

Clips: 11-3-16

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SUBJECT: The Mayor

Fox 5

Atlanta Mayor takes responsibility for rise in some crimes

By: Morse Diggs

ATLANTA - It is happening all over: car windows smashed in parking lots, thieves taking over vehicles at gas stations.

There is a tie to rampant property crime, said Mayor Kasim Reed, to a decision he made this past summer.

With a moment of candor, the mayor says, a shift in police resources he ordered to try to tamp down the murder rate resulted in fewer officers being available to tackle property crimes.

That is about to change, he says. Reed says the murder rate has stabilized.

The police force can now concentrate on other crimes. And the redeployment starts this week.

Reed also says he will seek help from state law enforcement to work with the Atlanta Police Department over the coming weeks.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/214959630-story>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Mayor Reed blasts story about his use of emergency signals for travel

By: Ken Foskett

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed lashed out at a local television station for questioning his use of flashing lights and emergency signals to travel around metro Atlanta.

In a story Tuesday, Channel 2 Action News videotaped the mayor's security detail regularly using emergency signals to transport the mayor around town for routine appointments.

State law bars the use of emergency sirens except in cases of actual emergency.

A statement from City Hall called the story "frivolous and irresponsible" and said Channel 2 aired "an inflammatory investigation" in pursuit of ratings.

"In their zeal to create a controversy and drive ratings during their 'sweeps' period, WSB reporters have failed to consider the larger context and clear need to provide for the safety and security of Mayor Reed and his family," the statement said.

The statement said the mayor was under "risks and threats...on a daily basis" and relied on his security detail to keep him out of harm's way.

"With all due respect to WSB, (its) reporters have never been responsible for keeping a national figure and his young family safe in such an unstable and unpredictable atmosphere," the statement said. "Mayor Reed will continue to defer to the judgment of these professionals, rather than the speculation of reporters who clearly have no regard for the safety of Mayor Reed and his family."

<http://www.myajc.com/news/news/local-govt-politics/mayor-reed-blasts-story-about-his-use-of-emergency/ns2yK/>

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SUBJECT: Public Safety

The Signal

Meet Joe Spillane, GSUPD's new chief

By: Sean Keenan

Atlanta Police Department's Deputy Chief Joseph Spillane will soon claim the chief seat of Georgia State's campus police force.

After an extensive, nationwide search for the new chief of Georgia State's police department, Spillane was elected by a committee comprised of university professors, administrators and the school's student body president.

On Nov. 28, Spillane will inherit the throne from Georgia State University Police Department's (GSUPD) interim chief Carlton Mullis, who rose to the role when former-Chief Connie Sampson was demoted following a weed deal-turned-shooting in March.

Mullis said he'll reclaim his spot as a GSUPD deputy chief, and he's confident that Spillane is cut out for the rigors of police work at Georgia State's six campuses.

"I have known and worked with Chief Spillane for most of my 20 years in Atlanta and look forward to helping him prepare the police department for the challenges ahead," he told *The Signal*.

Spillane said he's gearing up to hit the ground running, addressing concerns of student safety by beefing up security and boosting the department's social media presence.

"As soon as I get on-board, I'll be making a Twitter and Instagram page on behalf of the university [police] because I think it's real important that students can know first-hand that maybe 'A student just got robbed over by Woodruff; here's a be-on-lookout for the person that

just robbed that student. Call the police if you see him,” he said, noting that Georgia Tech has implemented a student-involved process to disburse useful info on campus happenings.

“There’s some things going on over at Georgia Tech that I like,” he said of the neighboring school’s digital outreach. “They’ve hired student monitors to watch social media forums and put out safety alerts.”

Still, it’s important to maintain consciousness of what’s pertinent to students and staff with regards to ‘emergencies,’ he said.

“I just want to make sure that we don’t overcompensate and put out an alert every time somebody stubs their toe because then people will stop paying attention to them,” he said.

Spillane also plans to up the police force population of GSUPD, largely because the university will soon claim the former home of the Atlanta Braves, Turner Field – Mullis began recruiting more officers when the Georgia State-Georgia Perimeter College consolidation took effect.

“There will be several developments over there over the next few years,” he said. “As we develop and grow, we need to make sure [the policing system] is adequate to keep everyone safe. I haven’t nailed down the numbers with Dr. [Mark] Becker, but I think we’re going to be looking at adding another 60 to 75 officers...for all campuses as we shift things around.”

This swell of police presence, he said, will take a few years to come to fruition, but he’s eyeing more strategies of Georgia Tech’s police department to develop practices for Georgia State.

Bobby Dodd Stadium, the stomping ground for Tech’s Yellowjacket athletes, uses police oversight to address the field’s interior goings-on while off-duty officers assess the sports complex’s perimeter.

Spillane used to run the off-duty security detail for the Atlanta Falcons and said his experience with stadium protection should come in handy once Georgia State claims The Ted. “If we’re going to be playing ball over there, I think it’s important to have somebody with some knowledge in that arena,” he said.

Spillane said he plans to more frequently address student activity off-campus when Panthers are bombing around places such as Edgewood Avenue and other nearby hangouts because “Georgia

law allows campus police officers jurisdiction within 500 yards of their facilities, so we technically have joint jurisdiction with APD up to 500 yards.”

“You have to evaluate the whole city, and I think they were looking for someone who can work with the Atlanta Police Department very closely to make sure that we’re in constant communication about things happening in and around campus,” he said, adding, “things that happen at Underground Atlanta or Woodruff Park or Broad Street Plaza; all those places affect Georgia State students.”

The security upgrade efforts effected by Mullis late last year — increased surveillance and security after a series of armed robberies in the library — will push forward once his successor, Spillane, takes the reins.

“I haven’t been involved yet, but I’ve been a big proponent of making sure that physical security in buildings is adequate and that you know about everyone who’s coming in and out of those buildings,” Spillane said.

He said when new Georgia State buildings are developed, designers must maintain consciousness of student safety. “Part of the way to design new buildings... is to look at lighting, cameras, door security, and what technology can help you to know who’s on campus at any given time.”

In addition to the few hundred new surveillance cameras scattered about the Atlanta campus and the biometric scanners coming, Spillane said, Georgia State could install “license plate reading technology so you know who’s traversing campus. If you’ve got someone who’s wanted for armed robbery on campus, I want to know about it.”

<http://georgiastatesignal.com/meet-joe-spillane-gsupds-new-chief/>

SUBJECT: APD

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Ex-Atlanta cop gets life in woman's death

By: Steve Burns

A former Atlanta police officer was sentenced Monday to life without parole plus 16 years for fatally shooting a woman in 2014, then dousing her body with gasoline and setting her on fire.

Tahreem Rana was convicted earlier in October of murder, concealing the death of another, arson of land and other charges, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

The body of the victim, 26-year-old Vernecia Woodard, was found by Hapeville police less than a mile from Rana's home, Fulton County District Attorney spokesman Dontaye Carter said.

During the trial, Rana testified he killed Woodard in self-defense, Channel 2 Action News reported. He testified he met Woodard in Hapeville for sex, and she tried to rob and carjack him with his own gun.

However, experts testified that Woodard had wounds in her hand like she was in a defensive mode when she was shot, the station reported.

A few days after Woodard's body was found, Rana was arrested by U.S. Department of Homeland Security agents while awaiting a flight to Mexico, The AJC reported.

<http://www.myajc.com/news/news/crime-law/ex-atlanta-cop-gets-life-in-womans-death/ns2T4/>