

CITY OF DOUGLAS WYOMING

HOME OF THE JACKALOPE.

To: Mayor Kemper & Members of the City Council.
Administrator Jonathan Teichert

From: Todd Byerly
Chief of Police

Date: January 6, 2022

Re: Police Department Report – December

Ben Byler, Chris Voigt, and Kyle Kerr were sworn in by Mayor Kemper on the afternoon of January 3, 2022. This week starts the beginning of their pre-academy which focuses on statutory law, laws of arrest, report writing, interview and interrogation, Taser, use of force, custody and control, firearms, etc. They will be hitting the road with their trainers the week of January 17, 2022. Officer Johnson is in the final phase of his training, and we anticipate he will be released for solo patrol the first part of February.

We are “hurting” for Field Training Officers Therefore Officer Evans has received in-house training as a Field Training Officer. She is more that qualified to assume this role and will do an excellent job. She will be slotted to attend Field Training Officer School ASAP. Sgt Holler, Lt Matthews, and Detective Leman will also be pulled from their responsibilities to assist with Field Training. Everyone is really stepping up to assist with the training of new hires.

We have received our new Tasers, the Taser 7. Detective Leman, our Taser Instructor, has been prepping them to role the new Tasers out soon. All officers will be required to have four (4) hours of training from Detective Leman prior to carrying them.

In planning for the future, we anticipate a possible retirement of one of our two (2) Sergeants. We opened the process with letters of Interest based on an officer’s years of law enforcement service. We have two (2) worthy and excited applicants. There are three (3) components to the process for evaluation of their abilities, one of which includes an assessment center from the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs (WASCOP). This will be an all-day event which takes place here at the Justice Center on January 27, 2022. This assessment center focuses on nine (9) dimensions identified as important qualities for first line supervisors in Wyoming. A short video of the assessment center can be found at the following link: www.wascop.com/fls-orientation. One of the other portions of the process includes a presentation by the applicant on a subject of our choosing. The applicant will have fifteen (15) minutes to give a presentation to the audience with an opportunity for follow-up questions. We are looking at having 8 – 10 audience participants from the Douglas community. If you or anyone you know would be interested in assisting us in shaping the future of the department, please let me know.

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Officer Ableman was found deceased in his residence by officers of the Douglas Police Department on January 26, 2022. Officer Ableman's services were held in Casper, Wyoming on Monday, January 3, 2022. This has been a traumatic event for the staff of the Douglas Police Department. First-off I would like to say that we are so fortunate to live in the great State of Wyoming as well as the City of Douglas. The amount of support that was offered by citizens as well as other law enforcement agencies around the state has been great. I would like to give special thanks to Chief McPheeters and the Casper Police Department for assisting us in organizing the services in tandem with the family. Logistics such as escorts, cordon, bagpipes, cordon, last call etc., would not have been possible without their assistance. A thank you to Sheriff Becker for assisting us with scene security and covering calls for service during the service. I would like to thank Mayor Kemper for her attendance at the services. Her attendance resonated amongst the staff as positive support.

A thank you to all members of the Douglas Police Department for pulling together during this time. A special thank you to Officer's Herrmann, Boonstra, Kelley, Toman, and Detective Kelley for being part of the Cordon Team at the services.

On the evening of December 27 and 29, during shift change, we had a local mental health provider come and assist with speaking with the agency. These briefings were also extended to communications, Converse County Sheriff's Office, and Glenrock Police. We also had Dr. Shaina Smith with Smith Psychological Services out of Cheyenne, (Part of our Employee Assistance Program (EAP)), come and provide a Critical Incident Debrief on January 4, 2022. This debrief was mandatory for all police department employees. It was broken down into three sessions, one (1) for administration, and two (2) for sworn and civilian staff. There will be other sessions held on Wednesday, February 4, 2022.

We are just about complete in putting together the specs for the Body Cameras to put this out for bid. Everyone is excited to get the body cameras in place.

Administrator Teichert and I met with Dr. Paige Fenton Huges, School Superintendent, to discuss the grant funded School Resource Officer on January 6, 2022. We will have further meeting which include other school personnel.

The Douglas Police Department officers responded to 627 calls for service and made 63 traffic stops since December 8, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd A. Byerly

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