



Police connect with diverse groups

“You don’t know what you don’t know” holds true when attempting to include and be respectful to the many cultures and communities in the Kansas City area.

Officer Kim Shaw-Ellis, KCPD’s Diversity Officer (and a Police Academy instructor), projects passion, humility and inclusion when discussing her role working with the Department of Justice and its local Community Relations Service Specialists (CRS’s). Her relationship with the CRS has opened dialogue and a sense of peace and acceptance between the police department and various minority groups throughout the metro area. She said they have helped bridge a gap that she wasn’t aware existed.

Shaw-Ellis said this partnership was instrumental in bringing a training course to the area called “Engaging and Building Partnerships with Muslim and Sikh Americans.” She was invited to participate in a video produced by CRS to help learn about the Muslim and Sikh communities. Through this course and video production, she gleaned a tremendous amount of knowledge about cultures that she had only understood through media exposure and her brief encounters on the job. She feels both religions are frequently misunderstood.

She plans to expand her knowledge of the Muslim religion, but is currently a bit more versed in the Sikh community. For instance, Shaw-Ellis discovered there are five Sikh articles of faith called Kakkars, or “5Ks.” Shaw-Ellis hopes to enlighten her fellow officers on the importance and significance of these articles of faith when encountering Sikh members in emergency and non-emergency situations. Knowing the items that are traditionally carried by practicing Sikhs will help keep both that person and the officer safer.

These 5Ks reflect Sikhs’ commitment to higher human values and for practicing members, or Khalsa, they are a mandatory part of their faith. They include the Kesh, long uncut hair that demonstrates their acceptance of the natural state of the human body form given by

God, kept tidy under turbans referred to as Keski or Chunni. The Kanga, is a small wooden comb worn at all times, a reminder to keep one’s life in order and “comb” away impure thoughts, also used to comb their hair twice a day. An iron bangle called the Kara is worn on the dominant arm to signify no beginning and no end and reminds them to behave well, keep faith and restrain from wrong doing. The Kaccha, similar to a soldier’s under-shorts, symbolize a high moral character and spiritual freedom. And lastly, the Kirpan, or warrior’s sword, represents a commitment to justice.

Officer Shaw-Ellis says, “The Sikhs are amazing contributors in our community. They have the amazing ability to feed hundreds of people at a moments notice in their temples, or Gurdwaras. If there were a crisis or disaster, the Sikhs would welcome and readily embrace the community’s emergency needs by providing food to all who were hungry.” She was invited speak to a congregation and leaders

at an Olathe, Kan., Gurdwara, which she truly enjoyed. Shaw-Ellis said she immediately felt welcome and safe, and it allowed her to better understand that Sikh and Muslim Americans are strong and supportive members of our community who need law enforcement’s support to also feel safe. Officer Shaw-Ellis hopes KCPD officers can gain a better understanding of these communities in order to provide the best service to those they encounter.

Instrumental in that effort has been her involvement with the DOJ CRS services. The DOJ CRS provides support and mediation during crisis in the community, which played a vital role in helping to calm the



Officer Kim Shaw-Ellis has worked to build relationships with and better understand Kansas City's Sikh community to keep both police and Sikhs safe.

Pgs. 2-3

Hat recalls KCPD's civil defense role
Christmas with KCPD

Pgs. 4-5

Badge marks 145th anniversary
E.O.C. 164 Graduation
50 years for Stivers
Officially Speaking

Pg. 6

Upcoming Events

Continued on p. 6

Hat recalls KCPD's civil defense role

A rare artifact recently acquired by the Kansas City Police Historical Society harkens to a time when everyone in America was on edge.

The family of a local elderly couple – the Maders – found a yellowed hat with the initials “CD” on the front as they helped the couple prepare for an estate sale last spring.

In May 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Civil Defense to coordinate federal, state and local efforts to protect the homeland as World War II spread. Efforts intensified after the Pearl Harbor attack on United States soil on Dec. 7, 1941.

People in Kansas City and elsewhere wanted to help. This led to the creation of the U.S. Citizens Defense Corps in April 1942, which

was within the Office of Civil Defense. Locally designated wardens and various auxiliary emergency workers were the core of the civil defense system, and that's where KCPD entered the picture.

With a large amount of men fighting overseas after the U.S. entered World War II, volunteers were needed at home for public safety and civil defense. The Auxiliary Police force that KCPD implemented during that time was the beginning of today's police reserve program. The Department's 1943 Annual Report states that more than 400 men served on the Auxiliary Police Force that year. It's unclear exactly what authority KCPD had over Civil Defense activities in World War II, but one man clearly remembers his father's participation.

The Civil Defense hat now in possession



The Kansas City Police Historical Society recently acquired a hat likely issued by the department for Civil Defense purposes in World War II. The Society already had a stock of Civil Defense badges. If you know more about the department's participation in Civil Defense, the Historical Society would like to hear from you at kcpshs@kcpd.org.

of the Kansas City Police Historical Society (KCPHS) was found in the garage of John Mader, age 85. Mader remembers his father wearing the hat and a KCPD-issued Civil Defense badge. He also carried a nightstick.

“I remember going to Northeast Junior High School to see my dad march with others,” Mader said. “I was so proud of him in his uniform.”

After initially forcing auxiliary officers to buy their own apparel, the City Council voted in 1944 to purchase uniforms for 270 members of the Auxiliary Police Force, according to the KCPHS. Their uniforms were dark blue.

Mader said his father, Edward G. Mader, sold stocks and bonds by day, but his volunteer job was to ensure everyone turned their lights off during air raid drills. Based

on Mader's description, his father likely served as an air raid warden. Mader remembers a police car pulling up to their house to take his father out for his duties.

Mader's nephew, a retired Independence Police officer, found the hat while helping his uncle clear out his house for an estate sale. That officer is related to KCPD's Officer Jason Cooley, who serves as Community Interaction Officer Coordinator. Officer Cooley knew KCPHS would love to have such an artifact.

KCPHS President Captain Chris Sicoli said the department has had a stock of Civil Defense Auxiliary Officer badges for decades. But this is the first time they've ever seen the hat.

The hat is not yet on display because the Historical Society is looking for more information and stories to go with it. They have some information about the role the Civil Defense forces played when they were reinvigorated during the Cold War and the KCPD Chief was appointed as deputy director in charge of the law and order division of Kansas City's Department of Civil Defense.

If you or someone you know served as a member of the Civil Defense as part of KCPD's auxiliary or reserve force in the 1940s through the 1960s, the Historical Society would like to hear from you. They're looking for pictures, artifacts and stories of those who served in that capacity. Contact them by e-mail at kcpshs@kcpd.org.

Christmas with KCPD

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department hosted numerous Christmas events throughout the city in December, with just a few pictured here. The Police Athletic League's annual Christmas Party featured 120 new bikes for children donated by Academy Sports + Outdoors, as well as numerous other gifts and activities. Central Patrol Division adopted 12 families for the 12 days of Christmas and showered them with gifts and a party. East Patrol brought Santa Claus in on a sleigh. The department also partnered with Hy-Vee and Harvesters to provide 500 free ham dinners to families and distributed them at East Patrol.



Badge marks 145th anniversary

You may see Kansas City Missouri Police officers sporting new badges in the new year, but it's only temporary.

To mark the 145th anniversary of the KCPD, members of the Kansas City Police Historical Society issued commemorative badges that department members could purchase to wear from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2019. Sergeant Dustin Scherer and Retired Investigator Clarence Gibson designed the badge.

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department was founded as a result of the Metropolitan Police Law in 1874. The commemorative badge features several iconic Kansas City landmarks and highlights the KCPD Police Memorial Statue that stands in front of Headquarters.

The badges also will include officers' identifying numbers and ranks,



as well as the Missouri State Seal. Community members should know these are legitimate KCPD badges. Purchase of the badges was voluntary and served as a fund-raiser for the Kansas City Police Historical Society. Therefore, some officers will still wear the standard Department badge in 2019.

When KCPD unveiled the badges on social media, many community members stepped forward asking if they could purchase them for officers who were unable to pay for them out of their own pockets. They are working with the Historical Society to do so.

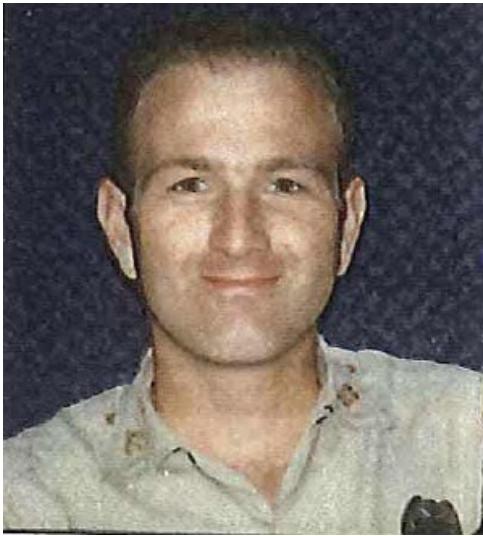
Both retirees and current department members are eligible to purchase the badges, and the Historical Society is still taking orders. For more information and to obtain an order form, e-mail kcpd@kcpd.org.

Entrant Officer Class 164 graduates



Entrant Officer Class 164 graduated Jan. 17 with 32 officers being sworn into the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, and nine sworn into outside agencies. Valedictorian of the class was KCPD Officer Mindy Earle, and the Richard Fletcher Director's Award went to KCPD Officer Jonathan Woods.

Stivers gives 50 years of service to KCPD



Henry Stivers in 1968

In December, Henry Stivers marked 50 continuous years of service with KCPD.

He began his career as a police officer December 16, 1968. After he had to retire (by former state statute) at 30 years of law enforcement service in 1998, he came back to work as a supervisor in our Detention Unit for 14 years. He now serves as an inventory specialist in the Parts Room of the Fleet Operations Unit.

As far as anyone can recall, this is the longest anyone has continuously served at the Kansas City Missouri Police Department. Thank you, Henry, for your dedicated public service to Kansas City!



Henry Stivers in 2019

Officially Speaking

Promotions

To Supervisor
Jeffrey Swanson

To Sergeant
James Armstead
Stephen Berg
Jason Cramblit
Phillip DiMartino
Naomi "Susie" Fabian
Owen Farris
Chris Hayes
Keith Huntington
Timothy Jones
Brock Nelson
Erica Oldham
Lori Prickett
Austin Reiter
Mark Slater

To Captain
James Gottstein
Timon "Tim" Holcomb

To Major
Keith Kirchhoff

25-Year Rings

Detective Barry Berglund
Sergeant William Brown
Officer Jason Cooley
Sergeant Sean Cutburgh
Officer Kevin Gowney
Sergeant Brian Karman
Sergeant Brian Schoen
Sergeant Cynthia Sheldon
Retired Detective Kristin
Strawn
Major Karen True
Sergeant Joseph Weidler
Sergeant Dennis Wycoff

Retirements

Captain Carl Abraham
Officer Gleanice Brown
Officer Daniel Bruckner
Sergeant John Bryant
Officer Richard Burnette, Jr.
Detective Darold Estes
Detective Wayne Fitzner
Sergeant John Frazier
Sergeant James Fuller
Civilian Lyndall Gillespie

Sergeant Eben Hall
Officer Richard Hampton
Detective Lowell Lacy
Supervisor Yvette Leap
Sergeant Anthony Mak
Civilian Jewell McClelland
Admin. Asst. Jean Norton
Admin. Asst. Vickie
Ostermeyer
Officer James "J.P." Payton,
Jr.
Sergeant David Ptomey
Human Resources Spec.
Cheryl Ricks
Sergeant Darrel Rocker
Major Wayne Stewart
Sergeant Bret Whitworth

Obituaries

Ret. Major Joseph Chambers
Ret. Sergeant Ray Crawford
Ret. Civilian Mary Poeta
Ret. Civilian Agnes Smith
Ret. Officer Susan Svoboda

Upcoming Events

February 22
Police Foundation Call for Back Up Dinner

February 28
Metro Patrol Division Open House

March 12
Board of Police Commissioners Meeting

The Informant is a publication of KCPD's Media Unit
(816) 234-5170
www.kcpd.org

unrest in Ferguson, Mo.

Shaw-Ellis encourages both sworn and non-sworn members to learn more about Kansas City's diverse community groups to better understand the citizens they are responding to and accept each other's differences, cultures and beliefs. This is especially important before a crisis occurs. Shaw-Ellis said she wants the community to feel their voices are heard and not to be afraid to come to police in times of need. While police may be doing things for the right reason, it may be culturally inappropriate to a certain group.

Shaw-Ellis said she has come to recognize her own biases through this learning process.

"There are so many valuable members of our community, that unless we get out there and learn

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, cont. from p. 1

about that, it's easy for us to overlook the value the people contribute," she said. "When we start seeing the value, that naturally creates the feeling of respect, which naturally creates the inclusion that follows."

Officer Shaw-Ellis appreciates how Chief Richard Smith values diversity and opened the door for her to create this role, building trust in the community. She wants department members to know she is a resource they can utilize. "Without that trust and that

partnership, we fail," she said. "We have to have humility, be vulnerable and learn with intention, intentionally."

You may view the partnership video here: <https://justice.gov/crs/video/engaging-and-building-partnerships-muslim-and-sikh-americans>

