



Attacks on police prompt support

July was a deadly month for police nationwide and locally, sparking an outpouring of support from the community for members of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department.

The attacks on police began July 7 when five Dallas police officers were killed by snipers at an otherwise peaceful protest event. The protestors were rallying against officer-involved shootings in other cities. In addition to the five who died, seven other Dallas police officers were wounded. CNN reported it was the deadliest single event for U.S. law enforcement since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Dallas police killed the lone gunman.

Ten days later, July 17, a man from Kansas City traveled to Baton Rouge, La., where he targeted and killed three officers with that city's police department. Threats had come into the Baton Rouge Police since an officer-involved shooting there on July 5. The shooter ultimately was killed in a gun battle with Baton Rouge police. KCPD assisted the FBI with the local investigation into the shooter.

Tragedy came closer to home on July 19, when Kansas City Kansas Police Department Captain Robert "Dave" Melton was shot and killed trying to apprehend drive-by shooting suspects. He was the second police officer killed in the line of duty at KCPD's neighboring department in two months. KCKPD Detective Brad Lancaster was killed in May. KCK Mayor Mark Holland said the shooting was not ambush-style like the other high-profile police attacks, but instead it was a reminder of how dangerous police work can be. KCK police apprehended Captain Melton's shooter shortly after the incident, and he now faces capital murder charges.



This woman brought donuts and bottled water to Central Patrol Division on July 11. She then asked to pray over a group of officers who were meeting.

Through all of this, Kansas City Missouri Police officers have remained faithful to duty. The day after the Dallas police shootings, Chief Darryl Forté sent a message to all department members:

"The events in Dallas last night were horrific," he wrote. "I know the hearts of every member of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department – and the hearts of police around the nation – are very heavy today. In the words of Dallas Police Chief David Brown this morning, 'Our profession is hurting. Dallas officers are hurting. We are heart-broken. Please pray for our strength during this trying time.'"

Chief Forté said the Dallas officers were killed running toward the gunshots.

"That is what police do, and I know our officers would do the same because they have," he wrote. "I am proud of the members of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department. I am proud of their bravery and courage. I am proud of the relationships they have forged with other members of our community. I am proud of the way we work together with the other residents of our city to improve the quality of life for everyone. I am proud of our officers' compassion and judgment. I am proud of their willingness to

learn new and better ways of doing things, to embrace change and to protect and serve their community when faced with more scrutiny and danger than ever before."

After the Baton Rouge shootings, Chief Forté ordered all commanders to

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Blood Center Record

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Upcoming Events

Ford SUV becomes primary patrol vehicle

Nearly five years after the last Ford Crown Victoria rolled off the production line, KCPD has decided to go with other Ford vehicles as their replacements for patrol and administrative work.

From mid-2015 forward, the department will now purchase Ford Police Interceptor models of the Explorer sport utility vehicle for patrol and the Taurus sedan for investigative and administrative uses. Captain Don Sight, commander of the Fleet Operations Unit during the transition, said the choice was made based on feedback from officers, initial cost and ease and cost of maintenance, among other factors.

“One of the main factors was we did a survey, and overwhelmingly the officers liked driving the utility product best,” Captain Sight said. “From an ergonomic and visibility standpoint, and the space inside, and room for gear, the SUV was the most desirable.”

While the sedans have a little less space and are therefore going to be used for detectives and commanders, Captain Sight said they could still be used for patrol in a pinch. Both are pursuit-rated. The SUVs are especially well-suited for the large amount of gear many officers have to carry, particularly those in specialized units like Tactical Enforcement or Canine. And both the Ford vehicles are all-wheel drive, making them well suited for slickened winter streets.

Although it was the workhorse of law enforcement agencies around the country, including KCPD, Ford stopped producing the Crown Victoria in 2011 in part because of increased government standards for fuel efficiency, according to a 2012 interview with Ford’s police fleet marketing manager, Lisa Teed, for the web site Officer.com. The car also had changed very little since it was introduced in 1991, and a major overhaul would be needed to incorporate new technologies, like lighter-weight materials and improved safety standards, Teed said.



The Ford Police Interceptor Sport Utility Vehicle, based on the Ford Explorer platform, has replaced the defunct Ford Crown Victoria as the Kansas City Missouri Police Department’s primary patrol vehicle.

So other car manufacturers saw an opportunity to try to get into the police market. Chevrolet offered Caprice, Malibu and Tahoe models for police, and Dodge issued the Charger. Captain Sight said the Chevrolet products were too high of a cost for KCPD, so about three years ago, the department began purchasing the Ford Police Interceptor SUVs and sedans as well as the Dodge Chargers. (Since 2010, the department has purchased about 40 vehicles per year.)

Those vehicles were then put to the test to see how they would

hold up maintenance-wise, how officers liked them, and how they performed on the streets of Kansas City in all seasons. Captain Sight said the Ford products were the top performers in all categories.

But the Crown Victoria hasn’t gone away. Captain Scott Caron, who took over as the Fleet Operations commander in April, said KCPD still had 358 of them in its fleet, as of the end of the fiscal year May 1. That’s compared to 133 of the Ford Explorers, 57 of the Ford Tauruses and 40 of the Dodge Chargers. Captain Caron said all will be driven until the department can no longer maintain them.

“Ideally we’d replace them every 100,000 miles,” he said.

But fiscal realities mean that 344 vehicles in KCPD’s fleet currently have more than 100,000 miles.

“These guys (in Fleet Operations) do a fantastic job of keeping those things going,” Captain Caron said.

Another smaller fleet transition is happening, as well. Ford also stopped making the Econoline van in 2013. KCPD used those for everything from paddy wagons to Crime Scene Investigations. As those fall out of service, Captain Caron said the department is replacing them with the Ford Transit van.

Blood drive collects record donations

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department’s blood drive for the Community Blood Center at KCPD Headquarters on July 8 brought in a record number of donors. Forty-nine donors contributed 49 units of blood. Three of them were first-time donors. City employees also attended the drive. It was the most blood ever collected at a KCPD blood drive. Mobile blood drives such as KCPD’s comprise more than 70 percent of the Community Blood Center’s supply. The Center needs to collect 580 pints daily to serve hospitals in the Kansas City area.



Community reaches out to KCPD officers

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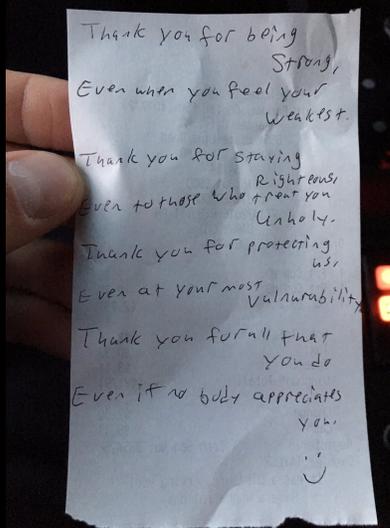
complete a field assignment within three days to show solidarity with and support for the officers working the streets.

Amid all the tragedy, the people of Kansas City came out to show their support in unprecedented ways. Patrol division stations were inundated with baked goods, treats and hand-made thank you cards. A local business owner delivered a catered barbecue lunch to all police stations. One woman brought bottled water and donuts to Central Patrol Division and asked to pray with all the officers who were there. Another young man and his mother visited as many Quik Trip convenience stores as he could around Kansas City, hoping to catch KCPD officers who were there to use the restrooms and present them with thank you cards. Several officers reported finding notes of gratitude under the windshield wipers of their cars.

A group of African-Americans met outside the East Patrol Division at 27th and Prospect every day for 30 days. They were passionate about spreading the message of peace and unity in Kansas City and made it a point to hug and take pictures with as many police officers as possible.

Thousands of people shared their support on social media, too. They recalled stories of when Kansas City Missouri Police helped them. Dozens sent in pictures of their children with KCPD officers, saying the officers were their heroes. A group of children in the Northland set up a lemonade stand to raise money for the family of fallen Captain Melton. Their mother reported on Facebook that they reached their \$1,000 goal in just two days.

Several KCPD officers said they'd never felt so supported by the community before. But given the tragedies that preceded the outpouring of support, Chief Forté cautioned all department members to remain extra vigilant.



Upcoming Events

August 2
National Night Out
Against Crime

August 9
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting

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Officially Speaking

Awards

Life-Saving Award
Officer Kevin Colhour

Meritorious Service Award
Human Resources Specialist Katie
Dumit

Certificate of Commendation
Sergeant Nathan Simecek
Detective John Cooley

Purple Heart
Master Police Officer Donald Hubbard

Retirements

Supervisor Danny Lynn Fields
Officer Bobbie Irvin, Jr.
Human Resources Director Odis
"Nick" Nichols
Detective Jeffrey Mehrer

Obituaries

Communications Specialist
Chrystal Maurer
Retired Officer Johnnie Bentley
Retired Sergeant Earl Davis
Retired Officer William "Bill" Huff
Retired Detective Leroy J. Urban

The mission of the
Kansas City Missouri
Police Department
is to protect and serve
with professionalism,
honor and integrity.