONATE TODAY!** 30th Annual COPS FOR KIDS

INTERESTED IN HELPING SUPPORT THIS YEAR'S EVENT? YOU CAN DONATE AT [CRIMESTOPPERSNM.COM](http://CRIMESTOPPERSNM.COM) AND HIT THE DONATE BUTTON, THEN SELECT COPS FOR KIDS.



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# 4TH ANNUAL BENNIE HARGROVE GIVING TREE



The Bennie Hargrove Giving Tree started in 2021 and it's our way of helping give back to families who have been victim to violent crimes. The giving tree honors Bennie Hargrove, a young brave boy who was taken too soon. Bennie was the victim of a fatal shooting at Washington Middle School while defending his classmate. We ask the detectives at CID to each nominate one family that they believe could really benefit from some extra love and support during a hard holiday season. 10 families will be selected which includes the immediate family that often at times can be multiple kids within the home, all 18 years old or younger. We will be hosting an event for the chosen families to come out to and enjoy food, games, gifts, specialized units and Santa of course! If you'd also like to show support. We would like to keep it easy with gift cards: Walmart, Smith's, Amazon, Target, Visa or food gift cards or entertainment. No cash will be accepted.

★ Your donation can be arranged for pickup:

Brittany Martinez 505-761-8805

or Jazerai Gallegos 505-924-3376

The deadline for all donations will be December 6th that way we ensure we have enough time to organize!



## **Holiday Safety Tips**

### **Tip #1: The holidays are a great time to get to know your neighbors**

If you have not already done so, the holiday season is a great time to get to know your neighbors. This includes the people who live next door, across the street and over the back fence. Neighbors watching out for neighbors help keep an eye out for suspicious activity and make communities safer.

### **Tip #2: Let someone you trust know when you're traveling during the holidays**

Inform someone who's trustworthy where you will be and when you might be expected back to your residence. Ask a neighbor or other dependable persons to watch your house and retrieve your newspapers and mail if possible.

### **Tip #3: Parking Lot Safety Tips for Holiday Shoppers**

Lock your vehicle and hide valuables, preferably in the trunk or locked compartment. Before sunrise and after sunset, park and walk in well-lit areas and carry keys in your hand. Stay alert to your surroundings and take a moment to glance around for possible suspicious persons, vehicles, and/or situations. Prior to getting into your vehicle take a look inside and around before entering. If you observe evidence of a possible burglary, call your local law enforcement agency. For APD, call 242-COPS (2677)

### **Tip #4: When you're out shopping for the holidays, stay alert to surroundings**

When in crowded places, be alert for potential thieves. Don't overload yourself with packages. Maintain visibility and mobility to avoid potential threats. Be wary of strangers approaching you for any reason. The holiday season is notorious for "con-artists" who may attempt to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings. When possible, avoid wearing expensive jewelry and carrying large amounts of valuables. Never leave personal belongings unattended. As an added precaution, make sure you have a record of all your credit card numbers in a secure place at home.

### **Tip #5: Shop with Friends, there is safety in numbers**

Recognize that there is safety in numbers and arrange to shop with friends and relatives instead of going out alone. Make sure everyone remains vigilant and looks out for each other. When shopping with children, keep a close eye on them at all times. Consider coaching them to go to a store clerk or security guard if they become separated and be sure they know their first and last name so they can advise someone who they are. Give children a contact phone number that they can carry on their person in case they do become lost.

### **Tip #6: Holiday Safety Tips for Online Shoppers**

Online shopping is becoming increasingly popular. The Internet does have risks so it is important to take steps to protect yourself when shopping online. The National Cyber Security Alliance recommends that you make sure you have a security suite (firewall, anti-virus and anti-spyware) installed and updated with the



most current information before shopping online. Also, keep your operating system and Web browser up-to-date. Before you enter your personal and financial information for an online transaction, look for signs that the site is secure. This includes a closed padlock on your Web browser's address bar or a URL address that begins with `https` or `https`. This indicates that the purchase is encrypted or secured. Never use unsecured wireless networks to make an online purchase.

### **Tip #7: More Tips for Shopping Online**

Before providing personal or financial information, check the Web site's privacy policy. Make sure you understand how your information will be stored and used. Never send cash through the mail or use a money-wiring service because you'll have no recourse if something goes wrong. Print and save records of your online transactions, including the product description, price, online receipt, terms of the sale, and copies of any email exchange with the seller. Read your credit card statements as soon as you get them to make sure there are no unauthorized charges. If there is a discrepancy, report it immediately. Before providing personal or financial information, check the Web site's privacy policy. Make sure you understand how your information will be stored and used. Never send cash through the mail or use a money-wiring service because you'll have no recourse if something goes wrong. Print and save records of your online transactions, including the product description, price, online receipt, terms of the sale, and copies of any email exchange with the seller. Read your credit card statements as soon as you get them to make sure there are no unauthorized charges. If there is a discrepancy, report it immediately.

### **Tip #8: Keeping your home safe during the holidays**

Be extra cautious about locking windows, sliders, and doors when leaving for any length of time. We suggest keeping all entrance points into your house secured while you're at home as well. Set indoor and outdoor lights on timers and think about doing the same with a television or radio to make it appear as if someone is home. Never keep gifts or valuable objects in plain view from any window. Close blinds, shutters, drapes, and curtains because if a burglar can see those items they may attempt to take them from you. If a person knocks at your door and you don't recognize them, don't feel obligated to open your door. Teach your children that by no means will they open the door to anyone prior to your knowledge and authorization. It should also be noted that the Washoe County Sheriff's Office has seen cases where criminals have entered homes through doggie-doors or other animal access points.

### **Tip #9: Watching the weather is an important safety factor for Holiday Travelers**

In the Sierra, severe winter weather is a true safety hazard. Stay tuned to weather conditions. Anticipate inclement weather and plan accordingly. Carry chains, keep sufficient gas in the tank and always use extreme caution while driving. Keep an eye out for pedestrians at all times.

### **Tip #10: When celebrating the holidays, celebrate responsibly**

Many people celebrate the season by attending holiday parties with family and friends. Enjoy these gatherings responsibly so this time of joy does not become a time of tragedy. Watch how much you drink. Don't drink then drive, get a ride with someone who is sober. The Sheriff's Office recommends you prearrange transportation if you plan on consuming alcoholic beverages.