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SUBJECT: APD

Reporter Newspapers

New Atlanta Police chief lays out crime-fighting plan

By: Collin Kelley

New Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields gave her first press conference Feb. 10 to outline her public safety plan for the city.

Shields said she had been working with colleagues for the last six weeks reviewing critical needs for the city and acknowledged that while crime is down, APD can do better.

“There has been a 27 percent reduction in crime under Mayor [Kasim] Reed,” Shields said, “but when people believe their safety is an issue, data is useless. I think people are tired of hearing data.”

The chief said reduction of violent crime is the department’s number one priority.

Shields said APD would be contacting property owners and managers at a handful of apartment complexes that have some of the most violent crime in the city. She also said the department would be focusing on repeat offenders “who have no ambition in life except to victimize others.”

Shields said repeat offenders are causing most of the crime, and many have 25 to 50 arrests, but gaps in the criminal justice system allow them back on the streets.

“We are going to rein in the relatively small number of repeat offenders doing most of the crime,” she promised.

Another high priority will be working to curb juvenile crime. “The juvenile justice system is not working,” Shields said, noting that five juveniles in the city have more than 100 arrests between them at such early ages.

Shields said young, black males are growing up with nothing in their lives, including absent or disinterested parents, no structure, education and often just hungry for food. That leads to joining gangs and engaging in criminal behavior.

“APD has no desire to lock up young, black men. Too many young, black men have been locked up for no reason, but there has to be a middle ground between locking them up and sending them back to nothing. These kids matter to us.”

She said APD would be working with partners to develop programs to reach out to the top 100 juvenile offenders and steer them away from criminality. One tool will be the new At-Promise Youth Center on the Westside. This 17,000 square-foot facility will be transformed into a state-of-the-art space with specialized services for youth and residents focused on educational advancement, mental health, social/emotional learning and workforce development.

Shields said improving APD’s technology, recruitment and retention of police officers and a new four-year pay plan were also on her vision list for the future.

<http://www.reporternewspapers.net/2017/02/11/new-atlanta-police-chief-lays-crime-fighting-plan/>

SUBJECT: APD

11 Alive

3 injured after accident involving police vehicle in Atlanta

By: Christopher Buchannan

ATLANTA -- Authorities report three injuries after an accident involving a police vehicle in Atlanta, Sunday.

The accident happened near the intersection of Northside Drive and Moores Mill Road NW when police said an Atlanta Police Department vehicle appears to have rear-ended another vehicle believed to be part of the rideshare service Uber.

An officer and two occupants of the other vehicle were taken to Grady Hospital.

Atlanta police said that injuries do not appear to be serious, however officials have not released the cause of the accident. The accident is still under investigation.

<http://www.11alive.com/news/three-injured-after-accident-involving-police-vehicle-in-atlanta/407648777>

SUBJECT: APD

11 Alive

Family demands surveillance video in APD shooting that left suspect dead

By: Ryan Kruger

ATLANTA -- Friends and family of an Atlanta man killed by police are demanding for surveillance video to be released.

DeAundre Phillips was shot and killed last month at the Atlanta police annex off Donald Lee Hollowell when officers said he tried to run over a detective. The family believes their loved one's name is being smeared and say they still haven't received an apology.

Family said they need transparency in this case and, on Saturday, demanded that the Atlanta Police Department release the surveillance video that likely shows the shooting. A few hundred people rallied behind that call to action.

On Jan. 26, 24-year-old Phillips allegedly came to the police annex with a friend to get some documents. According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which has taken over the case, two plain-clothes detectives approached Phillips, believing him to be suspicious. They said they smelled marijuana coming from the car.

Authorities said Phillips got out of the car, then jumped back in and drove off while an Atlanta police detective was still partially stuck in the car. An officer fired and killed Phillips.

Since then, the family has said they haven't received the whole story. Atlanta police have said that Phillips was a known gang member. The GBI is still investigating this case.

<http://www.11alive.com/news/family-demands-surveillance-video-in-apd-shooting-that-left-suspect-dead/407063411>

SUBJECT: APD

WABE

APD Chief Erika Shields: Hiring New Officers A Top Priority

By: Miranda Hawkins

The Atlanta Police Department has almost 150 open jobs right now, and filling those spots is a top priority for the city's new police chief.

Chief Erika Shields says she will focus not only on hiring new officers but maintaining them.

On the drawing board right now: a 4-year plan with incremental pay increases.

"We didn't lose people when people could see how their salary would progress over the years," Shields says. "And that, I don't know when exactly that went to the way side. But I do need to be able to commit to people that if you stay here and you invest in us, we're committed to investing in you."

General Electric is partnering with the department to help with recruiting.

"We have to just figure out a way to market ourselves and re-brand ourselves so that people want to become police first and foremost," she says.

Shields says her goal is to fill those 150 jobs and hire an additional 100 people by the end of the year.

<http://news.wabe.org/post/apd-chief-erika-shields-hiring-new-officers-top-priority>

SUBJECT: APD

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Jailbreak! Atlanta inmates escape, sneak back in

By: Rhonda Cook

Tequila, cell phones, cigars and possibly handguns are just some of the contraband items inmates at a minimum-security prison camp in southeast Atlanta sneaked into the facility after escaping through holes in a fence.

That's according to a federal complaint filed by an FBI agent last week, following an investigation by the Atlanta Police Department after spotting a hole in the camp's fence. The FBI is currently investigating the issue.

The complaint was filed with the federal court in Atlanta last weekend. Consequently, the document was on a federal court website that gives the public access to such records.

The inmates "temporarily escaping from the prison camp" has apparently been ongoing for years.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/crime--law/jailbreak-atlanta-inmates-escape-sneak-back/G17XWRFtFTXU20jYCE8XvN/>

SUBJECT: City Council

Fox 5

Call for changes at intersection a year after teen's death

By: Staff Writer

ATLANTA - A year after the death of a midtown Atlanta teen, a father continues his call for improvements at a busy intersection.

Alexia Hyneman was killed in February 2016 while riding a bike across 10th Street and Monroe Drive.

The Grady High School freshman was leaving school and on her way home when a driver hit her.

Alexia's father Thomas Hyneman and dozens of others met at the intersection on the anniversary of her death Sunday. They said there have been walking signal changes at the intersection but they want more lighting and a buffer between the street and the sidewalk to protect pedestrians and bicyclists.

After the accident last year, a group proposed improvements to the Atlanta City Council. Mayor Kasim Reed pledged money to provide upgrades to the area.

Atlanta Police told FOX 5 the driver who hit Alexia will not face any criminal charges.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/235390683-story>